



**PRESS RELEASE**

**28 January 2008**

### **Nuclear software technology company wins £350k NWDA grant**

StructureVision Ltd, a University of Leeds spin-out company, is delighted to announce that it has been awarded a £350,000 Grant for Research and Development (GRAND) from the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) to help develop a tool that will contribute significantly to the deployment of a world class nuclear clean up programme.

The Company, which received early stage funding from IP Group plc and White Rose Technology Seedcorn Fund, provides innovative software solutions to enhance safety and provide major efficiency benefits to the nuclear waste management sector. The development of this new digital modelling tool will mark a major technological breakthrough in the nuclear industry.

The working principle of the technology lies in its ability to analyse and consequently model object interaction enabling the packing of objects into confined spaces such as containers. It will be launched as the world's first wholly digitally based industrial packing analysis tool. It will also be able to analyse and predict the most appropriate cutting lines for the cutting up and disposal of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) during a decommissioning process.

The total market that StructureVision seeks to take advantage of is worth around £2.5bn in waste products each year; of which £1.8bn are projects that could use this technology, according to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. The company's target market for the new product over the course of the next 10 years is around £100m.

The project has received strong support from the two technical advisors, the National Computing Centre and the National Physical Laboratory, who have confirmed the highly innovative nature of the project and the excellent market prospects.

**Bob Ward, Chief Executive Officer of StructureVision**, said: "We are delighted to have received the exceptional research and development grant from the Northwest Development Agency. This extra funding is crucial to our NuPlant project development plan and allows us to deliver a best in class product for the nuclear industry within the next two years."

**Mark Hughes, Executive Director for Enterprise and Skills at the NWDA**, said: "The NWDA manages and funds a number of business finance solutions designed to help businesses start up and grow. The GRAND grants are aimed at encouraging businesses to carry out those R&D projects that they would not necessarily undertake without the grant and assist them in levering in finance from the private sector."

The NWDA grant follows news that StructureVision signed a key partnership agreement with British Nuclear Group Project Services as well as appointed Neville Chamberlain CBE,

the former Chief Executive of British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) and former Chairman of Urenco, as its Chairman.

In November 2006, StructureVision secured the investment of £300,000 equity financing from both IP Group plc, the intellectual property commercialisation company, and the White Rose Technology Seedcorn Fund, which provides funding for spin-out companies from the universities of Leeds, York and Sheffield.

**For further information, please contact:**

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**NWDA**

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**Notes for Editors**

**About StructureVision**

StructureVision is a software solutions company providing forward planning tools for dismantling machineries and plants. The company's flagship product NuPAC optimises the way in which nuclear waste can be dismantled and packed during a decommissioning project. StructureVision's suite of 3 dimensional applications are being used by a number of blue chip clients across the nuclear, chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

StructureVision was founded in 2003 by Dr Xiaodong Jia and Professor Richard Williams of the institute of particle science and engineering at Leeds University. It is jointly owned by Leeds University, Techtran Group (owned by IP Group plc) and the White Rose consortium.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.structurevision.com](http://www.structurevision.com).

**About NWDA**

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) leads the economic development and regeneration of England's Northwest and is responsible for:

- Supporting business growth and encouraging investment
- Matching skills provision to employer needs
- Creating the conditions for economic growth
- Connecting the region through effective transport and communication infrastructure
- Promoting the region's outstanding quality of life

For further information and to view previous press releases visit us at [www.nwda.co.uk](http://www.nwda.co.uk)

**About the University of Leeds**

The University of Leeds is one of the largest higher education institutions in the UK with more than 30,000 students from 130 countries. With an annual research income of more than £91m, Leeds is one of the top ten research universities in the UK, and a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities. It was recently placed 80th in the Times Higher Educational Supplement's world universities league table and the University's vision is to secure a place among the world's top 50 by 2015.

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