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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Alphaport Wins Federal Research Grant for Aerospace Technology Innovation**

**May 27, 2008** – Alphaport® a Cleveland, Ohio-based provider of advanced engineering services and applied technology was recently awarded a Federal Research Grant from NASA for development of a new rocket engine spark plug. This Phase 2 research grant is a \$600,000 investment in technology development for an “exciter/igniter” component that will be smaller than current spark plugs and produce more energy.

The proposed project consists of the physical integration of a small, compact exciter with an igniter capable of producing high speed ionizing voltage. This new type of rocket engine spark plug will be capable of providing ionizing voltage greater than 20 kV for a spark energy of 45 to 50 mJ at a rate of 200-300 sparks per second. This new exciter is about half the weight and will occupy about half the volume of current state-of-the-art exciters. The implications of the proposed project are for space and weight savings in the overall development of green propulsion systems as applicable to research projects in various space exploration and Department of Defense concerns.

Alphaport is responsible for development of this sparkplug, including design, analysis, assembly, test and verification. Alphaport is expanding its staff and hiring key managers to meet growing demand for its aerospace-related services. Last summer, Alphaport moved its headquarters into a government-classified HUBZone of Cleveland to help create high technology jobs near the NASA Glenn Research Center. The company is living up to its promise of bringing jobs to Cleveland by adding several employees in recent months.

**About Alphaport**

Alphaport is a certified woman-owned, HUBZone technology business that provides a full spectrum of engineering and knowledge management services for technical organizations. Alphaport has a rapidly growing team of experienced research scientists, engineers and project managers, many of whom are retired from government facilities across the country.

Alphaport provides the technical expertise for space system services that include design, analysis and development of technologies such as power and propulsion, nuclear engineering, launch vehicles, and space communications. Other areas of expertise include emerging technology development, six sigma process improvement, professional development training, safety, systems engineering, risk assessment, quality assurance, and turnkey knowledge retention programs.

Alphaport has received multiple awards, including NASA's Agency Wide Certificate of Excellence Award and NASA Headquarters' Best Practice Award.

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