



For Immediate Release
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AutoModality Awarded Competitive Grant from the National Science Foundation

Small Business Innovation Research Program Provides Seed Funding for Research in Perceptive Navigation Capabilities of UAS

Syracuse, NY – AutoModality, Inc. announced today that it has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Small Business Innovation Research grant for \$225,000 to conduct research and development work to advance AutoModality’s Perceptive Navigation capabilities with respect to object detection and sense and avoid. AutoModality will be doing the research in collaboration with Syracuse University.

“We are grateful for the support of the NSF and are excited to partner with Syracuse University to further develop our Perceptive Navigation technology platform,” said Daniel Hennage, CEO of AutoModality. “Through our partnership with Syracuse University we will have access to high-quality research and development tools that will enable us to advance our industry-leading technology.”

AutoModality creates autonomous mobile systems that sense, explore and analyze the world around us. Its industry-leading Perceptive Navigation drone platform enables fully autonomous close-up infrastructure inspection, especially in areas that are difficult to navigate, pose safety risks, and are often GPS-denied, such as under bridges, inside buildings and tunnels, and across challenging terrains. AutoModality’s enterprise solutions consist of an off-the-shelf drone, such as a DJI M200; a powerful mobile computer; a sensor package; and its proprietary Perceptive Navigation software. This creates an unmanned aerial system tool that can be used across multiple platforms and industries that is safer and more efficient than ever before. The grant will enable AutoModality to further develop and create continued enhancements to this advanced technology.

“The National Science Foundation supports small businesses with the most innovative, cutting-edge ideas that have the potential to become great commercial successes and make huge societal impacts,” said Barry Johnson, director of the NSF’s Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships. “We hope that this seed funding will spark solutions to some of the most important challenges of our time across all areas of science and technology.”

“This is a great opportunity for faculty researchers to partner with regional business and industry interests to pursue innovations that address real-world needs,” says John Liu, vice president for research at Syracuse University. “The practical implications for this project speak to the value of cross-sector research collaborations to advance the capabilities of cutting-edge technology in ways that also drive economic growth.”



In 2016, AutoModality placed first in the DJI SDK Challenge, a fully autonomous search and rescue challenge sponsored by DJI, Ford and the United Nations, beating 146 other teams. In March 2017, the company, based in Syracuse, New York, won the top \$1 million grand prize from GENIUS NY, one of the world's largest business competitions focused on unmanned systems, cross-connected platforms and other technology sectors. GENIUS NY is supported through CNYRising, the region's comprehensive strategy to revitalize communities and grow the economy.

"This grant is further validation of AutoModality's innovative technology and builds on the significant investment the company received from the GENIUS NY program," said Rick Clonan, vice president of innovation at CenterState CEO. "The GENIUS NY program, CenterState CEO and the NUAIR Alliance are all committed to supporting AutoModality's continued growth as it can play a role in advancing an industry in which the region is a global leader."

"The GENIUS NY business competition is helping Central New York establish itself as a major hub for the UAS industry and a place where companies can grow and innovate," said Howard Zemsky, president, CEO and commissioner of Empire State Development. "By attracting and investing in start-ups like Automodality, we are working to solidify the region's future as a national leader in this burgeoning industry."

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About AutoModality, Inc.

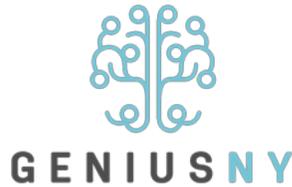
AutoModality is a world leader in close-up autonomous drone navigation and creates autonomous mobile systems that sense, explore and analyze the world around us. Its industry-leading Perceptive Navigation automated drone platform enables fully autonomous close-up infrastructure inspection, especially in areas that are difficult to navigate and are often GPS-denied, such as under bridges, inside buildings and tunnels, and across challenging terrains. AutoModality drones can fly less than a meter from an asset being inspected, providing millimeter level resolution on captured imagery.

About the National Science Foundation's Small Business Programs

The NSF awards roughly \$200 million annually to startups and small businesses through the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer program, transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial and societal impact. The non-dilutive grants support research and development across almost all areas of science and technology, helping companies de-risk [not sure what "de-risk" means; would reword] technology for commercial success. The NSF is an independent federal agency with a budget of about \$7 billion that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering

About GENIUS NY

GENIUS NY is an in-residence, year-long business accelerator program, administered by CenterState CEO at The Tech Garden in Central New York, which goes beyond substantial direct



investment. In addition to awarding six finalist teams a total of \$2.75 million in investments, the program also offers stipends, housing, resources, programming, and connections, making it among the largest competitions of its kind across the globe. The program is made possible by \$5 million in funding support provided by Empire State Development, New York State's chief economic development agency. The state has committed an additional \$5 million to support a second round of the business accelerator for 2018 called GENIUS NY II. GENIUS NY II applications will be accepted until October 1, 2017 at www.geniusny.com.

About Syracuse University

Founded in 1870, Syracuse University is a private international research university dedicated to advancing knowledge and fostering student success through teaching excellence, rigorous scholarship and interdisciplinary research. Comprising 11 academic schools and colleges, the University has a long legacy of excellence in the liberal arts, sciences and professional disciplines that prepares students for the complex challenges and emerging opportunities of a rapidly changing world. Students enjoy the resources of a 270-acre main campus and extended campus venues in major national metropolitan hubs and across three continents. Syracuse's student body is among the most diverse for an institution of its kind across multiple dimensions, and students typically represent all 50 states and more than 100 countries. Syracuse also has a long legacy of supporting veterans and is home to the nationally recognized Institute for Veterans and Military Families, the first university-based institute in the U.S. focused on addressing the unique needs of veterans and their families. To learn more about Syracuse University, visit <http://syracuse.edu>.