

Through its creation of and investment in Small Tech companies, Ardesta, LLC is an organization with a mission to be the leader in bringing Small Technology products to the global marketplace.

Ardesta's "Small Tech" market focus encompasses such fast growing and disruptive fields as microelectromechanical systems ("MEMS"), microsystems and nanotechnology. These revolutionary technologies improve existing products and enable the creation of new products by making them smaller, more reliable and energy efficient, and smarter and less expensive to manufacture and operate. While often smaller than can be seen by the human eye, Small Tech devices sense, think, communicate and cause action -- changing how we communicate, how we interact with the environment, and how we treat and prevent illnesses. Small Technologies have already made their way into many of the products used today, such as heart pacemakers, inkjet print heads, automobile airbags, digital projectors, pressure sensors, GPS systems and hearing aids, and will enter into countless new products in the coming years.

Ardesta was formed in October 2000, when it raised almost $100 million in private funding. Ardesta has since established itself as the leader in commercializing Small Tech products. Ardesta serves as the bridge between the universities/research laboratories involved in cutting edge basic research and the customers searching for product solutions that Small Tech can provide. In that role, Ardesta has created five Small Tech start-up companies (many involving technology licensing from universities) and has invested in another ten focusing on Small Tech's role in next generation products for the *Environmental Safety/Security, Communications, and Life Sciences* markets.

Ardesta has developed strong relationships with over a dozen premier Small Tech research institutions, including the University of Michigan and the University of California at Berkeley. These relationships provide Ardesta with access to key intellectual property, the top specialists in the field, and an inside view as to the direction of the technology and industry.

Ardesta has also established one of the world's largest networks of intellectual capital focused on Small Tech, with experienced management and technical resources and a world-class technical advisory board.