



PLANT SENSORY SYSTEMS RECEIVES GRANT TO HELP DEVELOP NITROGEN USE EFFICIENT CORN

Plant Sensory Systems Awarded SBIR Phase II Grant From NSF

BALTIMORE, Maryland (August 14, 2009) – Plant Sensory Systems, LLC, an agricultural biotech company located at the bwtech@UMBC Research and Technology Park, today announced that it has received a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The award will extend the Phase I R&D effort in which Plant Sensory Systems demonstrated their Nitrogen Use Efficiency and Stress Tolerance (NUEST) technology in the model plant, *Arabidopsis*. Plants with the NUEST technology showed increases in drought and heat tolerance and higher yield in nitrogen limited and sufficient conditions. In Phase II Plant Sensory Systems will move the technology into corn. President at Plant Sensory Systems, Dr. Kathleen Turano, states “Producers want to maximize grain yield with minimum input costs. Nitrogen application is one of the highest input costs today and will be tomorrow as global fuel demands continue to rise. The development of nitrogen use efficient corn, which is one of the most nitrogen intense crops in the United States, will have a significant positive impact on production costs and provide environmental benefits such as improved water quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.”
