

## **Kentucky Highlands Energy Boot Camp Graduate, NuForm Materials, Wins Small Business Grant from the National Science Foundation**

The National Science Foundation recently awarded NuForm Materials a Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Phase II grant. The funds will be used to develop the application of ash derived ceramics in aluminum powder metallurgy applications.

Using a patented process, NuForm Materials recycles ash derived ceramics from discarded coal combustion ash. These high quality ceramic particles are lighter and more cost effective than competing materials in the composite materials market. Ash derived ceramics increase the hardness and stiffness of aluminum parts without adversely affecting the weight of the part.

The award, which was funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, provides NuForm Materials with nearly \$500,000 in funding to conduct research and development activities over a two year period. NuForm also received State of Kentucky matching funds for this grant totaling \$314,000.

NuForm Materials is a graduate of the first KHIC Energy Boot Camp. The Energy Boot Camp is a 6 month intensive The KHIC Energy Boot Camp is an intensive performance-based Entrepreneurial training and mentoring program conducted in Partnership with Kentucky Highlands Investment Corp. and Technology 2020's Center for Entrepreneurial Growth (CEG). Its purpose is to help energy-related researchers, Inventors, and entrepreneurs prepare a path to business sustainability and profitability.

