



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SeQual Selected to Advance Oxygen Technology for Military
*Selected for Phase 1 SBIR Award from Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
(DARPA) to start development of Oxygen Concentrator of the Future***

SAN DIEGO – SeQual Technologies Inc., which develops oxygen systems known worldwide for their reliability, quality, revolutionary design and economy, announced today that the agency responsible for maintaining the technical superiority of the U.S. military has awarded them Phase 1 Small Business Innovation Research funding for research into developing an extreme version of the company's portable Eclipse® Oxygen System.

SeQual's Eclipse oxygen concentrator is the only product on the market today that provides a continuous flow of oxygen in a portable unit. The Eclipse weighs 17 pounds and is about the size of a child's backpack. The military would like to be able to deploy an Eclipse-like concentrator to troops in the field, rather than the 125-pound cylinders of compressed oxygen used today.

The DARPA funding will be used by SeQual to develop a smaller, lighter and more robust version of its popular Eclipse oxygen concentrator. The new unit could weigh in at only seven pounds, yet deliver as much as 4 liters of medical grade oxygen per minute and be small enough to attach to a soldier's backpack. Providing oxygen quickly to troops wounded in battle can be crucial to life-saving efforts.

Life-saving and Cost-saving Benefits

In addition to life-saving benefits, a portable Eclipse-like device would solve a major logistical challenge and potentially save the military tens of millions of dollars a year.

"Every five pounds of oxygen we ship anywhere in the world goes in a 125-pound steel canister," said Mark F. Arnold, product manager, field medical oxygen for Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, MD. "A typical patient will consume one canister a day. Since the number of patients needing oxygen is estimated at upwards of 15 percent of the military's patient population, it's clear why the Army and other branches are looking for the right portable system to eliminate reliance on decades-old technology and the logistical burdens that go with it."

Combat situations provide added complications. If a bullet punctures a canister, the canister explodes since it is under high pressure of 2,200 to 3,000 PSI. Depending upon where struck, the Eclipse could keep working. The Eclipse has the added benefit of being able to run off batteries or power from any vehicle or aircraft to support necessary evacuations.

Jim Bixby, SeQual CEO, said SeQual engineers have already developed prototypes for the military that pared weight by 50 percent with further leaps in technology underway. "We're pleased that DARPA has recognized our marked advantage in developing cutting-edge products," said Bixby.

The DARPA award announced today is part of the Department of Defense's Small Business Innovation Research program which harnesses the talents of U.S. small technology companies to further the military and economic strength of the nation.

SeQual Technologies Inc.

Founded in 1991, SeQual offers a family of innovative products ranging from the 3 LPM (liter-per-minute) continuous flow portable Eclipse to its popular, compact, easy-to-use bedside 10 LPM unit. SeQual's air separation systems are used for industrial applications such as water purification, oxygenation for aquaculture, producing feed gas for ozone generators, or for any other processes needing high-purity, dry oxygen or nitrogen on site. SeQual is a private company based in San Diego. For more information, see www.sequal.com.

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