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[Cascade signs design deal with energy giant](#)

CASCADE Technologies, the Scottish laser technology group, has signed a £4m deal that will see it design and supply emissions monitoring systems for the energy giant BP.

BP Marine has invested in Cascade Technologies to gain access to the Stirling company's quantum cascade laser (QCL) technology, a system for detecting drugs, explosives and hazardous compounds.

Cascade, spun out of Strathclyde University in 2003, has developed a system that uses QCLs to detect gases in the air which it claims is more effective than sniffer dogs. The electronic 'nose' detects gases emitted, producing a chemical 'fingerprint' to identify the substance.

The three-year licencing deal with BP will see Cascade design QCL-based supply emissions monitoring systems for use in the marine industry.

John Fuller, chief executive of Cascade Technologies, said the technology would "allow BP to measure emissions more quickly, accurately and cost-effectively".

He said: "This technology offers unprecedented levels of sensitivity and the ability to quickly analyse complex gases in harsh industrial environments. Its highly portable and robust nature has enabled it to be applied in a number of new and previously unavailable areas."

Cascade's technology is currently being used to monitor greenhouse and industrial emissions, hazardous gases, and explosives and drugs in power stations and elsewhere. The group is trying to diversify into the lucrative homeland security and defence sectors.

Cascade raised £1.1m in its first funding round in April 2004 from investors including Scottish Equity Partners and Scottish Enterprise.

In July, Braveheart Ventures and Scottish Enterprise's Scottish Co-investment Fund put a total of £1m into the company. Bank of Scotland and Partnerships UK also put in £750,000.