

## **Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund (CRCF) Announced Awards**

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The Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund (CRCF) advances science- and technology-based research, development, and commercialization to drive economic growth in Virginia, encouraging collaboration among its institutions of higher education and partnerships between these universities and business-industry.

In 2011, the General Assembly approved \$6 million for the CRCF, \$2M is specifically for a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) matching program for National Institutes of Health (NIH) Phase I award winners. The remaining \$4 million is designated for the following four programs: commercialization, facility enhancement loans, eminent researcher recruitment, and matching funds. In 2011 CRCF issued 29 awards to 22 organizations with grants totaling \$3.6 million to spark innovation, company formation in the Commonwealth, including a NVFPC member, A-Frame Digital!

This solicitation brought in more than 90 eligible proposals from throughout Virginia, totaling nearly \$21 million, and spanning the breadth of industries identified in the Roadmap as priorities areas for the Commonwealth, including: advanced manufacturing, aerospace, communications, energy, environment, information technology, life sciences, modeling and simulation, nuclear physics, and transportation; awarded projects represent the areas of life sciences, energy, advanced manufacturing and nuclear physics.

Pete Jobse, CIT President and CEO, said, "CIT is pleased to have the opportunity to conduct the CRCF process on behalf of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority, these awards will advance crucial technology research and commercialization initiatives that will result in company growth, research expenditure growth and new company formation opportunities throughout the Commonwealth."

The following CRCF proposals will be awarded contingent upon acceptance of the programs terms and conditions:

- AFrame Digital, Inc., \$49,997 for Continuous Fall Risk Monitoring System: Walking vs. Activities of Daily Living
- Alexander BioDiscoveries, LLC, \$50,000 for Novel Anti-Viral Agents to Treat Influenza
- Biospherex LLC, \$50,000 for Development of an LH-PCR Based Diagnostic for Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Gencia Corp., \$50,000 for Treatment of Sepsis Bioenergetics Using a Protein Biologic
- HemoSonics, LLC, \$49,734 for Development of Quality Control System for In-Vitro Assessment of Hemostasis
- HemoSonics, LLC, \$49,994 for Reagent Optimization for In-Vitro Assessment of Hemostasis
- INCOGEN, Inc., \$49,915 for Commercialization Strategy for Cancer Biomarker Intellectual Property

- Indoor Biotechnologies Inc., \$50,000 for Multiplex Array for Mold Biomarkers
- iTi Health, Inc., \$50,000 for Comparing Imaging Agent Modalities for Optimal Detection of Pancreatic Cancer
- iTi Health, Inc., \$50,000 for Developing a SPECT Imaging Agent for Early Diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer
- Jericho Sciences, LLC, \$50,000 for A Novel CNS-Penetrable Antiretroviral
- LC Technologies, Inc., \$49,992 for Eyetracking Comprehension Assessment System (ECAS): Improving Validity of Comprehension Assessment for People with Brain Injury
- Parabon NanoLabs, Inc., \$50,000 for Mixed-Ligand Targeting of a Nano-Pharmaceutical Against GBM Stem Cells
- Phthisis Diagnostics, Inc., \$49,400 for Molecular Diagnostic for Microsporidia
- Synthomics Inc., \$50,000 for Levodopa Pharmacokinetic Optimization by Metal Coordination
- Xyken, LLC, \$50,000 for An Intelligent Capsule Endoscopy Video Analysis Software Platform

“The proposals awarded during this solicitation support goals and industry opportunities identified in the Commonwealth Research and Technology Strategic Roadmap, and were reviewed by a multi-step assessment process,” said Nancy Vorona, CIT Vice President Research Investment. Vorona noted the review process. All proposals were initially reviewed by CIT for guideline compliance. Acceptable submissions were subject to an external review by subject matter experts from industry, academia, and government. Those proposals passing the expert review were ranked and selected by the newly-created Research and Technology Investment Advisory Committee (RTIAC), comprised of university, industry, and economic development experts. The RTIAC made recommendations to the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority (IEIA), which approved the final awards.

Award recipients will be contacted over the next two weeks to review award terms and conditions. Proposal authors whose submissions are automatically eligible for consideration in the spring solicitation will be notified the week of January 9, 2012. CIT staff will be available to discuss the selection process starting January 11, 2012.