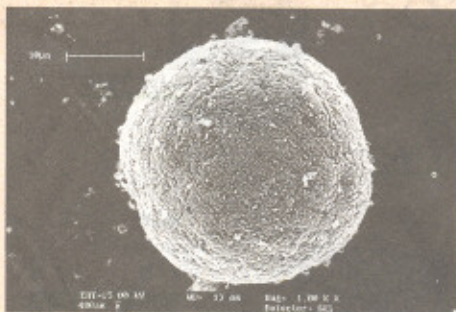


H9 | HOME

# \$2.1m for R&D bright sparks

Four promising ventures, ranging from aviation safety to explosive identification to water filter treatment, received funding amounting to \$2.14 million yesterday from the Prime Minister's Office via an initiative called The Enterprise Challenge



**TINY WEAPON:** This nanostructured photocatalyst can prevent water from fouling.

## Keeping water pure

A COLLABORATIVE project between Nanyang Technological University's school of civil and environmental engineering and national water agency PUB grabbed a \$1 million grant yesterday, nearly half the total allocation under The Enterprise Challenge.

The project, entitled Nanostructured Photocatalyst For Membrane Fouling Control, has important implications for Singapore's water supply, aiming to prevent the perennial fouling of water filtration membranes in its water treatment plants.

Using a catalyst activated by ultraviolet light, this project has huge potential should it prove successful. If patented, it could become a significant export, as fouling is a universal problem wherever membranes are used to treat water.

Essentially, this novel technology will provide a surface for natural organic matter and bacteria to cling to, rather than the membrane surface. When bombarded with ultraviolet light, the organic matter will be oxidised, leaving only carbon dioxide and clean water.