

Pasco firm secures federal research grant

By [KEVIN WIATROWSKI](#) | The Tampa Tribune

A Tampa Bay area nanotechnology firm has won \$680,000 in federal research funding aimed at increasing energy efficiency.

Pasco County-based Dais Analytic Inc. was one of six grant recipients announced this weekend by the Department of Energy. A mix of entrepreneurs and academic researchers, the recipients split \$9.6 million in this round of funding.

Since the research program began last year, 121 companies have split \$363 million from the federal stimulus program.

"By investing in transformative ideas now, we are laying the foundation for a new clean energy future," Energy Secretary Steven Chu said in a statement.

Dais Analytic is a decade-old company headquartered in southwest Pasco. Its founders developed a plastic film that works at the molecular level to separate water from other materials.

The company uses its technology in a filtration system that strips humidity from incoming air. Installed in an air-handling system, the device cuts the amount of energy and therefore the amount of money needed to cool or heat a building.

A year ago, Dais officials announced a \$200 million contract with a Chinese company that could bring 1,000 manufacturing jobs to Pasco. The contract calls for selling Dais' air-handling technology in China.

Another part of the contract calls for developing a prototype wastewater treatment plant in northern China that would use Dais' nanotech product to clean polluted water.

The other grant winners are:

GE Global Research: \$2.2 million to develop magnets for electric motors.

Makani Power: \$3 million to develop wing-like wind turbines.

Sustainable Energy Solutions: \$750,000 to freeze carbon dioxide before it can escape power plant smokestacks.

Teledyne Scientific & Imaging: \$500,000 to improve the way solar panels collect energy.

University of California-Los Angeles: \$2.4 million to develop a way to store and use heat energy generated by solar-power systems.

