

NMSU engineer earns NASA award

On May 15, NASA's Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program awarded New Mexico State University engineer Yu-Ping Tang the prestigious Engineering Award of Excellence for his work developing FLITELite, the LED flashlight for headset microphones.

NASA gives the award to four engineering support centers each year. Tang is a professor and engineer in New Mexico State's Mechanical Engineering Tech Center.

He was given the award for providing excellent innovation and engineering support for Santa Teresa-based FLITELite, a company that has designed and patented a unique LED flashlight that attaches to a pilot's headset microphone.

There were more than 60 entrants from thousands of eligible projects and New Mexico State's Tech Center was up against such big name companies as Raytheon, Boeing and ITT.

"I think it's pretty impressive that the innovation on this little light beat out such a big field of major applicants, NASA and NMSU support was invaluable to our success," said Dave Simeur, FLITELite project manager.