

## ***SBIR Success in North Carolina Syntherica***

### **SYNTHERICA CORPORATION RECEIVES \$1.2 MILLION PHASE II SBIR GRANT**

**S**yntherica Corporation, a Durham biotechnology company, announced that it has received a \$1.26 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop a more efficient test for the detection of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), one of the most wide-spread environmental contaminants in the United States. NIH awarded the Phase II grant pursuant to its Small Business Innovation Research grant program.

The new test method, which the company anticipates will be approved as a reference method by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is expected to reduce the cost and time required for performing tests for PCB contamination, thus leading to improvements in regulatory compliance, environmental restoration, and environmental monitoring.

"These funds will be put to good use developing a much-needed product that will improve the environment and, at the same time, move Syntherica toward its goal of getting innovative products to market. We anticipate that our Synthetide™ surrogate antibody technology, which is the basis for the new PCB test, will also be useful in products aimed at other markets, such as medical diagnostics, drug discovery and bio-defense," said D. Joe Smith, Syntherica's chairman and CEO.

The North Carolina Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC) contributed to Syntherica's success by providing assistance through initiatives such as the center's summer MBA intern program. This program is designed to match MBA students with an interest in biotechnology with North Carolina companies who have a need for the expertise and insight that these students bring to the equation. "I think the program does a wonderful job of introducing new business talent to the biotechnology community while providing additional resources that most young companies could not otherwise afford. I participated in the program while an MBA student at Kenan-Flagler back in 1998 and, as a result of that experience, decided to become involved in the North Carolina biotechnology community," said Mike Henz, Syntherica's director of business development.

Syntherica Corporation, founded in September 2002, is a product-focused biotechnology company leveraging its proprietary Synthetide™ surrogate antibody technology to create a new generation of testing and diagnostics products. Additional information is available at [www.syntherica.com](http://www.syntherica.com).

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Director,  
Business Development***

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