



## **Transaera's New Class of Indoor Climate Systems Receives Award from National Science Foundation**

Nearly \$1M Commitment to Increase Sustainability of Urban Farming While Saving Water and Energy

Funding Enables Expansion of Somerville, MA Engineering Team

**June 24, 2020 (Somerville, MA)** - Transaera, a Somerville, MA-based company, has been awarded a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for its work to enhance food sustainability.

The \$700,000 grant will allow Transaera to continue its work on a new class of energy-and water-efficient indoor climate systems that will transform the way food is grown and sourced, especially in urban areas where crop space is dramatically limited. Small businesses with Phase II grants are eligible to receive up to \$500,000 in additional matching funds with qualifying third-party investment or sales.

“NSF is proud to support the technology of the future by thinking beyond incremental developments and funding the most creative, impactful ideas across all markets and areas of science and engineering,” said Andrea Belz, Division Director of the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships at NSF. “With the support of our research funds, any deep technology startup or small business can guide basic science into meaningful solutions that address tremendous needs.”

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) has granted an additional \$200,000 from its AmplifyMass program as cost share. Together the two grants bring the new funding total to nearly \$1 million.

“We are grateful to NSF and MassCEC for recognizing the importance of our work,” said Sorin Grama, Co-Founder and CEO of Transaera. “Our technology has the potential to revolutionize the way we grow and source our food, enabling locally-sourced crops with higher energy efficiency”.

With this award, Transaera has added Ross Bonner to the Somerville, MA-based team as Chief Engineer. In this role, Ross will support Matthew Dorson, the Chief Technology Officer, as the team begins to commercialize and conduct field trials. Ross brings broad design experience from his background in aerospace. A graduate of GE Aviation's Edison Engineering Development program, Ross has domain expertise in systems architecture, fluids, and heat transfer. Ross earned his Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from Auburn University and a Master in Mechanical Engineering from MIT. His thesis work on novel energy efficient desiccant-based air conditioning systems brings valuable perspective to the team.

“We are very excited to have Ross on board,” added Grama. We collaborated with him while he was completing his Master thesis at MIT on a related topic and were very impressed with his technical acumen and his passion for working on climate technologies that could make a difference in the world”.

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For questions, please contact:

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**About Transaera:** Transaera is a Somerville, MA-based company and performs research at Greentown Labs, the largest climatetech startup incubator in North America. The company is exploring novel desiccant materials to develop ultra-efficient climate systems that can regulate indoor environments critical to agricultural, business and human productivity, all while reducing the impact on our global climate and local grid infrastructure. Transaera, in partnership with Haier Air Conditioning, was named one of eight finalists in the Global Cooling Prize, an international innovation competition to develop a residential air conditioner that would consume 80% less energy than commonly available air conditioners.

For more information visit: [www.transaera.com](http://www.transaera.com)

**About the National Science Foundation's Small Business Programs:** America's Seed Fund powered by NSF awards \$200 million annually to startups and small businesses, transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial and societal impact. Startups working across almost all areas of science and technology can receive up to \$1.75 million in funding to support research and development (R&D), helping de-risk technology for commercial success. America's Seed Fund is congressionally mandated through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The NSF is an independent federal agency with a budget of about \$8.1 billion that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering.

To learn more about America's Seed Fund powered by NSF, visit: <https://seedfund.nsf.gov/>

**About the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center:** The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) is a state economic development agency dedicated to accelerating the growth of the clean energy sector across the Commonwealth to spur job creation, deliver statewide environmental benefits and to secure long-term economic growth for the people of Massachusetts. MassCEC works to increase the adoption of clean energy while driving down costs and delivering financial, environmental, and economic development benefits to energy users and utility customers across the state.

For more information visit: [www.masscec.com](http://www.masscec.com)