

## **Bio-Gene Awarded U.S. Department of Defense Grants Totalling A\$3.0m**

### **Highlights**

- **Two competitive grants totaling A\$3.0m (US\$1.9m) awarded to Bio-Gene under the U.S. Deployed Warfighter Protection (DWFP) program:**
  - **Grant 1 – A\$1.6M (US\$972,449) over three years to develop a wearable product containing Flavocide® to control mosquitoes and other insect vectors of disease**
  - **Grant 2 – A\$1.4M (US\$892,492) over three years to develop a sprayable formulation of Qcide® to provide residual control of flies and bed bug infestations**
- **The DWFP program is a U.S. Department of Defense program administered by the U.S. Armed Forces Pest Management Board that supports research and development of novel technologies to protect U.S. military personnel from threats posed by disease-carrying insect pests**
- **These grants are a strong validation of Bio-Gene's technology and will enable development of two innovative products containing Flavocide® and Qcide® for commercialisation in both the military and civilian markets**

**Bio-Gene Technology Limited (ASX:BGT, Bio-Gene or the Company)**, an Australian company developing new insecticides derived from nature to achieve high impact worldwide, has been awarded two grants totalling A\$3.0M (US\$1.9M)<sup>1</sup> under the U.S. Department of Defense (**DoD**) Deployed Warfighter Protection (**DWFP**) program. Under the terms of the grants, Bio-Gene is not required to match these funding commitments.

The DWFP program is an initiative to develop and validate novel methods to protect United States military personnel from threats posed by disease-carrying arthropods, including mosquitoes and ticks. The DWFP program was launched in 2004 and is administered by the U.S. Armed Forces Pest Management Board (**AFPMB**). The DWFP research portfolio focuses on three specific areas: novel insecticide chemistries and formulations, new application technologies, and personal bite prevention methods.<sup>2</sup>

The DWFP program's ultimate objectives are to develop integrated vector control systems, find industry partners to bring novel products to the public health market, and make them available for military use.

---

<sup>1</sup> At current exchange rate of US\$1.00 = A\$1.60.

<sup>2</sup> For more information about the DWFP Program, click [here](#).

The first grant awarded to Bio-Gene is titled '*Flavocide® as a passive spatial repellent/toxicant for control of flying insect vectors*'. It aims to integrate Flavocide with the novel Multi-Use Wearable Controlled Release Devices (**MUW-CRD**) developed by GearJump Technologies, LLC as a spatially active product against mosquitoes in both indoor and outdoor conditions. In addition to mosquitoes that potentially carry malaria or dengue, the MUW-CRD will also aim to provide protection against a range of other flying insect pests.

This total grant award is A\$1.6M (US\$972,449) to support the project over three years. Of this, A\$64,000 (US\$40,000) has been allocated to Bio-Gene to support its activities related to the project and A\$1,491,918 (US\$932,449) will fund research and development activities carried out by collaborating research organisations that will include:

- GearJump Technologies, LLC, Brookline, Massachusetts, USA (**GearJump<sup>3</sup>**)
- U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, USA (**DEVCOM**)
- Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Gainesville, Florida, USA (**CMAVE, USDA-ARS**)
- Walter Reed Army Institute of Research – Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Bangkok (**WRAIR AFRIMS**)

As part of the funded activities GearJump will develop the MUW-CRD device and a suitable formulation of Flavocide. GearJump creates novel diagnostic and controlled drug delivery platforms to address challenging problems that affect humans, animals and plants, including the burden of diseases globally. The company combines multidisciplinary expertise in nanotechnologies, materials, microsystems, clinical medicine, molecular biology, fluid mechanics, engineering manufacturing, product engineering and regulatory processes.

The second grant awarded to Bio-Gene is titled '*Qcide® as an indoor insect barrier spray against bed bugs and other crawling insects*'. It aims to develop a safe, efficacious, practical indoor surface treatment product against bed bugs and flies, targeting optimal residual performance on a range of surfaces. The product aims to be easily adaptable for field application and further extended to other vectors like ticks and mosquitoes.

This total grant award is A\$1.4M (US\$892,492) to support the project over three years. Of this, A\$159,200 (US\$99,500) has been allocated to Bio-Gene to support its activities related to the project and A\$1,268,787 (US\$792,992) will fund research and development activities carried out by the collaborating research organisations that will include:

- Walter Reed Army Institute of Research – Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA (**WRAIR AFRIMS**)
- Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Gainesville, Florida, USA (**CMAVE, USDA-ARS**)

---

<sup>3</sup> For more information about GearJump, click [here](#).

**Tim Grogan, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Bio-Gene said:**

*“Being awarded these two grants by the U.S. Armed Forces Pest Management Board is great news for Bio-Gene. This funding will support the development of innovative products containing Flavocide and Qcide specifically designed for the defence and civilian markets. These new product opportunities are directly aligned with our commercial development programs for both Flavocide and Qcide.*

*“The award of these grants involved a peer-reviewed, highly competitive process and provides substantial validation for the potential for both Flavocide and Qcide to provide new solutions for pest control.*

*“We are looking forward to working with our collaborating organisations in the fight against insect threats to defence and civilian personnel in various locations around the world. These grants aim to minimise the risk of infection from vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue, and the serious discomfort caused by bed bugs and other nuisance pests through access to new products containing Flavocide and Qcide.*

*“In addition to military use, we see a very large commercial opportunity for these products in the civilian market, where more than 700,000 deaths occur annually from vector-borne diseases, and the market for products to eradicate bed bugs is projected to increase from US\$2.3 billion in 2023 to US\$4.9 billion by 2032.<sup>3</sup>”*

Bio-Gene is developing Flavocide and Qcide as new insecticides derived from nature for use in public health, crop protection, grain storage and consumer applications. As a nature-identical compound that has a novel way of killing pest insects (i.e. a new mode of action), Flavocide has been shown to overcome insecticide resistance to current pest control products. The development of insect resistance to current insecticides is an increasing challenge worldwide.

Approved for release by the Board of Directors.

**- ENDS -**

**For further information, please contact:**

Bio-Gene Technology Limited:  
E: [bgt.info@bio-gene.com.au](mailto:bgt.info@bio-gene.com.au)

Matthew Wright  
NWR Communications  
E: [matt@nwrcommunications.com.au](mailto:matt@nwrcommunications.com.au)  
M: 0451 896 420

---

<sup>3</sup> Bed Bug Control Products and Services Market Size, Share, Growth, and Industry Analysis, By Type (Bed Bug Control Products and Bed Bug Control Services), By Application (Residential and Commercial), Regional Insights, and Forecast To 2032, Business Research Insights

### **About Bio-Gene Technology Limited**

---

Bio-Gene is an Australian company developing novel bio-insecticides to address the global challenges of insecticide resistance and toxicity. Its unique products are based on a naturally occurring class of compounds proven to overcome resistance to control pests with minimal impact on human health and the environment.

Bio-Gene's products have multiple applications across public health, crop protection, grain storage, and consumer use. They provide new options derived from nature to meet market demand for effective and safe pest management solutions.

Flavocide® and Qcide® are registered trademarks of Bio-Gene Technology Limited in Australia.