



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

VelocityTX Forges New Partnerships to Leverage Military Medical Research in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (Nov. 29, 2022) – VelocityTX, a subsidiary of the Texas Research and Technology Foundation (TRTF), announced two new military medical partnership agreements building on their vision to leverage local military medical research for the economic benefit of the San Antonio region. The teaming agreements focus on helping the military develop critical technologies to address future military medical requirements on the battlefield.

On August 30, 2022, the Board of the San Antonio Economic Development Corporation (SAEDC) approved a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with VelocityTX to fund continuation of the San Antonio Military Medical Innovation (SAMMI) Initiative and Director under the VelocityTX umbrella.

With the partnership agreement in place, VelocityTX will collaborate with the entire military medical research ecosystem to continue implementation of the San Antonio Military Life Science Commercialization Action Plan, a roadmap for the community to better leverage military medical research in assisting the military to meet their requirements, as well as providing commercialization opportunities for local start-up and established companies in the med-tech sector. The SAEDC facilitated the development of the Action Plan in 2018, alongside local leaders from military medical research community and public and private sector bioscience and medical industry. The SAEDC is an extension of the City of San Antonio created to strategically execute programs and initiatives that foster economic development.

“The City and the SAEDC are excited to partner with VelocityTX in continuing the work of the SAMMI to promote commercialization opportunities that will create new bioscience companies, jobs and investment in San Antonio,” said San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg.

“TRTF created VelocityTX in 2017 to focus on bioscience innovation and leverage the vast military medical research assets we have here in San Antonio for commercialization opportunities,” said Randy Harig, Chief Executive Officer of TRTF. “We look forward to optimizing the opportunity of SAMMI at VelocityTX and continuing the great work started by the City and the SAEDC through this initiative.”

VelocityTX will use their proven Innovation Model of Connect, Support and Fund. This model focuses on providing startup companies and entrepreneurs with the resources, training, mentoring, facilities, funding, and connections to become successful, all with the goal of driving regional economic growth. VelocityTX will also pursue formally establishing a San Antonio Military Life Science Alliance, continue to host military industry days, and seek partnership agreements with the military medical community to assist the military in transferring medical technology to the commercial sector.

“Adding SAMMI and its innovative functions is a perfect fit for the VelocityTX model,” said David Fonseca, Chief Executive Officer of VelocityTX. “Locating at VelocityTX provides SAMMI opportunities for increased collaboration with the military and access to community partners, start-up companies and entrepreneurs interested in leveraging military medical research.”

At VelocityTX, SAMMI will be well positioned to network with companies who are seeking to partner and collaborate with the military medical community. VelocityTX will also provide SAMMI with potential sources of funding, technical assistance, mentoring and accelerator/incubator space for startup companies identified as needing assistance in leveraging military medical research.

Military Cooperative Agreement

On September 14, 2022, VelocityTX also announced the execution of a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (ISR) at Joint Base San Antonio - Fort Sam Houston. This is a pivotal public- private venture whereby the ISR and VelocityTX will team on the development of critical technologies to address gaps in battlefield medicine. Specifically, this collaboration focuses on developing future automation technologies that will be needed to conduct military medical operations in future battlefield environments.

Through the CRADA, VelocityTX will provide the ISR facility space and technical assistance in their state-of-the-art Innovation Center on the Eastside of San Antonio. This will enable the ISR to better access private sector companies with cutting edge technology, innovation, and commercialization expertise. Artificial intelligence, clinical decision support systems, real-time systems, automation, and digital signal processing are some examples of private sector expertise and innovation the ISR can access and

leverage at VelocityTX to build the necessary software and systems to support needed medical capabilities.

At VelocityTX, the ISR will perform technical development on future automation technologies to support future battlefield operations to include software development, testing and engineering validation. This ISR collaboration with VelocityTX and leverage their expertise in commercializing clinical decision support software and systems that can support military and civilian applications.

“The ISR is looking forward to the opportunity of partnering with VelocityTX in helping develop the next generation of military medical decision support systems for battlefield automated care and evacuation,” said Dr. Jose Salinas, ISR Science Lead for Organ Support and Automation Technologies. “If we are to meet the challenges for medical operations in future battlefield environments, it is essential the ISR collaborate with the private sector and academia in developing these systems.”

The two partnership agreements build on TRTF’s vision of developing an Innovation District on the Eastside of San Antonio focused on bioscience and leveraging San Antonio’s critical research assets. TRTF plans to continue working towards its goal of establishing a Military Medical Research Center of Innovation and campus on a recently purchased six-acre site that is the former Sutton property, adjacent to VelocityTX at the historic Merchant’s Ice Complex. TRTF is actively discussing plans with the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, the State of Texas, local universities, and private sector developers, to make this vision a reality.

“The SAEDC and ISR partnership agreements continue our momentum towards fulfilling our greater vision for the Eastside and all of San Antonio,” said Rene Dominguez, TRTF President and Chief Operating Officer. “We are focused on creating opportunities by co-locating our military with private industry and academia and supporting their research with technical assistance, commercialization expertise and facility space at VelocityTX.”

Background

In 2017, the City of San Antonio formed a Military Life Science Research Working Group which included the TRTF along with local military medical research partners, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), Southwest Research Institute (SWRI), Texas Biomedical Research Institute (TX BioMed), 59th Medical Wing, Army Institute of Surgical Research, Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio, San Antonio Economic Development Foundation (now greater:SATX), and private industry. The Working Group focused on how the community could help the military meet medical mission requirements while leveraging such research activities for local commercialization opportunities that would create jobs and investment.

In 2018, the city commissioned a study resulting in the development of the *SA Military Life Science Commercialization Action Plan*. The Action Plan recommended the establishment of a San Antonio Military Medical Innovation initiative (“the SAMMI Initiative”) with a full-time director to help implement the Action Plan. That position was funded effective October 1, 2019, for three years.

The TRTF and its subsidiary VelocityTX are non-profit 501(c)(3) economic development organizations which fund, support and develop innovative ventures helping build the City's bioscience and technology economy. TRTF also supports the growth and development of the bioscience sector by enhancing and leveraging the capabilities of existing assets including military medical research.

The ISR is the Army's premier medical research institution, under the U.S. Medical Research and Development Command, focused on developing technologies, products, and systems to meet the expected demands and challenges for medical operations in future battlefield multi-domain operations. ISR's research is focused on increasing the capabilities of forward medical personnel with smart diagnostics, decision support, and robotic assist, as well as advanced drugs and other technologies. This will allow combat medics trained in San Antonio to do more with less in treating wounded warriors on the battlefield. ISR also focuses on new technologies to reduce the burden of combat casualty care on operational units and to maintain survivability of casualties during prolonged care and evacuation.

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