

# Halifax company dives into deepsea research project

## Resolution Optics, BIO team up to study micro-organisms

By **BILL POWER**  
Business Reporter

Some of the smallest ocean micro-organisms from the deepest and darkest depths of the Atlantic Ocean will soon be appearing on scientists' video screens through a collaboration between **Resolution Optics** of Halifax and the Bedford Institute of Oceanography.

"The technology allows for imaging of micro-organisms at extreme depths," Sandra Wood, chief executive officer at Resolution Optics, said in an interview Thursday.

Scientists at the Dartmouth institute will be testing a submersible 3-D holographic microscope developed at Resolution Optics through a federal government initiative called the Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program.

It is also known as the Kick-start program.

"Getting on the pre-approved list led to the contract with BIO," Wood said, "but just being on the list is important also because this allows us to inform potential international customers we do business with the Canadian government."

It has been a busy few days at Resolution Optics, with an injection of \$180,000 in business development cash announced by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency for expansion and job creation this year and \$80,000 in support from the Kick-start program to fuel the BIO project.

Resolution Optics was one of several high-tech businesses in Nova Scotia added to a "pre-approved" list the federal government announced last week through the Kick-start program, which supports innovations prior to commercialization.

The list of companies provides an exciting overview of some of the hottest technologies in development across the province.

"It's a pool of innovations that haven't been sold before but are in a high state of readiness," Joseph Hood, president of **Akoostix Inc.** in Dartmouth, said in an interview.

The Public Works and Government Services Canada initiative matches small-



Resolution Optics CEO Sandra Wood sets a slide on the 3D imaging microscope that the company has designed. (MARK GOUDGE)

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president, Akoostix Inc.



and medium-sized business innovations with government departments to provide a pre-commercialization test drive — crucial feedback — and directions to a larger marketplace.

About 21 companies from across Canada have been matched with government departments since a first round of pre-qualified participants was announced last March.

Companies that made the cut in this latest round are a step closer to potentially landing a contract and possibly gaining access to domestic and international markets.

Akoostix was pre-qualified for its Tru-view RPA Sonar Processor, which operates with several sonar technologies, said Hood.

The military and commercial sectors are looking for sonar systems with common architecture, Hood said.

**Scotia Weather Services Inc.** of Dart-

mouth also made the list for its AutoTAF service, which allows for the preparation and delivery of automated forecasts near airport terminals.

The technology provides a low-cost alternative, with equal or greater accuracy to the existing forecasting system, which relies heavily on human prediction, said a news release.

**Pro-Oceanus Systems Inc.**

of Bridgewater was added to the pool for its Mini-Pro CO2-CCS submersible device for measuring carbon dioxide.

The device has applications in carbon capture and storage systems and also in algae production for biofuels and pharmaceuticals.

**Instrument Concepts Inc.** of Great Village, Colchester County, made the list for its icListen device, described as a smart hydrophone that can listen for, detect and notify border security personnel of any boat activity by being "trained" to listen for specific sounds in a marine environment.

"The program matches people with new technologies and services with an appropriate government testing place," said Desiree Stockermans at Instrument Concepts.

"It can be an important stepping stone toward commercialization."

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