

Seacoast Science, Inc. Awarded Grant from the Department of Homeland Security to Develop a Toxic Industrial Chemical Sensor System

Carlsbad, CA, April 15, 2003 – Seacoast Science, Inc. (SSI) an innovative sensor technology company specializing in the development of advanced chemical detection, announces an award of a Phase I SBIR grant by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This \$100,000 program is to develop a MEMS-based chemical sensor capable of detecting low vapor pressure (LVP) Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TICs). Examples of LVP-TICs are chemicals such as pesticides, explosives, and mercury. The field deployable microsensor system will be small enough to be used as a handheld detector system or can be wall mounted for long-term detection.

SSI's goal is to develop the MEMS microcapacitor array for a wide range of applications, such as homeland security, law enforcement, and public safety. Because of their small size, low power requirements and low cost these sensors can be deployed to detect harmful chemicals anywhere including in government facilities, industrial complexes, commercial buildings, and even unmanned air vehicles. Dr. Todd Mlsna, president and chief technical officer at Seacoast Science, Inc. stated "We are excited about working with the Department of Homeland Security because it will enable us to explore new ideas and develop leading edge technology. We are extremely optimistic that this will lead to important advances in the field of chemical detectors."

The Phase I program will demonstrate the use of the microarray for detecting particular Toxic Industrial Chemicals in the air, and to develop a design for a system that can detect and identify the chemicals. In addition, SSI will investigate a novel MEMS-based chemical preconcentrator developed by researchers at the Naval Research Laboratory and at the University of Louisville. The preconcentrator is a tool, which could potentially increase the sensitivity of the SSI's sensors by a factor of 100 – 1000 times, by amplifying the concentration of the chemical it absorbs. This systems development program will complement SSI's continuing work on chemical sensors for chemical warfare agents and industrial chemicals.

About Seacoast Science, Inc.

Seacoast Science, Inc. (www.seacoastscience.com) is a privately held R&D company located in Carlsbad, California. SSI develops chemical microsensors, and fabrication and testing systems for chemical sensors. SSI's technologies focus on chemical and biological sensing systems homeland security, military and civilian first responders, environmental compliance, and many other markets.

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