

Nov. 2004 –

## **NYSEARCH Awarded Research Grants from U.S. DOT**

On October 28, 2004, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will award \$7.4 million to support 21 research and development (R&D) contracts for projects “that will improve the safety and reliability of pipelines.”

NGA is pleased to note that four of the awards are to NYSEARCH, in the following areas: development of a full-function, self-propelled robotic platform for pipelines incapable of receiving internal inspections (\$500,000); a segmented Magnetic Flux Leakage sensor and respective module for integration in a robotic platform (\$500,000); tools for corrosion and coating defects in natural gas pipelines incapable of receiving internal inspections (\$500,000); and experimental sensor systems for encroachment monitoring (\$175,000).

These awards are in addition to the \$1.4 million awarded to Carnegie Mellon University last month for Phase II of the Explorer robotics platform (Carnegie Mellon is the contractor to NYSEARCH for Explorer). When combined with other non-NYSEARCH funding for several of these projects, NYSEARCH will realize nearly \$4.0 million in non-member co-funding during 2004.

NGA President Tom Kiley said: “The members of NYSEARCH, Daphne D’Zurko, NYSEARCH VP of RD&D, and her team of Dr. George Vradis, Angelo Fabiano and Chris Kimmerle, are to be congratulated on these terrific achievements...The awards by DOT and by DOE (to Carnegie Mellon) highlight an extraordinary 4-month period for NYSEARCH.”