

# **Press Release**

October 2010, NORWICH, United Kingdom

University of East Anglia spin out Intelligent Fingerprinting Ltd has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology category in this year's Times Higher Awards.

Intelligent Fingerprinting's success with the Times Higher Awards comes after it recently secured its second tranche of development funding following its launch in September 2009. ICENI challenge fund released the second £100,000 in seed funding to develop assays for the simultaneous detection of illicit substances and personal identity.

Funds were secured following Intelligent Fingerprinting achieving a number of strategic milestones ahead of schedule; the business looks set for its first products to be launched later this year. Intelligent Fingerprinting have developed new techniques using highly sensitive fingerprinting technology that simultaneously detect identity and chemical metabolites secreted through the skin.

Intelligent Fingerprinting technology uses magnetic particles and high sensitivity antibodies to detect metabolites of illicit drugs and nicotine in sweat in as little as 15 minutes. In detecting high definition fingerprints and drug metabolites at the same time it also identifies the source of these metabolites making law enforcement applications of the technology much simpler.

Commenting on the release of funds which will lead to further development of the company's technology Intelligent Fingerprinting founder Prof. David Russell stated, "The funding will put us in a great position to develop an increasing range of products that have the potential to address a number of law enforcement and medical challenges, the new techniques are generating significant interest in the sectors we are targeting and we are in a great position to target potential investors who can help the company grow".

## Ends.

For interviews, images/logos and further information related to this press release please contact:

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### **Intelligent Fingerprinting:**

Founded in 2009 by Professor David Russell and Dr Jerry Walker, Intelligent Fingerprinting has exclusive right to use the simultaneous detection of illicit substances and personal identity

technology from the University of East Anglia and Kings College London. A number of its discoveries have already been published in leading chemistry journals. The company is based in Norwich where it has development facilities.

Professor David Russell, Founder and CSO, School of Chemistry, University of East Anglia, will be the technical lead. David has a record of successful commercial outcomes from his research. He is the lead inventor in six patent applications filed by the University of East Anglia, of which two applications focusing on gold nano particles have been licensed by Cancer Research Technology for using the same in photodynamic therapy in treating cancer.

#### **University of East Anglia:**

The University of East Anglia was founded in 1963 and directly employs around 3,000 full-time staff, has over 14,000 students and an annual income of some £170m. It is estimated to be responsible for indirect employment of some 3,300 people outside the institution and generates direct and indirect economic impact of around £420m.

#### **ICENI:**

The ICENI Seedcorn fund was established to assist the process of commercialising innovation and technological development derived within the fund's six East Anglian partner institutions including The University of East Anglia.

It supports business development proposals at an early stage, before they are ready for mainstream venture capital or similar sources investment.

This early investment is the riskiest stage of the venture process, and many institutions experience of funding gap in the provision of finance for bringing research discoveries to a point where their commercial usefulness can be demonstrated and first steps taken to secure their utility.

The ICENI Seedcorn fund was established in August 2002 within £3million award from the DTI's University Challenge Fund (UCF) competition, run by the government's Office of Science and Technology (OST). Together with contributions from the partner institutions and HSBC bank the fund has a total value of £4million. The fund may invest 2.5 K to 200 K per project, dependent on stage and need. For further details see http://www.icenifund.com