Sensor Technology Limited

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May 5, 2005

Media Release

SENSOR TECHNOLOGY LIMITED AWARDED A MARS CONTRACT

Sensor Technology Limited of Collingwood has been awarded a contract by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) on the development of a geophysical instrument for Mars exploration. Announcing the contract, George Czerny-Holownia, Business Development Manager at SensorTech said that the company's proposal was ranked as a "must fund" within the competition. The 12 month contract was awarded by the CSA's Space Science Selection Committee. No contract terms were disclosed.


George Czerny-Holownia

Sensor Technology Limited manufactures piezoelectric sensors and transducers that are commonly used in underwater and geophysical exploration on Earth. These products are currently exported to over forty countries around the world. The corporation has been making these products since 1983 and has its manufacturing and research facilities on Stewart Road, Collingwood, Ontario.

"The use of similar technology for Mars exploration presents significant challenges due to the severe constraints on instrument size, weight and power consumption as well as the unique environmental conditions on Mars" said Richard G. Blacow, Vice-President and General Manager at the Corporation. "The company will analyze these constraints and operating conditions and provide recommendations to the Space Agency on the most effective design options", he said.


Richard Blacow

Dr. David Waechter, Manager of Research & Development at Sensortech will be the Project Manager. He said that geophysical instrumentation is of interest for probing the Martian subsurface in order to study sedimentary features and identify promising sites for drilling and sample


David Waechter

extraction operations. Finding evidence of past life or other significant discoveries may well hinge on "hitting the right spot". And according to SensorTech's R&D team, having the right technology can significantly improve the odds.

Sensor Technology has been involved in space research projects for over two decades. Hardware and experiments designed by the company have flown on NASA and NRC aircraft, sounding rockets, the Space Shuttle and the Mir Space Station. Dr. S. Eswar Prasad, who managed the company's earlier projects on zero gravity research will work on the current project as a principal scientist.

During the current project, the company will investigate both seismic and electrical resistivity probes. Dr. Waechter said that the former can be likened to medical ultrasound applied to the Earth (or in this case, Mars). "Seismic probes can yield information on sedimentary features and tectonic structures with high resolution. Electrical resistivity probes provide complementary information and may reveal the presence of base metal ores from remnant voltages.", he said.

For further information, electronic copy of this release and photographs. Please contact:

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