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U.S. Scientists Devising Portable Anthrax Detectors

United States physicists are on a quest to develop portable anthrax detectors that would give reliable and ample warning.

Kansas State University physicists Honxing Jiang and Jingyu Lin are experts in designing light-emitting diodes and laser diodes, according to the *Associated Press*. These diodes are sources of light that can be as small as a strand of hair. "That's our expertise," Lin told the *AP*. "We make things very small too small to see with the naked eye without a light source."

Last summer, the government granted Kansas State University \$1.4 million over four years to develop semiconductor ultraviolet light sources, which Jiang said is the crucial component of a detector.

The grant is part of a \$40 million program by the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA.)



-- Felicity Stone

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