

Regional Business Development

Lab Partner Becomes Industry Leader

HYTEC, Inc., a Los Alamos engineering design and consulting firm established in 1993 by two former Los Alamos National Laboratory design engineers, has developed a rapidly growing reputation for innovative engineering, attracting customers and contributing to the company's exceptional and steady expansion. The company's testing facilities in Los Alamos, NM, have evolved into well-equipped prototyping and testing laboratories allowing the company to provide full-service engineering and development to customers.

HYTEC was the industrial partner with the Laboratory in two very successful Small Business Regional Impact cooperative research and development agreements (CRADAs) during the mid-to-late 1990s. These CRADAs led to the commercialization of two products, FlashCT® and PRISM®. Both projects provided strong benefit to the mission of the Laboratory while building new competencies within the local company. The Laboratory's Industrial Business Development Division's regional business consulting network helped the company gain valuable information about the full market potential for the products.



Cover photo for award-winning R&D 100 submission.

HYTEC, now an established and well-known provider of high technology products and services to the international physics community, has become one of the premier contractors to NSF, NIST, CERN, DOE, LANL, NRL, NASA, MIT, and Caltech. HYTEC has expanded its engineering and experimental expertise in structural dynamics, thermal mechanics, and advanced composite materials to meet the growing demands for precise measurement equipment used in the non-destructive evaluation and test arena.

FlashCT®, an advanced industrial computed tomography (CT) system for high-speed 3-D imaging, incorporates detector, coupled motion control, and state-of-the-art software to produce high-quality CT results. FlashCT®, which can be used directly in the high-speed mass production of customized dental and medical appliances, is now leading this field. HYTEC and the Laboratory jointly won a prestigious 2003 R&D 100 Award for the FlashCT® technology as one of the 100 "most technologically significant" technologies to reach major commercialization during the past year.

PRISM®, a software suite used in precision laser interferometry, enables the study of dynamic and structural modes of vibration propagation and/or residual stress in manufactured parts (aircraft panels, sheet steel for ship plates, and cast/forged/welded assemblies for the oil and gas, automotive, and heavy equipment industries). PRISM® greatly improves the manufacturer's process control, thus improving life, and lowering warranty liabilities.

The winner of a New Mexico "Flying Forty" award for the second consecutive year, HYTEC currently employs 30 people in its Los Alamos facility and anticipates the creation of additional jobs in the Española Valley with a future manufacturing facility. The "Flying Forty" award salutes the fastest growing firms in the state. The center for all this remains Los Alamos, New Mexico.

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