

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2010

Contact for Reporters:

Doug Johnson

(970) 226-0344

djohnson@advancedmicrolabs.com

Advanced MicroLabs Receives Federal Support to Create Drinking Water Sensor

FORT COLLINS – The National Institutes of Health Superfund Research Program (NIH) recently awarded recently awarded \$845,000 to Advanced MicroLabs, LLC to develop the hardware for an online perchlorate sensor. Perchlorate is a small inorganic ion that impairs thyroid function when consumed with fetuses and children being most at risk. Its appearance in ground water sources is primarily a result of improper storage of rocket fuels and explosives.

Many remediation efforts are underway throughout the U.S. to restore ground water for use as drinking water but these efforts lack a means of monitoring perchlorate in real time resulting in over-engineered facilities to safe guard against plant failure. An online sensor would make these efforts safer and more cost-effective. Jess Brown, Ph.D., P.E., a process design engineer with Carollo Engineers, comments: “No other analytical technologies exist that meet our on-site perchlorate monitoring needs, and therefore we are quite enthusiastic about the prospects of the Advanced MicroLabs device.”

“This award is the cornerstone of our commercial thrust, providing product development resources and validating our scientific and commercial strategies,” comments Charles S. Henry, Ph.D., CEO. The Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Phase II award will allow Advanced MicroLabs to develop prototype commercial units. Detection limits below 1 part per billion (ppb) have already been demonstrated, well below existing and pending state regulations which range between a maximum of 4-15 ppb.

Advanced MicroLabs uses a microchip Capillary Electrophoresis with patent pending electrochemical detection technology which originated at Colorado State University plus patent pending sample delivery technology for real time analysis. “Our sensitivity typically matches, if

not out performs, Ion Chromatography, and our technique is much faster, easier, and less expensive” notes Dr Henry. “Plus, we can separate and detect almost any ion in water, allowing us to address many additional on line measurement needs. Our next set of initiatives is to improve the water re-use and overall economics in power generating plants.”

About Advanced MicroLabs. Founded in 2003, the company develops instrumentation and application specific detection chemistries using microchip Capillary Electrophoresis with a patent pending electrochemical detection technology originated at Colorado State University. Since its founding the Company has received scientific research and development awards of nearly \$3M to further this promising technology and has filed for additional patents. Headquartered in Fort Collins, Colorado, Advanced MicroLabs is in the final stages of launching its first commercial product. For more information, please visit www.advancedmicrolabs.com.

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