



Del West, Gamma Tech Complete Phase One of SBIR Grant from Department of Defense

Valencia, CA, May 20, 2011 ---Del West Engineering, Inc. , in partnership with its sister company Gamma Technology, LLC, today announced that it has completed the first phase of a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to explore the production of large-diameter, light-weight bearing liners for heavy lift helicopters.

For this Phase One grant, the companies demonstrated how their proprietary, aluminum metal matrix composites (Al MMC) can produce lighter, more durable bearing liners for the transmission case of the Navy's CH-53K helicopter.

"Del West is very pleased to have its innovations recognized by the Naval Air Command (NAVAIR) as viable avenues for development," said Mark Sommer, president of Del West. "Our selection for research into the next generation of light-weight, bearing liners for helicopters demonstrates strong lateral thinking on the part of the DOD to move beyond the existing technologies in search of lighter, more adaptable and more affordable materials."

The bearing liners for the main gearbox of the CH-53K helicopter are currently 4320 alloy steel and account for an accumulated weight of approximately 13 pounds. The goal of the six-month grant – which began in mid-October -- was to demonstrate how Del West's Al MMCs can reduce this weight while maintaining or lowering the cost of the components.

About Del West

Since 1973, Del West Engineering, Inc. has been delivering the best in materials research, mechanical design and precision manufacturing to customers around the globe. Today, the company is renowned for high-tech, high-quality components that power industries as diverse as race cars, watches and aerospace. With facilities in California and Switzerland, Del West has more than 150 employees worldwide. To learn more, please visit us online at www.delwestusa.com.

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