



News Release

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\$7.5 million Awarded to Three North Texas Ventures

Dallas, TX – March 16, 2007 --- The North Texas Regional Center for Innovation and Commercialization (NTXRCIC) for the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF), announced today that approximately \$7.5 million was awarded to three North Texas region ventures; Optisense Network Inc. of Bridgeport, The University of Texas (UT) at Tyler, and The University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

"We are delighted to announce these newest ETF awards to our client and partner entities in North Texas, which bring the total announced ETF funding in this region to over \$11 million. We are also experiencing increasing interest and pre-proposal activity with each quarterly 'Round' of ETF applications; and several additional N. Texas awards have also been recommended for ETF funding.", said Mike Lockerd, Executive Director of NTXRCIC.

Optisense Network Inc. of Bridgeport, TX was awarded \$1.5 million for the commercialization of a proprietary electro-optical voltage sensor technology, the "intelligent grid." The company's "intelligent grid" technology will enable utility companies to monitor feeder circuits more cost-effectively, enhance system operations, optimize power flows, and provide greater grid security and reliability.

"The Texas Emerging Technology Fund is an ideal funding source for high tech start up companies. The fund allows entrepreneurs and inventors to maintain control of their companies while entering commercialization. Optisense appreciates the opportunity to participate in the intelligent grid and increase reliability of electrical service in Texas and through out the world." said David Welch, President and Chairman of the Board of Optisense Network, Inc.

Optisense is commercializing a proprietary electro-optical voltage sensor technology. The first product is targeted initially at local distribution networks (15,000 to 69,000 volts) as opposed to transmission networks (100,000 to 800,000 volts). Unlike large, heavy and expensive potential transformers that monitor voltage at a utility substation, the smaller, lighter and significantly less expensive sensors will allow utilities to install voltage sensors at close intervals directly on their feeder lines. Optisense's patented "intelligent grid" technology will allow the utility to cost-effectively monitor feeder circuits more effectively, enhance system operations, optimize power flows, and provide greater grid security and reliability. Optisense is collaborating with Dr. John Bassler, Director MSMR program at the University of Texas at Arlington to help provide analysis of markets and formulate new product strategy.

The University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, TX, was awarded \$2.27 million to establish a Center for Commercialization of Fluorescence Technology. Fluorescence-based detection and fluorescence imaging are major areas of interest for commercial enterprises in developing new technology for use in optical sensing, enhanced security systems, biomedical diagnostics and tissue imaging. Advanced fluorescence and nanotechnologies, also known as nanophotonics, are the most recent tools developed by the international research team of Zygmunt Gryczynski, PhD; Ignacy Gryczynski, PhD; Evgenia Matveeva, Ph.D.; and Julian Borejdo, Ph.D. These notable biophysicists were recruited to UNT Health Science Center specifically to start a Center for Commercialization of Fluorescence Technology. They bring to the Center the most advanced

approaches in utilizing and advancing fluorescence technology into a center that will provide service and collaborations with industry and academia for our state, country and world partners. Texas, and indeed the whole Southwest, has no such center at present.

“This center will have as a core goal to efficiently transfer new technologies for commercialization and fast utilization by the public. This center epitomizes our “3D” approach for providing solutions for healthier living, “discovery-development-delivery”, a bench to bedside approach we have established to bring our research discoveries quickly to market so we can have an impact on the health of the population,” said Dr. Thomas Yorio, Senior Vice President for Research and Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth, TX.

The Center will enable biotechnology and nanotechnology clusters in Texas as well as provide training to enhance ongoing efforts and provide workforce educational programs in fluorescence nanophotonics technology. This will help in establishing and recruiting new industrial partners that will increase the economic potential within the state while increasing the Texas workforce.

The University of Texas (UT) at Tyler, TX was awarded \$3.75 million for the recruitment of world class researchers in residential indoor environmental quality technology development and commercialization. Funds will also establish the Texas Allergy, Indoor Environment and Energy (TxAIRE) Institute at the UT Tyler to study indoor air quality.

TxAIRE is a collaborative institute with UT Tyler as the lead institution. The academic partners will include UT Dallas, and UT Austin. The industry partners involved in TxAIRE will be Trane Division of American Standard located (Tyler, TX), Lennox Corporation (Carrollton, TX), Estes McClure and Associates (Tyler, TX), Rheem Air Conditioning Division, and Air Rover Incorporated (Tyler, TX)

The Environmental Protection Agency reports that indoor air quality is declining and is three to five times worse than outdoor air quality. Given health complaints and related consumer demand, a new, large market—on top of the current \$12 billion HVAC market—is developing technology to provide cleaner and safer indoor air. This technology actually spans multiple sectors, including Advanced Manufacturing, Energy, Aerospace and Defense and Computer and Information Systems.

TxAIRE will focus on applied technology leading to commercially viable products that can be taken to market quickly by existing manufacturers and new start-up companies located in Tyler and the surrounding region.

The three companies announced join Hanson Robotics, Inc. and The Nanotechnology Research Initiative Projects both based in the North Texas region, already funded by the ETF.

The \$200 million Texas Emerging Technology Fund created in June 2005 by Texas Governor Rick Perry assists small to mid-size technology companies launch sooner, expedite the commercialization of new life-changing inventions out of the lab and into the hands of consumers and improve research at Texas universities.

The North Texas RCIC collaborates within its 64-county region with Economic Development Organizations, area Institutions of Higher Education, community volunteers and numerous other resources. The North Texas RCIC and the other seven regional centers are responsible for processing all funding applications and supporting emerging technology companies in their regions.

The North Texas RCIC is currently accepting applications for the seventh round of funding. Applications may be submitted to the North Texas RCIC by April 10, 2007. For detailed information about the Emerging Technology Fund, visit the North Texas RCIC web site at www.ntxrcic.org.

About NTXRCIC

The North Texas Regional Center for Innovation and Commercialization (NTXRCIC) is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit corporation under the Alliance for Higher Education that assists tech based entrepreneurs with starting and growing new ventures. The NTXRCIC helps to identify, evaluate, and develop new technologies in the North Texas region. This support to the entrepreneurs is both internally and

through its extensive resource network. NTXRCIC aims to increase cooperation between industrial, financial, and academic entities to focus on creating new commercial entities based on technologies that establish new, sustainable, high-growth potential businesses in the region.

www.ntxrcic.org