

Three Boulder County energy firms receive SBIR grants



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Three Boulder County companies — Cool Energy Inc., Ion Engineering LLC and Sporian Microsystems — were selected to receive grants from the Department of Energy, the office of Sen. Michael Bennet announced Wednesday.

Six Colorado companies were awarded Small Business Innovation Research grants totaling \$1.35 million to develop new energy technologies. About \$11 million in grants for nearly 70 companies nationwide were announced Wednesday.

Locally, **Cool Energy**, of Boulder, received \$150,000 to develop a power system for geothermal electricity generation; **Ion Engineering**, of Boulder, received \$150,000 to incorporate the use of polymer membranes to capture carbon dioxide; and **Sporian Systems**, of Lafayette, received \$300,000 for two projects: the development of a high-temperature sensor for nuclear power systems and the development of high-temperature materials to support sensor technologies.

Other Colorado firms that received grants were:

Aqwest LLC, of Larkspur, which received \$150,000 to develop a magnetcaloric generator to produce electricity from geothermal heat

Symbios Technologies LLC, of Fort Collins, which received \$150,000 to develop and commercialize a membrane reactor that could enable the production of fuel from biomass sources

Tda Research Inc., of Wheat Ridge, received \$450,000 for three projects related to the removal of contaminants present in coal, the production of high-performance carbon additives in lead-acid batteries for hybrid electric vehicles and the development of a catalyst to increase the cost-effectiveness of biomass and coal conversion to fuel.