

**DISTek Integration, Inc.**

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# Press Release

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## **UNI AND DISTEK COOPERATE ON SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH**

CEDAR FALLS, IA, APRIL 1, 2009: Professional Science Masters (PSM) Graduate students at the University of Northern Iowa have a required class called "Team Building" in which, as a team, they offer their services to industry as consultants. This one semester course applies what they have learned in their educational program to practical problems. William Griffin of DISTek Integration, Inc., a former graduate of this very program, proposed a project accepted by group members Philip Adaliku, Randy Dumse, Ziyuan Li, Mollie Small, and Lindsay Zeien (team leader and spokesperson) to create a test system enabling the study of a new kind of organic solar cell's efficiency for the university. Dr. Martin Chin, of the UNI Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is experimenting with a new cell under an Iowa Power Fund grant from the Iowa Office of Energy Independence.

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Griffin advises the students as they create a system capable of measuring the characteristics of the solar cell. A large part of the students' work involves programming software to automatically cycle and record measurements of a cell's "IV curves", or its ability to generate electricity from sunlight.

This new cell holds great promise in the field. Rather than relying on more expensive silicon based solar cells, Dr. Chin is investigating solar cells based on organic material. Silicon cells require exotic and extremely poisonous materials in their construction. They also take a vast amount of energy to make. Depending on service life, they may never produce as much energy as they took to make. This material or its future derivatives may be far easier and cheaper to manufacture than silicon cells.

DISTek Integration, Inc. is a software developer and systems integrator, operating since 1992. It has since grown to over 80 employees working in a 15,000-sq. ft. office space in the Cedar Falls Technology Park. DISTek Integration, Inc., is a privately owned company by Matt & Becky Dickinson. Under Matt's management, "We promise to always stick to our values and never outgrow our common sense roots." This project is done as a community service, investing in our future, and working toward energy independence for our state and nation.

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