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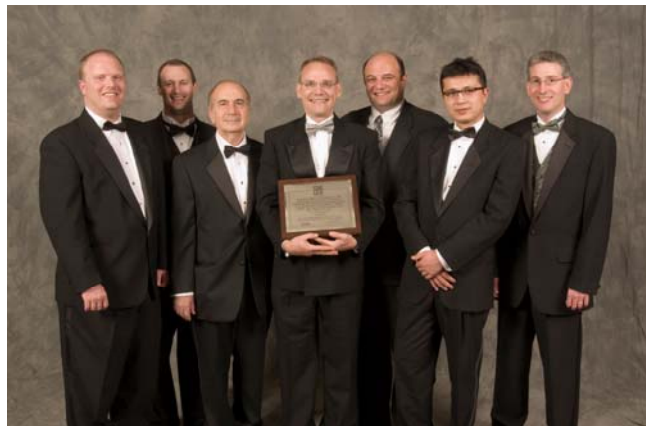
NYSEARCH and Carnegie Mellon Receive National R&D Award

NGA is pleased to note that the Explorer I product from NYSEARCH was awarded the prestigious 2006 *R & D 100 Award* at a ceremony in Chicago on October 19th. This award is provided through an independent judging panel of "R & D Magazine".

Explorer I is a self-propelled, articulated robot for remote visual inspection of 6" and 8" cast iron and steel mains. Unlike other visual inspection platforms, Explorer I is not encumbered by an umbilical cord or the requirement to pan or tilt a camera during inspections. As a result, the robot offers a significant improvement over existing systems. Because of its articulated design, Explorer I can navigate tight bends, complicated pipe configurations including inclines and vertical elements, and navigate corners. By using rechargeable batteries and with the freedom offered by wireless communications, in steel and cast iron mains, Explorer I can operate for extended periods, traveling over long distances, thus limiting the need to gain access to the robot once inserted into a pipe. Explorer I is currently in the process of being commercialized by a regional robotic inspection service provider.

With co-funding from U.S. DOE and U.S. DOT, NYSEARCH is also developing Explorer II, a similar robotic platform but with the added capability to measure metal loss defects and to perform under high pressures of up to 475 psi.

Congratulations to the entire team for this great recognition!



The R & D 100 award ceremony was held in Chicago on October 19th. Illustrated here are some of the members of the development team who include: William Crowley, Carnegie Mellon University Robotics Institute (CMU), Richard Baker, DOE/NETL, Dr. Neville Marzwell, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Dr. Hagen Schempf, CMU, Dr. George Vradis, NYSEARCH/NGA, George Skoptsov and Alan Gavaert, CMU. There were many NYSEARCH member contributors to the product development who could not attend but were critical to the overall initiation, development and success of the technology. NYSEARCH funders of the Explorer I program are: Central Hudson Gas & Electric, Con Edison, KeySpan, National Fuel Gas, NYSEG, NMPC/National Grid, Orange & Rockland Utilities, RG & E, Enbridge and PSE&G.