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# Entrepreneurs Wanted!

**Business**

## \$2M grant puts firm in forefront

By MARC MUNROE DION , Herald News Staff Reporter

09/12/2003

**FALL RIVER -- A local electronics company, Micro Magnetics Inc. announced Thursday that it has received a \$2 million grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology.**

The money was part of \$12.7 million in grants awarded to companies throughout the nation, including six in Massachusetts.

"We were the only company in this area to get a grant," said Dr. Gang Xiao, a Brown University professor who is the founder and chairman of the

company.

Xiao said his company will use the grant for research and development and to acquire equipment. The company, a start-up, is in the Advanced Technology & Manufacturing Center on Martine Street. The company employs eight people and has been in Fall River for about a year.

The company has developed and will continue to manufacture a microscope for reading the electric impulses that flow through computer microchips.

"This instrument is like an X-ray machine is to the human body," Xiao said. "It is a non-invasive way of seeing what's inside."

The microscope can be used by micro-chip companies to quality control their products and to diagnose the problems in chips returned by customers.

Xiao stressed that the increasing smallness of computer chips requires ever more delicate instruments to measure their efficiency.

"They have used light to measure the current, but the band width of light is too large for the newer chips," he said.

"With this product, if a customer returns a defective chip, you don't have to take the chip apart to see what's wrong," Xiao said.

The company has already sold one of the devices and continues to explore the field.

"We are talking to other companies, like IBM and others," Xiao said.

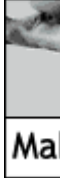
"For us, it's a bull's-eye," said ATMC Director Michael Sullivan of the grant. "What we try to do is to provide infrastructure so these companies can grow. This is a great honor."

"This would not have been possible without the center," Xiao said.

At the Fall River Office of Economic Development, Executive Vice President Kenneth Fiola, Jr. said that his office was instrumental in getting Micro Magnetics to Fall River.



SALE





"We were involved in landing this company for the ATMC," he said. "They originally came to us for information about funding.

"We were able to give them information about available federal programs," Fiola said. "We were also able to convince them to locate at the ATMC.


"This is the perfect example of why the ATMC is so important to the city," Fiola said, adding that the center is intended to give support to new businesses so that, hopefully, as they grow into full-fledged businesses, they will remain in Fall River.

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