

**News Release**

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Edgewood Chemical Biological Center Forms Technology Commercialization Partnership with Allied Minds Federal Innovations

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.—In a move to more efficiently commercialize laboratory-produced technologies and services, the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) partnered with Allied Minds Federal Innovations, Inc., (AMFI) in April.

The new ECBC-AMFI partnership is among the first to directly respond to President Barack Obama's October 2011 memorandum challenging federal laboratories to accelerate their transfer of technology to other institutions for the purpose of improving economic growth and the global competitiveness of U.S. industries.

By leveraging technologies from ECBC's intellectual property (IP) portfolio for multiple commercial applications, the cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) between ECBC and AMFI goes beyond the norm for such—which is traditionally devised to connect government agencies with private companies to develop only a single product or service.

“The intellectual output of over 200 U.S. government research labs represents an under-utilized national asset,” said Chris Silva, chief executive officer of Allied Minds. “Unlocking the commercial value of intellectual property through our relationship with ECBC will result in the creation of companies, job opportunities and a stronger, more competitive U.S. economy.”

The CRADA aims to create start-up businesses or multi-use products and services. To do so, the partners will first host a series of product development and commercialization sessions that will assess the marketability and adaptability of ECBC inventions. Once identified as viable—through the financial backing and management expertise of AMFI—the technologies will proceed for further research, development and commercialization.

“By partnering with AMFI, the Center is now poised to help improve the commercialization of critical technologies and also potentially stimulate our nation's economy,” said Joseph D. Wienand, ECBC technical director and Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) acting deputy director.

The first product selected by the partners for development is a sensor originally designed for military installations to recognize biological pathogens from safe distances, but could also be adapted to help characterize the environment or measure pollution.

This “bio-sensor” illustrates how the partnership will merge ECBC IP with AMFI marketing know-how to generate inventions that have potential to impact not only the servicemember but the U.S. economy as a whole—thus fulfilling the President’s initial appeal.

ECBC and AMFI formally marked the start of their five-year CRADA in an April ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Taking part in the event were Wienand and Silva, as well as ECBC Associate Director, Business Management Integration, Debra Thedford and AMFI Director of Federal Research Program John Serafini. Each provided remarks to an intimate group of attendees from both organizations.

About ECBC

ECBC is the Army’s principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and field operations. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for the warfighter and for our national defense, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is a RDECOM laboratory located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. For more information about ECBC, please visit www.ecbc.army.mil or call 410-436-7118.

About AMFI

AMFI is a private equity-funded innovation company that forms, funds, manages and builds start-ups based on early-stage technology developed at renowned U.S. universities and federal research institutions. AMFI serves as a diversified holding company that supports its businesses with capital, management and shared services, and is the premier firm to utilize this novel and fully-integrated approach to technology commercialization. For more information about AMFI, please visit www.alliedminds.com.