



**SBE, Inc.**

131 South Main Street  
Barre, VT 05641-4854 USA

**Tel:** 802-476-4146

**Fax:** 802-476-4149

**E-mail:** PowerRing@SBElectronics.com

**Web:** www.SBElectronics.com

**SBE Inc of Barre Receives Research Award from the US Department of Energy for Hybrid Automotive Research**

**August 6, 2008 - Barre, VT:** SBE Inc (S B Electronics) today announced that they have received a \$750,000 award for research in the area of Hybrid Electric Vehicles technology from the U.S. Department of Energy. The award is the Phase II of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and is a follow on to the first phase of research conducted at SBE Inc. over the past 9 months for the Department of Energy's FreedomCAR program, and for which SBE had received a Phase I SBIR award of \$100,000.

SBE is one of only three companies in Vermont in the past 10 years to receive a Phase II SBIR award from the US Department of Energy. In fact, over that period, only six companies have received this award in the three states of Northern New England (Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine).

SBE has developed and patented technology in the critical area of capacitors used in inverters for Hybrids, Plug-In Hybrids, Electric Vehicles and Fuel Cell Vehicles. Inverters are currently one of the more expensive areas for these vehicles, right after batteries and the electric motor. Reducing cost and improving performance for these necessary components is essential for the mass production of these cars as well as their broader access to the general public in the future. SBE is the only inverter/capacitor technology in the US receiving a Phase II SBIR award from the Department of Energy in 2008.

Ed Sawyer, President & CEO of SBE said today:

“We are very excited to receive this additional, follow-on support for our research efforts by the Department of Energy. Over the past couple of years, we have been improving this technology and many automotive and transportation companies in the industry have taken great interest in it. This funding will enable us to perform the last phase of technology research required to bring these vehicles to mass market in 2010 and beyond. SBE is proud to be one of the innovative technology providers which will enable alternative fuel vehicles and alternative energy home systems to be a reality in the near future.”

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a member of the Senate energy committee, wrote to Department of Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman on February 6, 2008 in support of SBE. In the letter he wrote, “Given the increasing threat of global climate change, I am pleased to see that S.B. Electronics, Inc. is developing technologies that could serve as a means of reducing this nation's carbon emissions, and I hope you will see fit to support their efforts.”

## **SBE Inc of Barre Receives Research Award from the US Department of Energy for Hybrid Automotive Research (cont'd)**

Governor Jim Douglas welcomed the economic impact for the region, noting that the Vermont Department of Economic Development had provided nearly \$60,000 in training funds for SBE in the last 4 years.

“This is the kind of cutting edge, green technology development and manufacturing that Vermont can be a world leader in and a cornerstone of my economic development strategy,” Douglas said. “I am very pleased that SBE has earned this award, and my administration will continue to do everything possible to encourage investment in and job creation by innovative firms like SBE—Vermont’s innovation can be an essential part of eliminating America’s reliance on oil.”

SBE is a manufacturer and technology developer of innovative capacitor products for the Alternative Energy, Medical, Defense, Industrial, and Scientific industries. Originally a division of Sprague Capacitor, the company has been employing Vermonters for over 50 years.

**For more information on the company**, please contact Ed Sawyer, President & CEO at [edsawyer@sbelectronics.com](mailto:edsawyer@sbelectronics.com) or 802-476-4146 or visit our website at [www.sbelectronics.com](http://www.sbelectronics.com).

**Media contact:** Christine Helary - 802-522-9055 or [christineh@sbelectronics.com](mailto:christineh@sbelectronics.com).

**Photos are available for download at:**

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