

Oct. 2004 –

## **U.S. Dept. of Energy Awards Project Grant to Carnegie Mellon for R&D Project which includes NGA's NYSEARCH as a Partner**

On October 8, 2004, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced a \$1.4 million grant to Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) of Pittsburgh, PA for an R&D project to develop the next-generation EXPLORER, a wireless, self-powered visual and robotic platform for live and real-time in-pipe gas main inspections. The Northeast Gas Association (NGA) is a partner in this project, through its NYSEARCH program.

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham presented the award to Dr. Hagen Schempf of the Robotics Institute of CMU. NGA President Tom Kiley and NGA Vice President of RD&D, Daphne D'Zurko, also participated at the award ceremony.



*(l to r) Dr. Hagen Schempf, Carnegie Mellon University; Daphne D'Zurko, NGA/NYSEARCH  
U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham; Tom Kiley, NGA*

EXPLORER is a wireless self-powered visual robotic platform for live and real time in-pipe gas main inspections. The robot's initial design allows it to operate in 6" and 8" gas mains. In fact, a second field trial of EXPLORER was recently completed. The project cost for several phases of EXPLORER will total nearly \$4.74 million.

Tom Kiley said: "This is truly fine recognition of the continued good work of the Explorer activities."

NGA/NYSEARCH member companies that participate in the EXPLORER Project are as follows: Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp., Consolidated Edison Co. of New York, Inc., KeySpan Energy Delivery, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp., New York State Electric & Gas Corp., Niagara Mohawk Power Co., Orange & Rockland Utilities, Inc. and Rochester Gas & Electric Corp.

Other NYSEARCH member companies that fund EXPLORER are: Baltimore Gas & Electric, Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc., PECO Energy Co., Public Service Electric & Gas and Questar Regulated Services Co.



*(l to r) Daphne D’Zurko, NGA/NYSEARCH; Dr. Hagen Schempf, Carnegie Mellon University; Tom Kiley, NGA*

NYSEARCH is buttressed by a very engaged and able group of volunteers chaired by Joe Mallia, Rochester Gas & Electric. NYSEARCH Committee members include: Brian Dimisko, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp., Phil Fowles, Consolidated Edison Co. of NY, Inc., Russell Miller, Corning Natural Gas Corp., Christopher Cole and Joseph Vitelli, Jr., KeySpan Energy Corp., Craig Swiech, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp., Allen Peterson, New York State Electric & Gas Corp., Stanley Falise and Tom Picciott, Niagara Mohawk Power Co., a National Grid Company, and Stephen Fay and Thomas Rotella, Orange & Rockland Utilities, Inc. Associate Members are Mark Twarowski, Baltimore Gas & Electric, John DeVenz, Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc., Mark Andraka, PECO Energy Co., George Ragula, Public Service Electric & Gas and Rick Saeed, Questar Regulated Services Co.

NGA also wants to acknowledge the dedicated staff oversight of Daphne D’Zurko and EXPLORER Project Manager Dr. George Vradis.

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