

Area lands \$7.6 million in research grants

Taft lauds leadership in technical projects

By DALE DEMPSEY

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DAYTON— With the infrared camera pointed at him, Gov. Bob Taft's image on the screen became a mix of red and purple.

Taft was in Dayton on Monday to deliver grants in the latest round of Third Frontier funding, and while in town, he participated in a demonstration of the infrared imaging research at the University of Dayton that received funding.

The Dayton area received \$7.6 million of the \$10.5 million avail-



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able. The five area projects have the potential of producing more than \$200 million in revenue and 500 new jobs in the next three to five years.

Taft lauded the region's techni-

cal projects.

"There is a lot of exciting stuff happening around here," Taft said. "It is because of your willingness to collaborate that you've been successful at winning these

ANDREW SARANGAN

accepts a \$1 million grant from Gov. Bob Taft during Monday's ceremonies at UD's Science Center. The grant is to be used for the development of long-wavelength infrared imaging.

very competitive grants."

Created by the state in 2002, the Third Frontier Project is a 10-year, \$1.1 billion initiative to expand high-tech research, encourage company formation and create high-paying jobs. It is the state's largest development investment ever, and has to date awarded more than \$235 million.

The 2005 Wright Project Awards are given to help higher education institutions and nonprofit research organizations bring leading-edge projects to the marketplace.

The university and the UD Research Institute received two grants totaling \$3.1 million.

"UDRI is No. 1 in the state and No. 2 in the nation in

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Funds to be used to develop technology

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material technology, and that is over schools like MIT," Taft said, referring to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The National Composite Center also received two grants, worth \$2.1 million.

UD received \$1 million for the development and commercialization of the long-wavelength infrared technology, which was demonstrated on Taft.

With the ability to see through even solid objects, the system could someday help pilots take off and land in foggy weather.

The university is working in collaboration with Essential Research Inc. and CMC Electronics. Officials expect business growth of \$10 million to \$15 million by 2008, creating 60 jobs.

UD also received \$2.1 million for a carbon materials project that is looking for low-cost carbon composites for aircraft brake pads, armor and other uses. By 2009, the project is expected to generate \$85 million in revenues and create 300 jobs.

The National Composite Center received \$100,000 for its work with large-scale polymers for aero-

UD received \$1 million grant

space and defense applications. It projects \$7 million in revenue and 60 jobs by 2006.

The composite center also received \$2 million for its North Central Campus for Emerging Technologies to study carbon fibers that convert mechanical energy into an electric signal that can be used as automotive sensors or in medical devices.

Development Research Corp. of Kettering was awarded more than \$2.3 million to establish the Radio Frequency Identification Applications and Education Center. RFID tags identify and track everything from large shipments to cereal boxes. Unlike bar codes, they don't need to be scanned.

"Ohio's future is in the hands of those who are able to take a great idea, develop it and produce a functional product that can be manufactured and sold throughout the world," Taft said.

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Infrared image

Gov. Bob Taft (center) takes part in a demonstration of long-wave infrared imaging at the University of Dayton. The project was one of five awarded state development funds. **Story, B1**