



Press Release

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Sophic Wins Phase II NCI SBIR Award

to complete development of the Sophic Cancer Biomarker KnowledgeBase

September 15, 2010, Rockville, MD: Today, Sophic announced the company won a \$750,000 Phase II NCI Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) Award to fund the continued development of the Sophic Cancer Biomarker KnowledgeBase (SCan-MarK). Sophic is one of thousands of small companies who compete nationwide for SBIR funding and the NCI selection process required two rigorous scientific peer reviews and approval of the SCan-MarK project plans, scientific methods and technology. The goals for SCan-MarK are to support personalized medicine, improve the accuracy of disease diagnosis, increase the effectiveness of treatments, accelerate research and drive the discovery of drugs to cure cancer.

The SBIR Phase II Award follows Sophic's successful completion of a Phase I Project in 2009 that funded a team of Sophic Scientists who designed and developed a functional SCan-MarK prototype. During the two-year Phase II project, a team of Sophic scientists will use the Biomax BioXM™ Knowledge Management System to mine, curate and annotate cancer biomarker information extracted from high-quality global biomedical databases and text sources. Validated information on the specificity and sensitivity of biomarkers will be integrated into SCan-MarK, then maintained and improved through regular update cycles. Sophic will configure a Biomax WIKI-style interface to provide cancer researchers and oncologists easy access to this single compendium of cancer biomarker information. The plan is to release and license a beta-version of SCan-MarK to commercial, government and academic organizations in the fall of 2011.

Dr. Michael Liang, the Sophic Principal Investigator leading the project, said: "We are very fortunate to have the support of a Scientific Advisory Board that includes eminent researchers and oncologists from the Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center, NCI, Cold Spring Harbor Research Labs and our software development partner, Biomax Informatics AG in Munich, Germany. The Scientific Advisors will help the Sophic development team maintain the scientific integrity of SCan-MarK in a cancer community that is in constant flux."

"After Sophic's 2009 Phase I biomarker prototype project, we continued to collaborate on finding ovarian biomarkers to be used in translational medicine" said Dr. K. Stephen Suh, a member of the Sophic Scientific Advisory Board and Scientific Director of the Tissue Bank and Cancer Research Program at Hackensack University Medical Center. "Sophic scientists used the Biomax Knowledge Management System to mine, integrate, curate and deliver a high quality "short list" of ovarian biomarkers that proved to be very accurate in bench tests performed in our lab with hundreds of ovarian cancer patient samples. Our research team saved valuable time, effort and resources and we are publishing papers with Sophic on our results. In the future, we expect our research and collaboration with Sophic to ultimately impact cancer patient care and get one step closer to personalized anti-cancer therapies."

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Patrick Blake, Sophic’s CEO said, “A few years ago, we made a strategic decision to participate in the NCI SBIR program and, while this entailed a significant investment in time and effort, the decision has paid off. SBIR funding allows Sophic to aggressively pursue our mission, which is to provide researchers and oncologists with cutting-edge technology in the war on cancer as well as other complex diseases such as cardiovascular, diabetes, Alzheimer’s and HIV. SCan-MarK will save researchers and oncologists valuable time, reduce tedious searching and support the achievement of personalized medicine for cancer patients.” He concluded, “We are proud of winning both Phase I and II SBIR awards. The funding for this project will help drive the growth of Sophic’s intellectual property and allow us to hire three new scientists for our team.”

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program is intended to insure that the nation's small, high-tech, innovative businesses are a significant part of the federal government's research and development efforts. Mr. John Davis, CEO of the SBIR Resource Center says “Only one in nine participating small companies win Phase I funding and only 40% of the Phase I companies eventually receive Phase II Awards. SBIR is the most important source of venture financing for America’s small technology-based companies.” 100% of the \$750,000 award for the Sophic Cancer Biomarker KnowledgeBase project has been funded with Federal Funds from the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, under Contract No. HHSN261201000020C.

About Sophic: Sophic Systems Alliance Inc. (Falmouth, MA and Rockville, MD) is a life science software and services integrator. The company, founded in 1993, provides a broad range of software and services to research scientists and MDs in the government, commercial and biomedical sectors. Sophic’s cancer-related projects include the NCI Cancer Gene Index Project, the Cancer Genome ATLAS project that focused on brain, ovarian and lung cancer, and the implementation of Biomax software for government and commercial customers. Sophic’s strategy is to focus on supporting research to fight cancer and other complex diseases including cardiovascular, diabetes, Alzheimer’s and HIV. Additional information about Sophic can be found at www.sophicalliance.com.

BioXM™ Knowledge Management System is a trademark of Biomax Informatics AG, Munich Germany.

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