



PathSensors receives SBIR grant from USDA

Baltimore biotech company partners with USDA to protect American plants from foreign pathogens

Baltimore, MD – September 28, 2015 – The UMD BioPark-based PathSensors, Inc. has been awarded a Small Business Innovation Research grant from the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The award will fund the development of a multi-sample testing platform for rapid, facile identification of plant pathogens including the bacterium *Ralstonia solanacearum* and the widespread water mold *Phytophthora*. The new instrument will enhance the capabilities of the company’s CANARY® biosensors, enabling high throughput analysis of liquid and plant samples.

The award comes on the heels of a successful pilot program for screening plant imports at US Plant Inspection Stations. As part of an ongoing Material Transfer and Research Agreement with the USDA and MIT-Lincoln Laboratory, the originators of CANARY® technology, the PathSensors technology was used to analyze geranium cuttings, from countries not in the APHIS pre-clearance program, entering the US via Linden, NJ and Atlanta, GA for the select agent *Ralstonia solanacearum*. The bacterium, the most dangerous strain of which is endemic to Europe but has not reached the US, accounts for over \$1 billion annually in economic losses to crops such as potatoes and tomatoes.

“We are excited about receiving this grant and furthering our collaboration with the USDA,” says PathSensors President Ted Olsen. “Developing a high throughput system will be crucial to expanding our technology to the plant pathogen testing space.”

About PathSensors

PathSensors Inc., a biotech company headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland has developed and commercialized MIT-LL technology enabling the highly reliable identification of airborne and liquid-based pathogens. PathSensors currently offers the Zephyr and BioFlash systems to provide the rapid and highly reliable identification of airborne, liquid and surface-based pathogens. Government organizations and industry currently use these systems for monitoring, detection and identification of pathogens in biosecurity, mail screening, food processing, agriculture and environmental testing. PathSensors is privately held. For more information, please visit <http://www.PathSensors.com>, call 443.557.6150 or email info@PathSensors.com.

About USDA APHIS PPQ

APHIS’ Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program safeguards U.S. agriculture and natural resources against the entry, establishment, and spread of economically and environmentally significant pests, and facilitates the safe trade of agricultural products.

For more information on USDA APHIS please link to the APHIS website www.aphis.usda.gov.