

Cantimer, Inc. Awarded \$996,000 Contract from U.S. Government to Develop Portable, Real-Time and Non-Invasive Hydration Measurement and Monitoring System for Use by Firefighters

Funds to support product development and clinical evaluation activities

MENLO PARK, Calif., June 2 /PRNewswire/ -- Cantimer, Inc., a privately held company developing and commercializing a proprietary sensor technology platform with applications in life science, biodefense, environmental testing, point-of-care diagnostics and home health markets, today announced that it has been awarded a \$996,000 contract by the U.S. Government's Technical Support Working Group (TSWG; <http://www.tswg.gov>) to develop a portable, real-time and non-invasive hydration measurement and monitoring device for use by firefighters and other first response personnel.

Dehydration is a major health concern in the first responder community. Mild dehydration can lead to compromised physical and cognitive performance. Moderate to severe dehydration creates a significantly increased risk for debilitating and potentially deadly heat illnesses. For example, firefighters perform physically demanding work in heavy protective clothing, which increases the production of sweat as the body works harder than normal to self-regulate its core temperature. Warm or hot ambient conditions, as well as exposure to radiant heat from fires, increase the challenge. Dehydration compromises sweat production, and the resulting rise in core temperature creates increased cardiovascular stress. Dehydration can also result in other untoward cardiovascular changes.

The United States Fire Administration (part of FEMA -- the Federal Emergency Management Agency) estimates that more than half of firefighter line-of-duty deaths result from cardiovascular events or heat illnesses. Thus ensuring adequate pre-response hydration and on-scene re-hydration is an increasing area of focus for occupational medicine experts focused on the health, safety and performance of firefighters. Non-quantitative or observational hydration assessment techniques may not consistently ensure that all dehydrated and at-risk individuals are identified and get proper medical attention. Cantimer's quantitative approach is based on assessing the composition of a small sample of saliva, with a portable, hand-held device.

"We are delighted to have been awarded this contract," said Robin C. Stracey, President and CEO of Cantimer. "We anticipate that the ability to objectively measure and manage hydration status will have a major positive impact on the health and safety of mission-critical first responders. We also see important applications for this technology in sports medicine, geriatric, pediatric and military settings," he added.



Cantimer intends to collaborate on the TSWG project with Denise Smith, Ph.D., a Professor in the Exercise Science Department at Skidmore College. Dr. Smith is also a Research Scientist at the Illinois Fire Service Institute at the University of Illinois. "I am very excited about this technology and its potential ability to improve firefighter safety and fireground performance. We look forward to working with Cantimer to ensure that this technology is designed to be of greatest benefit to this country's first responders," noted Smith.

About Cantimer

Cantimer is a privately-held development stage company commercializing a patented, proprietary sensor technology platform having applications in life science, health care, bio-defense and consumer markets. The technology will initially be embodied into point-of-care products for convenient, non-invasive, measurement and monitoring of human hydration status using saliva as a sample.

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