



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Local R&D Company Announces Food Safety Testing Program in Partnership with Canon Chemical, Japan**

**Monroe, Washington-** Research International, Inc., a developer and supplier of innovative sampling and bioassay equipment, announced today it has signed an agreement with Canon Chemicals, a division of Canon Inc., Tokyo, Japan, to perform a pilot program in the U.S. involving a robotic bioassay system. This system is based on proprietary technology and patents licensed to Canon Chemicals by Research International in 2001. The PR6102 robotic assay system was developed by Canon Chemicals for use in the Japanese food safety and environmental markets, and Research International will examine its applicability to similar markets in the U.S.

Several leading food processors and key academic institutions will be involved in the program. Research International will lead the effort, providing participants with the PR6102 systems and various forms of technical assistance. Dr. David McCrae, VP of Research International will manage the pilot program, and recently traveled to Japan for hands-on training by Canon Chemicals technical personnel. He noted, "The key features of the system are the speed of the assay and the robotic handling of samples." At the conclusion of the one-year program, the two companies will decide on the next step to be taken in the US marketplace.

Elric Saaski, CEO of Research International, said "We are excited about this opportunity to test the U.S. market. The fact that the basic technology was developed by Research International makes the program all the more exciting- it's like one of the family coming home from boarding school. A major company focus has been the collection and detection of biowarfare agents for governments worldwide, and this marks a potential new spin-off business area for the company."

#### **About Research International**

Research International Inc. of Monroe, Washington is a 15 year old, locally owned, high-technology company specializing in the development and manufacture of sensing systems. It has provided equipment for counter-terrorism applications worldwide for over 10 years. Research International emphasizes total solutions that span biochemistry, optics, electronics, fluid dynamics and physical packaging. The company also provides R&D services in the broad areas of medical, environmental and industrial sensing. For more information visit [www.resrchintl.com](http://www.resrchintl.com).