

\$30 Billion Fluid Power Industry Validates LatchTool Group's Contention

The National Fluid Power Association petitions Government to fund development of compact and efficient hydraulics.

Colorado Springs, CO (PRWEB) April 27, 2005 -- The National Fluid Power Association announced last month that it had received a favorable response from the National Science Foundation for its proposed consortium of University Research Centers to develop compact and efficient fluid power.

The group comprised of prominent universities in close cooperation with the \$30 billion fluid power industry seeks \$18 million to fund research to integrate components into unified systems that will minimize the weight and volume of fluid power systems. They expect to expand fluid power from its current use for heavy equipment to portable and self-powered applications such as wearable tools and rescue robots.

Over the past nine years, the LatchTool Group has quietly pursued this quest for smaller, lighter, more affordable hydraulic systems that could be integrated into tools, prosthetics and a plethora of industrial and consumer products.

The Company introduced its technology at an American Society of Mechanical Engineers event last November where it showed its PowerCylinder™, a mechanical force amplifier that uses encapsulated hydraulic circuitry. The device weighs ounces, yet leverages pounds into tons. Last month, the PowerCylinder was picked a best product of 2004 by Design News, a Reed Business Information publication for mechanical and design engineers.

Monday, the LatchTool Group announced that it has integrated a simpler version of its encapsulated hydraulic circuitry directly into a locking type of pliers. For the first time, women, the elderly and infirmed can have the hand strength equal to a man's. The prospects for miniaturized compact hydraulics are huge, just as the LatchTool Group contends, and now the NFPA and its more than 400 members assert.

LatchTool has multiple patents both issued and pending that covers its developments in valves, hydraulic circuitry and systems integration. The Company has offered to make its PowerCylinders available to the proposed consortium should the NSF decide to go ahead with the funding proposal.

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