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Tibbetts Innovation Award Goes to OTTC Client

Lumidigm's enhanced fingerprint scanning system wins prestigious prize

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – September 6, 2006 – Cal State San Bernardino's Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization (OTTC) has announced that its client, Lumidigm, has been recognized for outstanding achievement in technology innovation by the federal government's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The Tibbetts Awards are named for Roland Tibbetts, regarded as the father of the SBIR program.

Tibbetts Awards have three primary criteria: economic impact of the innovative technology; business achievement and effective collaboration; and demonstrated state and regional impact and proven support. Lumidigm satisfied all those criteria, and credits OTTC for playing an important role.

"OTTC provided us with CCAT [Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology] funding that enabled us to take our SBIR prototype to the next level," says Dr. Matthew Ennis, Director of Business Development for Albuquerque-based Lumidigm.

Lumidigm had been a recipient of both SBIR Phase I and Phase II awards for its technology. The original prototype included a "multispectral" optical fingerprint sensor that can record biometric information below the "skin deep" layer that traditional fingerprinting uses. The sponsor for Lumidigm's SBIR awards was the Air Force Research Laboratory, Information Directorate, in Rome, NY.

With Lumidigm's proprietary software, this system makes it impossible to fool the scanner with a fake finger or "spoof" print. SBIR also has a Phase III, but there are no funds to support it, and this often results in innovative technologies never being able to make it all the way to the commercial marketplace or government procurement. The CCAT program, which is sponsored by Redlands, CA Congressman Jerry Lewis, is designed to help overcome this obstacle, by concentrating on commercialization of promising innovations.

Lumidigm's technology was recently demonstrated in an outdoor theme park with a good deal of environmental variation (sun, wind and rain) with thousands of unique visitors a day. The system is so simple that the sensors don't need to have an attendant, and the park visitors were untrained, yet able to use the system without problems.

"Lumidigm represents everything we hope to achieve with one of our grant recipients," notes Dr. Klaus Brasch, Acting Director of OTTC. "They fulfilled their technology goal with us, and then went on to

secure \$8.1 million in venture capital investment. This is a real testimonial to what happens when you combine SBIR support with CCAT's ability to help clients navigate 'the last mile' to real success."

"The support we received from OTTC goes well beyond the CCAT grant," adds Ennis. "Their client managers and communications people are extremely helpful. They have worked with us before, during, and after our initial grant period. Their continued support has yielded revenues, opened doors to prospective customers, markets, and new ideas. OTTC plays a pivotal role in helping enterprises to bridge the gap between 'great idea' and commercial success. We look forward to a long relationship with OTTC."

At the present time, OTTC has an open solicitation round inviting CCAT grant proposals in two technology areas: robotics and biometrics (Lumidigm is an example of biometrics). OTTC has provided more detailed descriptive information on its Web site for both of these technology categories. Interested parties are encouraged to visit: <http://ottc.csusb.edu>.

The money for CCAT awards comes from the Office of Naval Research, which funds CCAT through the San Diego State University Foundation. CCAT has two program centers in Southern California, one in San Diego and the other at CSU San Bernardino, which is managed by OTTC.

About the Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization (OTTC)

OTTC (<http://ottc.csusb.edu>) is the management office for a grant program known as CCAT, Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology, funded by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) through Congressman Jerry Lewis's office. The Foundation for California State University, San Bernardino hosts and oversees OTTC. CCAT provides grants intended to be used in two ways: (1) to help companies develop commercial applications for technologies that have been developed in government laboratories; and (2) to help the government find technologies it needs for defense and homeland security needs and help them along so they can enter government procurement channels. OTTC is a two-way conduit that acts as a virtual incubator for advanced technology.

About Lumidigm

Lumidigm, Inc. has developed and deployed novel identity and access control solutions using biometrics that work in the real world. Lumidigm generates secure optical fingerprints by harnessing the complex interactions between skin and light. With commercial partners, venture funding, and government sponsors, Lumidigm provides identity management for civil identification, point-of-sale, physical and logical access, and portable electronic device applications. By the third quarter of 2006, millions of people will have used our sensors. Lumidigm was founded in 2001 and is headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico. More information is available at www.lumidigm.com

About the Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT)

The Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT) is supported by Congress and funded by the Department of Defense as a public-private collaborative partnership among academia, industry, and government. With Centers located at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) and San Diego State University (SDSU), the CCAT program provides funding and business development support services to small entrepreneurs, small businesses, and government/university research scientists that have developed technology for use in the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, as well as the commercial marketplace. Additional program partners include the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Jacobs School of Engineering, von Liebig Center and The Security Network with support from the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, San Diego. For more information about CCAT, visit <http://www.ccatsocal.org>.