

CACT to mark opening of nanotechnology pilot plant

10/23/07

The New York State Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (CACT) at Alfred University Thursday will formally open a \$1.8 million pilot plant to develop and test the next generation of electronic components. A ribbon-cutting at the nanotechnology fabrication facility, located in the Ceramic Corridor Innovation Center on Route 244 in Alfred, is scheduled for 9:20 a.m. Thursday. State Senator Catharine Young, R-Olean, along with University officials and national officers of the American Ceramic Society are expected to attend the event. The Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology at Alfred, and the Center for Advanced Materials Processing (CAMP) at Clarkson University received a \$1.8 million grant from the New York State Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) Technology Development Program to create the pilot plant and "develop expertise in nano-structured ceramic components with enhanced properties." What that means is that researchers at Alfred and Clarkson universities will develop molecular-sized building blocks for new materials, which will then be fabricated and tested in the pilot plant at Alfred. The next step after materials have been tested and proven is commercialization of products. Nanotechnology is engineering on a molecular scale, creating new materials by designing them atom-by-atom, molecule-by-molecule, to create desired properties, such as strength, toughness, the ability to conduct heat or electrical current, or compatibility with the human body. Partner industries include Ferro Corporation, Ferronics, Inc., AVX, and Cooper Power Systems. During the afternoon, the CACT will host a workshop on commercialization of nanomaterials. The event begins at 2 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center on the AU campus. Researchers from Alfred, Clarkson and Cornell universities, Rennsalaer Polytechnic Institute, and the University at Albany will speak. Also on the agenda are representatives from NanoDynamics, Inc., and ENrG, Inc.