



EXCLUSIVE REPORTS

SHOT receives Science Foundation research grant

Company to help Ohio researchers develop technology

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Business First Staff Writer

Greenville, Ind.-based Space Hardware Optimization Technology Inc. has won a grant from the National Science Foundation to help Ohio researchers produce laboratory equipment.

Dr. Paul Todd, chief scientist for SHOT, said the company received notification of the grant six weeks ago and the funds three weeks ago.

The grant money will be used by SHOT and also by The Cleveland Clinic Foundation and the Department of Chemical Engineering at Ohio State University for a project on cancer research.

The value of the grant is \$99,976, Todd said. The deadline for completing the research is January.

Most of the grant money will pay for materials and the workers' time on the project, Todd said. In addition, \$25,000 of the funds will go to OSU as a subcontractor on the project.

Disposable, sterile container is goal

OSU and the Cleveland Clinic want to develop technology that will allow researchers to take human cells and magnetize them.

That technology will allow researchers to separate cancerous from noncancerous cells.

SHOT's role is to develop a test-tube-style device that is both disposable and able to be sterilized.

The device will be used to separate blood cells after the magnetizing process.

The most likely application will be to take bone marrow from one part of a person, magnetize the cells, separate any cancerous cells and reinject the bone marrow back into the patient, Todd said.

"You separate out good cells from the bad, so that the patient isn't injected with more cancer cells," Todd explained.

Company could win second grant

SHOT is not licensed to handle human material, Todd said, so the company will develop prototypes and send them to the Ohio institutions for testing.

If SHOT is successful, the company can apply for another grant that would allow SHOT to further refine its work.

That second-phase grant is worth about \$700,000 over two years, Todd said.

The company has not hired any extra workers for the grant work, Todd said, but may need to if the company receives the additional, phase-two funding.

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