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Nanotechnology news in brief

1 July 2005

- The **Foresight Nanotech Institute**, US, and research organization **Battelle**, US, have set up a technology roadmap for “productive nanosystems”. The pair define these as “molecular-scale systems that make other useful materials and devices that are nanostructured”. The Waitt Family Foundation has provided a grant of \$250,000 to fund the exercise. The project will hold its first workshop in late summer 2005. The organizations have also set up a roadmap steering committee that includes Charles Lieber of Harvard University, Mauro Ferrari of Ohio State University, Paul Alivisatos of the University of California, Berkeley, Fraser Stoddart of the University of California, Los Angeles, John Randall of Zyvex, and Steve Jurvetson of Draper Fisher Jurvetson.

- Drug development company **iCeutica** has completed a series A round of financing. The business plans to apply its nano-reformulation technology to commercially successful pharmaceuticals. iCeutica will use the cash to launch its corporate operations in the US and a research base in Australia. “We believe the iCeutica technology offers the potential to deliver superior drugs that are more rapidly absorbed, reduce formulation and dosage problems commonly associated with ‘horse pills’, and address the side effects that accompany many well established compounds,” said Matt Callahan, chief executive officer of iCeutica. Phoenix IP Ventures, US, led the funding round.

- **Altair Nanotechnologies**, US, has received a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) phase II grant from the US National Science Foundation. The company gains \$476,850 to research carbon-coated nanostructured electrodes for lithium-ion batteries. Altair will work with Rutgers University’s energy storage research group and Hosokawa Micron’s nanoparticle technology centre.

- US space agency **NASA** is to gain access to nanotechnology facilities at **Lehigh University**, US. NASA researchers will be able to use equipment at Lehigh’s Center for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, and Nano and Micro-Mechanical Behavior Laboratory.

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