

KLD Energy granted \$2.8M from ETF

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Electric drive developer KLD Energy Technologies Inc. has received a \$2.8 million commercialization award from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund.

The Austin-based company plans to use the funding to accelerate the commercialization of its electric drive system and expand into new markets, officials said.

KLD Energy, founded in 2007, employs 55 workers, with 47 in Austin, and plans to hire an additional 35 workers during the coming year. The ETF is a \$200 million economic incentive fund created by the Texas Legislature in 2005, and reauthorized in 2007 and again in 2009.

KLD Energy is producing its drive system at a local facility that opened earlier this year. Its product is a transmissionless drive-motor system that uses a nanocrystalline composite material to conduct energy more efficiently than traditional, iron-core motors.

The direct-drive systems, which are being marketed to makers of electric motor scooters, are fitted directly onto wheel hubs. And unlike previous systems, KLD's can operate at high speeds without generating the heat that would cause conventional drives to fail, company executives said.

In addition to the motor drive, KLD's system includes a battery and a motor controller that is a unit with software.

KLD Energy, which had previously collected about \$13 million in capital from dozens of angel investors, plans to reach profitability during 2011, company executives have said. In August, it closed a \$6 million funding round from 73 angel investors.

Link: <http://www.bizjournals.com/austin/news/2010/12/30/kld-energy-granted-28m-from-etf.html>