



USB Partner BioSpan Wins Small Business Honor for Biobased Companies



One longtime partner of the United Soybean Board (USB) recently won the Best of Business Washington Award from the U.S. Commerce Association (USCA), earning recognition from the White House. BioSpan Technologies, which uses soy in its RePLAY product, won the award for biobased research product development and marketing.

Each year, the USCA identifies companies that achieve exceptional marketing success in their local business communities and prove to be good examples of small businesses that exemplify service to their customers and communities. The award, which BioSpan won for the second consecutive year, came with a White House reception in May to honor excellence in small business.

USB remains committed to funding research and development of new soy-based products as a way of increasing demand for U.S. soy. Every year, dozens of new soy-based products that USB supported reach the marketplace.

USB provided funding to BioSpan to develop RePLAY, an asphalt sealer and preservation agent that can extend the life of a paved surface. RePLAY contains 88 percent biobased content, including soy. Since being commercialized, RePLAY has been applied on a variety of surfaces throughout the country, including highways, parking lots and even U.S. Air Force base runways. Additionally, USB supported BioSpan in developing 23 new soy-based solvents, which the company continues to push through the patent process.

According to BioSpan President and CEO Sheldon Chesky, these products would not have been possible without support from USB on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers.

"USB helps make the impossible possible," Chesky said. "USB provides support – both physical and fiscal – and guidance to help small businesses research, develop and, ultimately, commercialize soy-based products."

Like USB, BioSpan believes soy can play a major role in developing more sustainable biobased industrial and consumer products that generally outperform their more hazardous petrochemical-based counterparts.

"We're very committed to biobased products that are friendlier to the environment and the people using the products," Chesky said. "When properly formulated, many biobased products bring improved performance over petrochemical products."

To learn more about RePLAY® and other soy-based products from BioSpan Technologies, visit www.biospantech.com. To see a list of all soy-based industrial products or to learn more about the soybean checkoff's commitment to research and development of new uses for soy, visit the online Soy Products Guide at <http://www.soynewuses.org/ProductsGuide/Default.aspx>.

USB is made up of 68 farmer-directors who oversee the investments of the soybean checkoff on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers. Checkoff funds are invested in the areas of animal utilization, human utilization, industrial utilization, industry relations, market access and supply. As stipulated in the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soybean checkoff.