NASA selects proposals to build better batteries for space exploration
13 August 2015, by Joshua Buck

Fly wheels, such as the NASA G2 flywheel module above, are one way to store rotational energy for use by spacecraft or machines on Earth. NASA’s looking for new energy storage systems to enable our future exploration missions. Credit: NASA

NASA's technology roadmaps and strategic investment plans highlight these advanced technologies as critical to the agency’s journey to Mars and future exploration. According to the National Research Council's NASA Space Technology Roadmaps and Priorities, there is a need to increase available power and eliminate the constraint of power availability for space missions.

The selected proposals will help improve energy storage with reliable power systems that can survive the wide range of NASA missions in harsh space environments, while cutting their mass by 50 percent or more.

Phase I awards were approximately $250,000, providing four awardees with the funding needed to...
conduct an eight-month component test and analysis phase. Phase II is an engineering hardware phase that provides as much as to $1 million per award for 12 months, and Phase III will consist of the prototype hardware development, with up to $2 million per award for 18 months.

Proposals for Phase II were received from federally funded research and development centers, universities and industry. NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, manages the GCD program for STMD.

More information: For more information about crosscutting space technology areas of interest to NASA, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/spacetech

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