PLANT SENSORY SYSTEMS RECEIVES AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Company Awarded Technology Enhancement For Commercial Partnership Grant

BALTIMORE, Maryland (August 20, 2010) – Plant Sensory Systems, LLC, an agricultural biotech company located at the bwtech@UMBC Research and Technology Park, today announced that it has received a Technology Enhancement for Commercial Partnership (TECP) Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The award complements the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II grant they received from NSF in 2009 ("GABA-Mediated Nitrogen Efficiency") and provides research support to improve the technology as Plant Sensory Systems builds value and establishes commercial partnerships. Plant Sensory Systems' Nitrogen Use Efficiency and Stress Tolerance (NUEST) technology has been shown to increase drought and heat tolerance and yield in nitrogen limited and sufficient conditions. The award is for the development of novel regulatory sequences to optimize the performance of the NUEST technology in monocot crops. "Monocots are the most economically important group of plants in the food supply. Optimizing the performance of the technology to increase agricultural productivity in monocots is vitally important to the industry and to our partners," says Kathleen Turano, president at Plant Sensory Systems.