

CONTACT: Ed Hayward
Office of Public Affairs
617-552-4826
ed.hayward@bc.edu

NEWTON START-UP GMZ ENERGY HONORED FOR TOP NEW PRODUCT
Breakthrough material developed by Boston College and MIT researchers

CHESTNUT HILL, MA (October 2008) – A pioneering thermoelectric material developed by Newton-based GMZ Energy, a start-up founded by researchers from Boston College and MIT, was honored at a Chicago ceremony as one of the Top 100 technology innovations of 2008 for applications that could create cleaner, more energy-efficient products.

The material – which will enable products ranging from semiconductors and air conditioners to car exhaust systems and solar power technology to run cleaner – was recognized as one of the 100 most technologically significant products unveiled in 2008 by *R&D* magazine.

Co-founded by Boston College Physics Professor Zhifeng Ren, MIT Mechanical Engineering Professor Gang Chen and CEO Mike Clary, GMZ was formed to commercialize a new thermoelectric material that effectively turns waste heat into electrical power.

“This was a team effort,” said Ren, a leading researcher in the field of carbon nanotubes. “Lots of hard work has been done by my graduate students and my colleagues and this award is recognition of that. But we have lots more work to do.”



Zhifeng Ren

GMZ was one of four teams honored in the “thermal devices/systems” category by at the awards ceremony, now in its 46th year.

Ren, Chen and GMZ researcher Bed Poudel, a BC-trained physicist, used nanotechnology to achieve an historic increase in thermoelectric efficiency in a readily available bulk material.

The milestone paves the way for a new generation of products by overcoming the challenges of high cost and low conductivity that typically hinder clean technology efforts to reclaim wasted energy.

The co-founders say the material can easily integrate into existing and new product designs. Cooling applications and engineering new products that consume less energy or capture energy that would otherwise be lost are two immediate applications.

For more information about GMZ Energy visit: <http://www.gmzenergy.com/index.htm>.

#