

NovaSterilis Receives \$100,000 Project Funding

National Institutes of Health Awards Phase-I SBIR Grant to Develop New Sterilization Technology

ITHACA, NY, June 28th, 2002 – NovaSterilis, an Ithaca, NY company, today announced that it has been awarded a \$100,000 Phase-I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the U.S. National Institutes of Health for continuing development of its supercritical carbon dioxide sterilization (SCDS) technology.

Funding was awarded for a project entitled “A New Method for Sterilizing Biomedical Materials.” Current methods of sterilization, which include ethylene oxide, gamma radiation, electron-beam, steam, and hydrogen peroxide plasma, have significant limitations with respect to biomedical applications. These methods of sterilization may alter the structure and characteristics of the products, especially when applied to thermally and hydrolytically sensitive polymers.

The primary advantage of SCDS is its compatibility with biodegradable or bioengineered materials and other substances that cannot tolerate existing sterilization methods. SCDS is capable of inactivating a wide variety of

microbiological contaminants, without altering the structural and physical properties of thermally and hydrolytically labile materials. Carbon dioxide is a natural, non-reactive gas that is chemically inert, environmentally sound, and very inexpensive, resulting in lower capital and operating costs.

“SCDS is both an enabling and a displacing technology that offers several unique advantages over existing sterilization methods,” said **David C. Burns, President and CEO of NovaSterilis**. “This NIH funding allows our company to advance the commercialization process, while also exploring additional applications to novel biomaterials such as synthetic skin replacements.”

The objectives of the SBIR program, which was established in 1982, are to stimulate technological innovation, while strengthening the role of small businesses in meeting Federal R&D needs.