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Gov. Perry Awards \$3.5 Million in Emerging Tech Funds to Bring Top Expert to the University of Texas at San Antonio

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry today awarded \$3.5 million in Texas Emerging Technology Fund (TETF) grants to the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) to recruit Dr. Ravi Sandhu, a nationally recognized leader in cyber security. Dr. Sandhu will become the founding executive director and chief scientist of the UTSA Institute for Cyber Security Research on June 1, 2007.

“While UTSA has already achieved significant accomplishments in the field of cyber security research, the addition of Dr. Sandhu will further Texas’ ambitions to be a major competitor in the global technology marketplace,” Perry said.

Nearly all daily functions, such as the use of electrical power, air travel and banking, depend on secure cyber systems to operate. UTSA was the first university in Texas designated as a National Security Agency Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security by the federal government. For more than five years, UTSA has worked to build a multidimensional program to meet and overcome attacks against the United States’ critical cyber infrastructure.

Under the leadership of Dr. Sandhu, UTSA will have the opportunity to expand research to international programs, bringing new ideas, technologies and opportunities to Texas. Dr. Sandhu’s team of researchers will partner with public and private cyber security organizations in the region to establish an unrivaled research organization.

“With the tremendous support of Gov. Perry and the Emerging Technology Fund, UTSA will be able to expand critical research in cyber security and build a multidimensional institute to meet the challenges that face our country’s technology infrastructure,” said UTSA President Ricardo Romo. “Opportunities such as this help move UTSA to the forefront of research and innovation.”

Dr. Sandhu served as a professor of Information Security and Assurance at George Mason University for 18 years and is responsible for the creation of nine U.S. Patents, 30 sponsored research grants, more than 160 published articles and the commercialization of multiple technology products in his area of expertise. He also co-founded TriCipher Inc. in 2000, and has received multiple science awards, including the 2004 Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers technical achievement for outstanding and pioneering contributions to information security.

Dr. Sandhu offers the unique blend of scientific and commercial expertise needed to maximize TETF’s economic investment. Cyber security is, and will continue to be, a growing field of national concern and economic growth.

Grants awarded through TETF, a \$200 million initiative created by the Texas Legislature in 2005 at the governor’s request, support efforts to recruit and provide tools for world class researchers and professionals in specific industries to Texas.

For more information on the TETF, please visit www.emergingtechfund.com.