Spot On Sciences Awarded $1 Million DARPA Grant to Develop a Blood Sample Collection Device

AUSTIN, Texas, June 25, 2012 /PRNewswire-iReach/ -- Spot On Sciences, Inc., an Austin-based medical device company, has received a two-year, $1 million Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II award from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to further develop a device that would allow anyone to take a blood sample in any location and ship or store the samples at room temperature.

The HemaSpot™ device, developed by scientists at Spot On Sciences under a DARPA SBIR Phase I award, is based on dried blood spot (DBS) technology, which is best known for newborn screening. The patented device allows blood sample collection to be performed away from a lab, improves sample quality, simplifies collection, and allows for stable sample storage for years at room temperature. Recognizing the potential of the HemaSpot™ device for improving point-of-care diagnostic testing of military personnel, DARPA is supporting further research.

"We are excited to be working with DARPA to develop a device that is robust enough to allow a soldier in the field to safely collect blood for testing" said Dr. Jeanette Hill, Spot On Sciences' Chief Executive Officer. "HemaSpot™ has many additional commercial uses for clinical trials, rural and home-bound testing, bio-banking, population studies and a wide range of medical research."

The single-use HemaSpot™ device uses a finger stick to collect and dry two drops of blood within a protective cartridge. Once dried, the sample is stable at room temperature and can be safely and easily shipped to a diagnostic test site for analysis. Traditional DBS involves a multi-step process that is subject to errors from moisture, contamination, and sample loss. HemaSpot's™ innovative design addresses these problems, streamlining the entire process. Common disease markers can be measured including proteins, nucleic acids and small mole
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[1] http://www.bio-medicine.org/medicine-technology-1/Spot-On-Sciences-Awarded--241-Million-DARPA-Grant-to-Develop-a-Blood-Sample-Collection-Device-26211-1/