

HIGH-EXPLOSIVE NANOTHERMITE MORE BARK THAN BITE? No Contenders for The Nanothermite Challenge

On May 1, 2011 chemical engineer and AE911Truth petition signer T. Mark Hightower of San Jose, CA presented The Nanothermite Challenge, calling for peer-reviewed scientific documentation that nanothermite could be "formulated as a high explosive." This claim was made in April 2009 by Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth, a growing group of professionals calling for a new, independent 9/11 investigation, in part based on the research of physicist Steven Jones.

The Nanothermite Challenge: "Find and document peer-reviewed scientific research that demonstrates that a gas-generating nanothermite (GGNT) based upon iron (III) oxide (Fe_2O_3) and aluminum (Al), where the gas-generating chemical added to the nanothermite is not itself a high explosive, can be made to be a high explosive with at least a detonation velocity of 2000 m/s. The author of this paper will donate \$100 for every 1000 m/s of detonation velocity that can be documented, the donation not to exceed \$1,000."

The deadline of June 20 for The Nanothermite Challenge passed with no entries received. On June 19, 2011, retired NASA executive and AE911Truth petition signer Dwain Deets stated, "What I would like to see is AE911Truth retract their claim, as well as any other 911Truth advocates who now make this claim. It would be great to see the documented research come forward in the manner outlined in The Nanothermite Challenge before the 10th Anniversary, so those who make these claims can do so with a solid basis."