



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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TWO REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TEAM TO COMBAT HIGH HOSPITAL INFECTION RATES *Center for Disease Control Finds Hospital Germs Attack Nearly Two Million Patients per Year*

October 14, 2004 (Pittsburgh) –Two local entities have teamed to combat one of the nation’s largest health problems. IEE FirstLink, part of The Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE) Katz Business School at the University of Pittsburgh, and BIOSAFE Inc., a local technology firm, are working together to acquire funding and resources to allow BIOSAFE to produce commercial solutions to defend against infections that are regularly challenging patient hospital care. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that the risk of getting infected has jumped 36 percent in the last 20 years. These infections add over five billion dollars to the overall annual cost of health care in the United States.

Founded in 1997, Pittsburgh-based BIOSAFE has a patented, innovative antimicrobial application process that enables an antimicrobial to be permanently incorporated into various solid surfaces, such as those found in hospital environments. This produces permanent bacterial protection to the surface. The process can be applied to medical devices such as catheters and surgical implants, which will make them resistant to bacterial life and to the formation of biofilm. Experts agree that most infections are spread through the improper use of protective equipment by hospital personnel and by improper sterilization of medical devices.

In the early stages of product development and testing, BIOSAFE turned to the IEE FirstLink for assistance in December 2002. Their joint efforts have focused on expanding BIOSAFE’s business model and identifying new business opportunities for the company. This effort has resulted in the company earning over \$875,000 in federal financing.

Funding to support BIOSAFE is also being provided through the relationship that the IEE formed with the Department of Defense. In June 2004, the IEE was awarded a \$1.9 million contract to form a Department of Defense National Centers for Technology Transfer. Through this effort, IEE FirstLink is seeking technologies, research and applications designed for traditional military deployment and assessing its value for first responder and homeland defense dual-use applications.

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One of the requests from the DoD is for technologies that protect soldiers and others who may come into contact with biological hazards. Hence, the technology under development by BIOSAFE has also attracted the attention of the DoD.

Jim Rooney, Associate Director of IEE FirstLink, who is spearheading the DoD effort, stated, “Companies like BIOSAFE are valuable to the economic development of our region, and play a significant role in helping Western Pennsylvania gain its fair share of the projected \$100 Billion plus Security Sector as well as helping to reduce the increase in patient infections, which is a major deterrent to trusted, safe hospital care.”

Added BIOSAFE CEO Gerry Getman, “Our process can provide an environmentally friendly and extremely cost-effective way to dramatically reduce the number of infections that hospital patients accidentally receive each year. Extensive testing has demonstrated that there are no toxic effects. The antimicrobial used in the BIOSAFE process has received FDA and EPA approvals for use in surgical drapes, wound dressings and many consumer applications.”

About IEE FirstLink

IEE FirstLink helps the Department of Defense connect with private sector companies and entrepreneurs to commercialize technologies for our nation’s First Responders. As the nation’s first National Center of Excellence for First Responder Technologies, IEE FirstLink’s services are provided through a partnership with the United States Department of Defense Office of Technology Transition and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). The organization is located within the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence, Katz Graduate School of Business, at the University of Pittsburgh, one of Southwest Pennsylvania’s largest economic development contributors. For more information, visit www.ieefirstlink.com.

About BIOSAFE

Founded in 1997, BIOSAFE is a research and development company with a patented, innovative antimicrobial application process that enables an antimicrobial to be permanently incorporated into various materials, including polymers, thereby producing permanent bacterial surface protection. For more information, contact Dr. Gerry Getman at 412-770-1302 or www.biosasfecorp.com.

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