# REE Technology Development





**OBJECTIVES** 

Develop and test technology to determine the techno-economic feasibility of domestic REE separation technologies by 2020

#### PILOT-SCALE PERFORMERS

Goal: Achieve approximately 2% REE elemental concentration in the output product. Optimize separation and extraction methods and establish cost-competitive processes for recovery of REE through pilot-scale testing.

## Physical Sciences Inc.

University of Kentucky.

#### **BENCH-SCALE PERFORMERS**

Goal: Achieve approximately 2% REE elemental concentration in the output product. Determine the feasibility of recovering REEs from coal-related feedstocks to enable future scale-up of the technologies to pilot scale.



# 15.5% CATALYSTS 17% POLISHING **19%**METAL ALLOYS

# **WORLD APPLICATION**

#### **U.S. APPLICATION** CATALYSTS 43% POLISHING 17% MAGNETS 13% METAL ALLOYS 8.5% PHOSPHORS 4% CERAMICS 2%

NiMH Batteries

### Nd Y La Ce Pr



CRT,LPD,LCD

Medical Imaging

Fiber Optics

**DEFENSE** 

d Eu Tb Y Er Gd Ce Pr

Petroleum Refining Catalytic Converter Fuel Additives Chemical Processing

#### Nd La Ce Pr ld Y Eu Dy Lu Gd La Ce P



d Gd Er Ho La Ce Pr

Automotive Parts Magnetic Refrigeration Microphones & Speakers Communication Systems



Satellite Communications Guidance Systems Aircarft Structures Fly-by-Wire Smart Missiles

d Eu Tb Dy Y Lu Sm Pr La

### PROJECT AWARD TOTALS

**DE-FE0027035 UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY** 

21% PERFORMER \$1,820,212

TOTAL: \$8,820,009

**DE-FE0026927 WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY** 

\$3,411,874

21% PERFORMER \$927,540

TOTAL: \$4,339,414

**DE-FE0027167** PHYSICAL SCIENCES, INC.

\$6,999,165

**20**% PERFORMER \$1,751,001

TOTAL: \$8,750,166

**DE-FE0027006 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA** 

> **78**% \$3,343,847

**22**% **PERFORMER** \$965,500

TOTAL: \$4,309,347

Technology Manager – Mary Anne Alvin Team Supervisor – Patricia Rawls



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TOTAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- These projects have shown promise in REE recovery and extraction findings, which is evidenced by their down-selection for further development.
- Achievements in lab experiments to date, expressed as % REE elemental concentration in the output product at the associated % recovery of REE mass contained in the feedstock:
- UK: >80% REE concentration at >75% REE recovery
- PSI: 40% REE concentration at 15% REE recovery
- UND: 2% REE concentration at 35% REE recovery
- WVU: 5% REE concentration at > 90% REE recovery
- These efforts are successfully planning and testing the scale-up of recovery and extraction activities based on their REE recovery findings.
- The researchers have started analyzing commercialization feasibility of their respective approaches.

## IMPORTANCE

Advance technologies for commercial **U.S. REE recovery** 

#### DOMESTIC REE RECOVERY BENEFITS THE UNITED STATES

**INCREASE NATIONAL SECURITY:** Domestic REEs would lessen or eliminate dependence on foreign REE production.

**ECONOMIC GROWTH:** Domestic REE recovery would allow the U.S. to export REEs to other countries and developing industries in places where coal has played an important economic role.

INCREASE EFFICIENCY: Utilization of coal byproducts as a feedstock for REE recovery realizes additional benefits and efficiencies to fossil energy generation practices.