



**NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Tom Welch, 202/586-5806

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Tuesday, December 11, 2001

## **Energy Department Selects Companies to Test Ultra-Low Sulfur Fuels**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham today announced the selection of four firms to receive approximately \$10.7 million for research and testing to evaluate advanced low-sulfur fuels and lubricants in advanced engines and emission control systems. These interim fuels will result in reduced exhaust emissions from diesel powered vehicles. The Department of Energy’s contribution will be matched by other federal agencies and private industry for a total investment of almost \$21.5 million.

“Advances like these support the goals of the President’s National Energy Plan to provide for energy security while protecting the environment,” Secretary Abraham said. “This is a great example of a private/public partnership to help fund research developments with market based results.”

These new fuels and engines are designed to significantly reduce air pollution from light- and heavy-duty diesel engines while achieving up to 35 percent higher vehicle fuel economy. New exhaust gas emission control technologies, such as nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) adsorbers, selective catalytic reduction (SCR) devices, and self-regenerating soot filters, in conjunction with low-sulfur fuel, could play a vital role in reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter (PM) from diesel engines while taking advantage of their high efficiency. These devices serve an analogous function to catalytic converters on today’s gasoline vehicles and will greatly reduce the contribution to air pollution from diesel vehicles.

Contract recipients and their unique contributions to the research study are:

**FEV Engine Technology of Auburn Hills, Mich.** -- emissions from low-sulfur fuels and emission control systems in light-duty passenger cars;

**Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, Tex.** -- two contract awards, one studying emissions from low-sulfur fuels and one studying emission control systems in light-duty pick-ups and heavy-duty engines;

**Ricardo, Inc., Burr Ridge, Ill.** -- emissions from low-sulfur fuels and emission control systems in heavy-duty engines; and

**Automotive Testing Laboratories, Inc., East Liberty, Ohio** -- emissions effects of base oil and additive constituents.

**(MORE)**

**R-01-206**

-2-

These projects will help identify fuel properties that allow compression-ignition direct-injection engines and associated after-treatment devices to meet all regulatory and warranty requirements for both automobiles and heavy vehicles while, at the same time, maintaining high-fuel efficiency.

Sponsors providing funding, in-kind contributions, technical planning, project review or technical support include the American Petroleum Institute, American Chemistry Council, Engine Manufacturers Association, Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, and South Coast Air Quality Management District.

**-DOE-**

**R-01-206**