



JOINT NEWS RELEASE

IME and HealthSTATS to partner on Biomedical IC for Healthcare Applications supported by SPRING Singapore's Technology Innovation Programme

*R&D collaboration to develop an integrated wireless wearable biomedical device
for monitoring blood pressure*

Singapore, 29 November 2007 – The Institute of Microelectronics (IME), a research institute of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), has entered into a Research Collaboration Agreement (RCA) with a homegrown biomedical pioneer, HealthSTATS International Pte Ltd, to develop a wireless signal conditioning ASIC for biomedical applications. The collaboration is supported by SPRING Singapore's Technology Innovation Programme (SPRING TIP).

The two parties will work together on the design of a custom application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) for inclusion within the wearable ambulatory blood pressure monitoring medical device, known as BPro[®]. The device continuously monitors and analyses the blood pressure variation over a 24-hour period and communicates this information wirelessly to a base unit or a computer to analyse anomalies which are commonly not detected using a one-off clinical BP measurement. Currently, available blood pressure measuring devices do not provide the required 24-hour continuous BP measuring capability in a wearable, small size and battery powered format required for a sensing device to be worn on the human body.

The aim of the collaboration between IME and HealthSTATS is to develop a second generation of the device with smaller size and wireless features.

This collaboration builds on IME's expertise in wireless and sensor IC design which includes the successful development of devices such as pressure sensor, accelerometer for automotive applications, Bluetooth, RFID and ultra-wideband for communication applications. IME will spearhead the IC design while HealthSTATS will contribute its expertise in medical device design and evidence-based BP monitoring technology.

In addition to the research collaboration, IME is seconding a researcher to HealthSTATS as a part of the Technology for Enterprise Capability Upgrading (T-UP) initiative. The T-UP programme was launched to help Singapore enterprises upgrade their R&D capabilities through the secondment of experienced researchers from A*STAR research institutes.

Professor Kwong Dim-Lee, Executive Director of IME commented, "We are pleased to partner with HealthSTATS for the first time to develop such a device which will benefit

many patients. This collaboration opens up the field of applying ASIC devices and technologies for novel biomedical applications. It is an excellent example of how technologies developed by research institutes could be pushed out to a wider platform through partnership with the local technology community.”

Dr Ting Choon Meng, Executive Director and CEO of HealthSTATS, is excited about this new collaboration. “HealthSTATS is a Singapore home-grown company that has developed exciting revolutionary technologies that are expected to change the ways hypertension is being diagnosed and managed. Currently, there are 1 billion hypertensive patients in the world, with another 500 million expected to be added in the next 20 years,” said Dr Ting. “Together with IME’s expertise and SPRING’s excellent economic programmes for SMEs, this three-party collaboration is a win-win for all of us. We are confident that this project will continue to enhance Singapore’s reputation as a premier medical hub on the global stage and expand the clinical applications of this innovative, portable and continuous blood pressure monitoring device.”

HealthSTATS has also engaged the services of Philips Design and New Business Development Academy (NBDA) for this product development. “Philips Design is enthusiastic about this collaboration to improve the user experience of this product,” said Ms Daphne Flynn, Design & Account Director for Philips Design. Mr Ronald Dalderup, Director of NBDA Asia, remarked “NBDA Asia views this project as a perfect example of a visionary SME, actively seeking to complement its in-house capabilities with professional support available from a multinational: Philips Singapore. All parties have a high desire to work together and are very enthusiastic to make this a success. It’s great to be part of this collaboration.”

Mr Edwin Chow, Director for Technology Innovation at SPRING Singapore, hopes to see more such successful pairings between SMEs and the local research community. “Singapore SMEs should tap on the technological capabilities of Singapore’s research institutes, universities and polytechnics to develop or improve their products and processes. SMEs can draw on funding and other support from SPRING Singapore. We are pleased to support this collaboration between HealthSTATS and IME, and will be happy to help them and other SMEs develop innovative products for the global market.”

A*STAR and SPRING Singapore will continue to work closely to leverage on the cutting-edge expertise in A*STAR research institutes to upgrade the technological capabilities of existing SMEs and groom new technology start-ups through the Technology Innovation Programme. The programme helps SMEs to defray up to 50% of qualifying costs for technology-related projects.

Notes to the Editor:

About Institute of Microelectronics (IME)

The Institute of Microelectronics (IME) is a research institute of A*STAR. Positioned to bridge the R&D between academia and industry, IME's mission is to add value to Singapore's semiconductor industry by developing strategic competencies, innovative technologies and intellectual property; enabling enterprises to be technologically competitive; and cultivating a technology talent pool to inject new knowledge to the industry. Its key research areas are in integrated circuits design, advanced packaging, bioelectronics, MEMS, nanoelectronics and photonics.

(website: www.ime.a-star.edu.sg)

About HealthSTATS International Pte Ltd

HealthSTATS International is a privately held Singapore-based, bio-monitoring medical device company dedicated to technology research and product development of innovative medical devices to provide doctors and patients with an evidence-based approach to monitoring and management of hypertension and related illnesses. The company has been awarded Technology Pioneer 2007 status by the World Economic Forum. Company's BPro device clinched the Monitoring device of the year award from Frost and Sullivan.

(website: www.healthstats.com)

About SPRING Singapore

As the agency for enterprise development, SPRING Singapore aims to enhance the competitiveness of enterprises. We help to nurture a pro-business environment, facilitate the growth of industries and enhance innovation and enterprise capabilities of small and medium enterprises for better access to markets and business opportunities.

SPRING Singapore is also the national standards and conformance body. We help to lower technical barriers to trade, provide quality assurance for products and services and promote industry use of Singapore and international standards.

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