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News

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PHMSA Awards \$800,000 to Universities for Pipeline Safety *New Program Offers Research Funding for University-Affiliated Projects*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), as part of the new Competitive Academic Agreement Program (CAAP), today awarded eight universities a total of almost \$800,000 to research new ideas and technologies that will improve the safety of the nation’s energy pipelines.

“Safety is our top priority and we’re committed to investing in innovative technologies that will strengthen our nation’s pipeline system well into the future,” said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx. “This is also a great opportunity to attract fresh, new talent to the field of pipeline safety.”

CAAP was created to introduce graduate and PhD students to common pipeline integrity challenges and demonstrate how their engineering or technical backgrounds might contribute to the field of pipeline safety. CAAP is similar to other federal programs designed to educate and lure more applicants in technical disciplines with lower federal recruitment rates. The awards are partially matched by non-federal funding.

PHMSA is looking for research in four primary technical areas: pipeline corrosion; pipeline defect detection; modeling defects, loads in pipelines; and modeling anomalies and repairs for corroded pipe.

Proposals were evaluated on their relevance to PHMSA’s mission, scientific merit, feasibility and past institutional performance.

“The challenges that these projects address have real-life safety applications,” said PHMSA Administrator Cynthia Quarterman. “We were pleased to see such a strong pool of applicants. We are confident that this program will not only result in exciting new developments in the field, but also inspire bright young researchers and engineers to consider pipeline safety as a cutting-edge and rewarding field of employment.”

PHMSA’s mission to improve pipeline safety is accomplished through concerted efforts in policy, enforcement, and research and development. PHMSA currently is pursuing developments in robotic inspection systems, integrated inspection and cleaning tool technology, acoustic-based technology to detect buried pipelines and automated monitoring threat prevention. For more information on past and current research, visit the [Research and Development](#) section of PHMSA’s website.

Awardee Funding Distribution

University	Project Title	Award
Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station	"Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Smart Corrosion Coupon"	\$99,512
University of Tulsa	"Scaling and Self-Sensing in Composite Repairs of Corrosion Defects"	\$99,635
The Research Foundation for SUNY on behalf of the University at Buffalo	" Toward Permanently Installed Pipeline Monitoring Systems”	\$100,000
University of Colorado at Denver	"Proactive and Hybrid Sensing Based Inline Pipeline Defects Diagnosis and Prognosis"	\$100,000
North Dakota State University	"Composite Self-Sensing Thermal Sprayed Coating for Pipeline Corrosion Prevention and Mitigation"	\$98,507
The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York	"Mitigating External Corrosion of Pipelines Through Nano-Modified Cement-Based Coatings"	\$95,032
Iowa State University	"Advanced Nondestructive Characterization of Pipeline Materials"	\$100,000
Ohio University	“Enhanced Mitigation of Pipeline Biocorrosion Using a Mixture of D-Amino Acids with a Biocide"	\$99,999
Total Awarded: \$792,685		

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration develops and enforces regulations for the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's 2.6 million mile pipeline transportation system and the nearly 1 million daily shipments of hazardous materials by land, sea, and air. Please visit <http://phmsa.dot.gov> for more information.

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