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## AndroBioSys receives \$2M for prostate research

Premium content from Business First - by Tracey Drury

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A Buffalo biotech firm will expand its research into prostate cancer with more than \$2 million in new federal funds.

AndroBioSys Inc. won funding from three separate sources over the past six months.

CEO **Michael Zwick** says the combination of funds highlights an “exciting year” for the company and follows a move to new offices at [Roswell Park Cancer Institute](#).

The largest piece is a \$1 million, two-year Small Business Innovation Research Phase Two contract from the National Cancer Institute for a project focusing on prostate cancer imaging and therapeutics.

“The goal is to develop basically at the end of two years all the materials and refine the test so we can take a blood sample and be able to determine if someone has the more severe form of prostate cancer,” he says.

The second contract is a \$750,000 Small Business Technology Transfer Phase Two contract from the Department of Defense to develop a next-generation PSA test to determine if patients have a severe form of prostate cancer.

The company is partnering on the project with Roswell Park. It involves developing a nano-sized agent that would attach to cancer cells. When heated non-invasively, the agent would kill the cancer in place.

“There’s a real medical need for better imaging technology. The most common approach is either surgery, radiation or chemo – all of which have severe side effects,” Zwick says. “This could be an intravenous treatment.”

With AndroBioSys as the lead, other partners on the project include the University of North Carolina, which has technology to deliver the nano-particles; and the University of Pittsburgh, which has expertise in heat-activation technology. Plans call for initiating a clinical study in year two where the protocol will be tested on patients at Roswell Park.

AndroBioSys also was approved Nov. 1 for \$244,479 in Qualifying Therapeutic Discovery tax credits from the Internal Revenue Service to help fund biomedical research. The credits provide flexible funding – vital to startup biotech firms.

“It’s a shot in the arm for companies like us to have somewhat no-strings-attached additional funding – and it comes for many companies at a critical time when it’s hard to raise private funding,” says Zwick.

The company continues to search for additional investments of up to \$1 million to cover the costs of protecting its intellectual property, he says.