UNH MEDIA RELATIONS
8 Garrison Ave, Durham, NH 03824 www.unh.edu/news/ 603-862-0045

**Related Links**

New Hampshire Industrial Research Center

# NHIRC Makes Second Grant To Regal Efficiency Project

## UNH Researchers Developing New Processes For Local Company

Contact: Lori Wright
603-862-0574
UNH Media Relations

June 16, 2005

---

DURHAM, N.H. – The New Hampshire Industrial Research Center (NHIRC) at the University of New Hampshire has awarded a second grant to Regal Sleeving and Tubing of Newmarket to help support continued development of more efficient production processes by UNH researchers.

Regal Sleeving and Tubing has been granted $25,471 to support a $50,943 project at UNH. In June 2004, Regal Sleeving and Tubing was granted $24,798 to support a $49,597 project at UNH to begin the project.

“The results of the first project have resulted in a 50 percent to 100 percent increase in the production process, and Regal has increased the number of employees from 36 to 45,” according to Robert Dalton, executive director of the NHIRC.

A 60-year-old company in downtown Newmarket, the former Suflex Sleeving and Tubing Company was saved from bankruptcy two years ago after it was purchased by the plant’s two managers. Prior to the purchase, Suflex had been losing money, but with help from the New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Project (NHMEP), the two employees acquired the company, renamed it Regal Sleeving and Tubing, and turned it around.

However, the company’s leased plant housed an outdated and cost prohibitive process for drying one of its key products, acrylic fiberglass sleeving. After the NHMEP contacted the NHIRC about developing a new, more efficient and less costly chemical formulation and drying process, the NHIRC contacted UNH Professor P.T. Vasudevan in the Department of Chemical Engineering, who had success working with a similar product a few years ago.

“The focus of the first phase of research was to investigate their acrylic water-based formulation in coated fiberglass sleeving and optimize it with better and faster drying. The work has progressed very well and we have increased their production rate up to 100 percent,” Vasudevan said.

“This second grant continues process enhancements from the first project and specifically designs better system for adherence of the outer glass braid to silicone tubing. Up to this point Regal has not actively marketed this product due to current production limitations. High temperature insulation systems are gaining market share due to the need to improve motor efficiencies. This new design will allow Regal to enter this market,” Dalton said.

According to L. Gerard Landry and Al Ferrari, co-owners of Regal, “With the high level of success of the first project we are eager to continue our relationship for another year with Professor P.T. Vasudevan and the chemical engineering department. We look forward to an even more successful second project.”

Located at UNH, the NHIRC was created in 1991 by the New Hampshire Legislature to provide a mechanism to promote applied and basic scientific, engineering, and associated marketing research and technological transfer to support improvements and efficiencies in the New Hampshire industrial and business community. The NHIRC is funded by the State of New Hampshire through its Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED).