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Advanced Communication Technology Earns Minnesota's TLC \$40,000, Positions Minority Firm as a High-Volume Manufacturing Company

CLEVELAND (August 16, 2004). **TLC Precision Wafer Technology, Inc. (TLC)** (www.tlcprecision.com) is poised to meet the growing demand for volume wireless communication and future bandwidth in advanced surveillance and automated control electronics. The Minneapolis, Minnesota-based firm, a leader in advanced millimeter-wave technology, designs, develops, manufactures and markets advanced Gallium Arsenide and next-generation Indium Phosphide wafer integrated circuits modules and related products. TLC's Metamorphic Integrated Transceiver Chip combines and enhances multi-chips in previous modules to a single chip integrated with a miniature patch antenna. The resulting transceiver chip is expected to meet military, NASA and commercial market demands for performance, price, size, cost and user-friendly operation.

TLC will receive a \$40,000 assistance award from the NASA Glenn Garrett Morgan Commercialization Initiative (GMCI) (www.nasagmci.org) to support the commercialization of its advanced communication technology in high volume production and manufacturing.

The minority-owned TLC has been a research and development laboratory for government (DoD and NASA) and commercial companies, but with limited production capability. A NASA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase 1 award focused on developing high-quality metamorphic wafers for high circuit yield. Now with a good base of military and commercial customers, TLC is pursuing an aggressive strategy to enhance the production operations with R&D support, and realize its potential as a high-volume production and manufacturing company.

TLC and seven other companies in the Great Lakes region will share \$400,000 as winners of the sixth GMCI Assistance Awards competition. GMCI was launched in the summer of 1998 to increase the competitiveness of small businesses, with an emphasis on minority-owned and women-owned firms, through enhanced access to NASA technology, expertise and programs. Since the awards competition began, the small business technology transfer program has granted a total of \$2 million and provided more than 70 firms with direct business and technical assistance. The initiative works with small companies in the Midwest, Southeast and Northeast. GMCI is a NASA-sponsored, Battelle-managed program.