



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 25, 2017

Mr. Carl Schalansky
Vacuum Process Engineering, Inc.
110 Commerce Circle
Sacramento, California 95815

Dear Mr. Schalansky:

Congratulations on being named a recipient of the 2017 Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer by the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC). This award recognizes laboratory employees and private collaborators who accomplished outstanding work in transferring technology developed in a Federal laboratory to the commercial marketplace.

This year, the FLC recognized nine U.S. Department of Energy teams from among the more than 300 Federal laboratories, research centers, and facilities comprising its membership. I would like to join the FLC in recognizing your company's work with Sandia National Laboratory's effort in the commercial deployment of the Selection, Evaluation and Rating of Compact Heat (SEARCH) Exchanges Software Suite. This efficient, flexible, and comprehensive software design tool simplifies the process of designing optimal compact heat exchangers, which are critical in a variety of applications, including power generation and applied energy solutions, refrigeration, chemical production, and oil and gas processing.

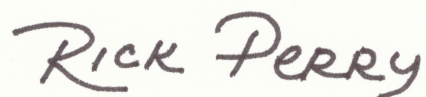
Micro-channel heat exchangers (MCHEs) provide higher performance, a more compact size, and enhanced reliability at lower production costs. MCHEs are critical components for leveraging advanced technologies such as the supercritical carbon dioxide (sCO₂) Brayton cycle, however manufacturing capability for industrial MCHEs has lagged behind demand, especially in the United States. Sandia worked with your company, Vacuum Process Engineering, Inc. (VPE), to bring Sandia's MCHE technology to market.

Sandia and VPE entered into an umbrella Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, through which Sandia licensed its SEARCH software suite, which enables the design of efficient MCHEs, to VPE. By partnering with Sandia, VPE became the first American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)-certified MCHE manufacturer in the U.S. The partnership has expanded into a larger program co-sponsored by DOE, allowing Sandia to continue working with VPE to make improvements and scale up to larger, multicore MCHEs. This demonstrates an important example of moving technology from the laboratory to the marketplace, one that offers important benefits for our Nation and its citizens.



Your contributions are commendable and reflect well upon the future of technology transfers from the national laboratories to the commercial sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rick Perry". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Rick" and "Perry" being capitalized and prominent.

Rick Perry