

## News Release

For Release: April 22, 2011

United States Attorney Northern District of Ohio Steven M. Dettelbach United States Attorney

**U.S. Department** 

of Justice

James L. Bickett Assistant United States Attorney

Mike Tobin Public Affairs Specialist (216) 622-3651

The U.S. Attorney's Office reached a settlement agreement for more than \$1.2 million with Sunpower Inc. to resolve costs that were improperly billed to the NASA Glenn Research Center, said Steven M. Dettelbach, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

Sunpower has already repaid \$782,000. The agreement filed this week calls for the company to repay \$451,829 over the next two years.

NASA Glenn entered into a contract with Sunpower on Aug.1, 2003 for the development of an Advanced Stirling Converter. The convertor was designed to develop a highly efficient, low mass, reliable power converter for future radioisotope power systems.

Sunpower allegedly included unallowable organizational costs associated with a related company, Engine, Co., in its general and administrative expense pool which it then charged to NASA between 2006 and 2009.

This case is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys James L. Bickett following an investigation by the NASA Office of Inspector General