



Klar Scientific Awarded Competitive Grant from the National Science Foundation

America's Seed Fund Powered by NSF Provides Funding for R&D; Helps small businesses move innovations out of the lab and into the market

Pullman, Washington, September 24, 2018 – **Klar Scientific** has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) **Phase II** grant for **\$739,626** to commercialize innovative technology by conducting research and development (R&D) work on **Spectroscopic Confocal Optical Profile Microscopy**.

The project centers on the advancement of optical microscopy for spectroscopic and surface analysis of topographically complex structures. Scientists and engineers will be able to identify features and defects in electronic, optoelectronic, and structured devices for materials discovery, device engineering, and system reliability. The instruments will contribute to the development of a diverse, globally competitive science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce, enhancing research and education experience.

“The National Science Foundation supports small businesses with the most innovative, cutting-edge ideas that have the potential to become great commercial successes and make huge societal impacts,” said Barry Johnson, Director of Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships at NSF. “We hope that this seed funding will spark solutions to some of the most important challenges of our time across all areas of science and technology.”

“Klar Scientific develops and markets spectroscopic and topographical microscopes for research and development laboratories, production environments, and reliability and inspection centers. Klar’s unique optical profiling capability allows for the precise capture of the shape of an irregular surface and accurate spectroscopic measurements,” says Rick Lytel, CEO of Klar Scientific.

Small businesses can receive up to \$1.5 million in funding from NSF. Companies must first have received a Phase I award (up to \$225,000) to become eligible to apply for a Phase II grant (up to \$750,000) to further develop and commercialize the technology. Small businesses with Phase II grants are eligible to receive up to \$500,000 in additional matching funds with qualifying third-party investment or sales.

Small businesses with innovative science and technology solutions, and commercial potential across almost all areas of technology are encouraged to apply. All proposals submitted to the NSF SBIR/STTR program undergo a rigorous merit-based review process. NSF’s deadlines for Phase I small business proposals occur twice annually, in June and December.

To learn more about the NSF SBIR/STTR program, visit: seedfund.nsf.gov.



About the National Science Foundation's Small Business Programs: *America's Seed Fund powered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) awards nearly \$200 million annually to startups and small businesses, transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial and societal impact. Startups working across almost all areas of science and technology can receive up to \$1.5 million in non-dilutive funds to support research and development (R&D), helping de-risk technology for commercial success. America's Seed Fund is congressionally mandated through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The NSF is an independent federal agency with a budget of about \$7.5 billion that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering.*