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\$100K grant to biotech firm

Business First - by Tracey Drury, Business First

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AndroBioSys received a \$100,000 grant to support its research on prostate cancer.

The Department of Defense phase one grant comes through the federal Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, part of the small business innovative research program (SBIR). Grants are made to companies partnering with academic or research institutions.

AndroBioSys spun-off from Roswell Park Cancer Institute in spring 2007.

Michael Zwick, CEO of the Buffalo biotech firm, says the research is a high-risk area, but one with potentially a high pay-off if it can be translated to therapeutic research for cancer.

AndroBioSys does contract research for pharmaceutical and biotech companies, as well as its own drug development related to prostate cancer.

The grant has enabled the firm to hire an additional researcher, bringing total employment to six, and expand its laboratory space on High Street.

Additional funding may be coming soon through a contract with the National Cancer Institute and a partnership under development with Roswell.

"Things look great. We're growing, slowly but surely," Zwick says.

"The cancer stem cell area is one of the most exciting and innovative areas of cancer research," he says. "It's high risk, and not everyone agrees on it, but it's very exciting as one of the new targeted approaches to curing cancer."