

Specific Technologies Announces a new \$2.9M Award from NIH for Commercialization of its Novel Blood Culture System Combining Detection and ID

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California, January 6, 2016 -- Specific Technologies, which has developed a new paradigm combining detection with ID of microorganisms growing in culture, announces that it has received notice of a new \$2.9M National Institutes of Health award for commercialization of its blood culture system. This will be the third grant the Company has received from the NIH for the development of a new paradigm for blood culture that not only furnishes detection faster than all present platforms, but uniquely integrates a Gram status determination more accurate than the bench-top stain, and species ID more accurate than that reported for MALDI post positive blood culture. Because the system compresses what is now 3 steps in the microbiology laboratory into one hands-free instrument, it offers clinical microbiology laboratories both reduced costs, as well as faster answers and a streamlined workflow resulting in more rapid information to guide care.

The NIH grant will be an SBIR Phase 2b commercialization grant, indicating that the technology has demonstrated its validity and is proceeding to commercial instrument development and clinical trials. Specific is pleased to relay this continuing support from the NIH, which was awarded upon the recommendation of industry expert reviewers, each of whom is a leader in clinical microbiology and is well-familiar with all the alternative instruments and methods available for characterizing blood infection. As an indication of the level of excitement on the part of these experts, one Reviewer wrote: “The SpecID system is faster and cheaper than existing blood culture systems, but offers more value...the reviewer is excited about the development of this technology to replace current blood culture systems.” Another wrote: “This system is a highly significant advance in blood culture, incorporating identification into the culture system...”

“We are grateful to the NIH for its continuing support of the development and now commercialization of our innovative paradigm combining detection with ID during culture. The level of enthusiasm among the expert Reviewers gives us confidence that the system we are developing will be well received by clinical laboratories,” said Dr. Paul Rhodes, Chief Executive Officer of Specific Technologies. “Our fully automated system will streamline the lab work flow, reduce costs, and substantially shorten the time from sample arrival to the Gram status and species ID determinations required to move to resistance determination. The system is completely hands-free, and does away with sample preparation for Gram stains as well as for MALDI or other means of species ID, saving labs money while streamlining workflow. With this technology it is perfectly possible to lower costs while improving patient care. We have research use instruments in labs in the US and Europe now, and we will be announcing the timetable for clinical trials in a subsequent news release.”

About the SpecID System

During growth in culture, bacteria produce small molecule volatile metabolites unique to their species and strain. Utilizing an inexpensive printed chemical sensor array to obtain a fingerprint that combines detection and identification into a simple, automated single step, the novel SpecID system identifies microorganism species and strain from a phenotypic metabolomic signature obtained during growth.

About Specific Technologies

Specific Technologies has developed *in vitro* diagnostic systems for rapid identification of cells at the strain level, and is applying this fundamental new platform to the detection and characterization of

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microorganisms during culture. The company's unique, patented metabolomic signature technology leverages a low-cost printed chemical colorimetric sensor array to identify cell type down to the strain level. Specific Technologies is located in Mountain View, CA.

For additional information, please visit www.specifictechnologies.net.

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