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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEDCO Announces Awards from Investment Program with Johnson & Johnson Corporate Office of Science and Technology

*Biomedica Management, Neuronascent and 20/20 Genesystems
Receive \$350,000 Total to Advance Health Technologies*

COLUMBIA, Md. (Nov. 5, 2007) – **The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)** announced today that three early stage healthcare companies, Biomedica Management Corp., Neuronascent, Inc., and 20/20 Genesystems, Inc., are the most recent recipients of funding from TEDCO's joint investment program with the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Office of Science & Technology (COSAT). Biomedica Management and Neuronascent each received \$100,000, and 20/20 Genesystems received \$150,000 through the program.

Designed as a complementary component of TEDCO's Maryland Technology Transfer Fund (MTTF), the program provides awards up to \$150,000 to existing TEDCO portfolio companies or up to \$75,000 for Maryland companies that have not received a MTTF award in the past. In order to be eligible for funding, companies must be early stage businesses engaged in healthcare technology transfer collaboration with a university or federal laboratory in Maryland. Biomedica Management Corp., Neuronascent and 20/20 Genesystems, Inc., are all MTTF portfolio companies.

"We are thrilled with the success these companies have garnered so far and are proud to support their further growth in collaboration with COSAT," said Renée Winsky, president and executive director of TEDCO. "This partnership with Johnson & Johnson gives us the opportunity to help develop a subset of Maryland's technology industry, that which focuses on health-related innovations."

The joint investment program with TEDCO provides COSAT with valuable insight into the most promising health technologies being developed by the private sector in collaboration with the state's universities and federal laboratories, offering a pipeline of product opportunities. In turn, the program provides Maryland's healthcare technology companies with input and funding to build sustainable organizations that could garner interest from Johnson & Johnson's venture capital group or from one of its operating companies to license the product and technology. In Feb. 2006, Johnson & Johnson provided an initial investment of \$250,000 to seed the fund, which was matched by TEDCO.

“The success of these three companies is a testament to the value of seed funding,” said David Bowser, vice president of technology transfer and academic relations at COSAT. “We look forward to continuing our partnership with TEDCO through this fund, as it provides us with the earliest possible insight into what potentially could be groundbreaking research in the healthcare field.”

The three companies that received funding are:

- Biomedica Management Corp., located in Baltimore, employs 11 people and is working with the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, part of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Ft. Detrick. Biomedica Management is conducting research and development projects in the fields of inflammation, coagulation, and tissue regeneration with potential commercial applications. Its current products include two selectin blockers with anti-ischemic properties and an anti-ischemic, anti-inflammatory combination. In addition, it has developed an intracavitary hemostatic agent (HAF) for non-compressible hemorrhage.
- Neuronascent, Inc., located in Clarksville, Md., employs two people and is working with the University of Maryland Baltimore to develop small molecule agents that cross the blood brain barrier, and when administered orally, promote increased neuron formation where there is a neurodegeneration or reduced neurogenesis due to disease or injury. Agents that promote neurogenesis could then be used as therapeutics for neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease and depression.
- 20/20 Gene Systems, Inc., located in Rockville, Md., employs 11 people and focuses on the development and commercialization of innovative diagnostics for early disease detection, personalized medicine, and biodefense. The company is developing a biomarker based blood test for the early detection of lung cancer. 20/20’s patented platform technology for protein biomarker detection in tissue and blood is being co-developed with the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Applications for funding are accepted continually and reviewed monthly by representatives from TEDCO and COSAT. Applicants must submit a proposal, a commercialization plan for the technology to be developed, a scope of work and a budget. Complete information about this segment of the MTTF program can be found at <http://www.marylandtedco.com/media/pdf/JJJointInvestmentProgram.pdf>.

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), an independent entity, was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1998 to facilitate the creation of businesses and foster their growth in all regions of the State. TEDCO’s role is to be Maryland’s leading source of funding for seed capital and entrepreneurial business assistance for technology transfer and development programs. TEDCO connects emerging technology companies with federal laboratories, research universities, business incubators and specialized technical assistance. For the fourth consecutive year, TEDCO was recognized as the most active early/seed stage investor in the nation in the July 2007 issue of *Entrepreneur Magazine*. For more information on TEDCO and its programs and resources, visit www.MarylandTEDCO.org.