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PRESS RELEASE

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Tioga Research Wins Recognition as a MetroConnect 2017 Company

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – August 1, 2017 – Tioga Research, Inc. (“Tioga Research”), a contract research organization (“CRO”) dedicated to the research and early development (“R&D”) of skin-applied formulations has been selected to take part in MetroConnect 2017, an export assistance program run by the World Trade Center San Diego (WTC) and designed to help San Diego companies accelerate their global growth. The announcement was made earlier today by San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and WTC San Diego.

“I am delighted at this further recognition for the Tioga Research team” **noted John M Newsam, Tioga Research CEO.** “While the offerings of the company are already well valued across the US and in leading countries in Europe, we have been encouraged to make our capabilities available to a broader list of pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies in Japan, Korea and India. The MetroConnect program will allow Tioga Research to establish more of a commercial footprint in these countries.”

As the flagship export assistance program of World Trade Center San Diego, MetroConnect seeks to cultivate a pipeline of export-ready firms to elevate San Diego’s global reach. Now in its third year, program participants will receive a \$10,000 grant, presented by JPMorgan Chase & Co., and a suite of programmatic support services to assist with international expansion strategies. Program participants will have access to a dedicated staff manager at WTC San Diego, and will receive guidance on export compliance, financing and fundraising, among other international support services.

“We applaud Tioga Research for taking the next step in going global,” **said Nikia Clarke, executive director of World Trade Center San Diego.** “With SMEs like Tioga Research at the forefront, San Diego must continue to increase its export capacity and boost the region’s global identity. MetroConnect is equipping these companies with the resources necessary to do just that.”

The MetroConnect program is highly competitive, with just 15 selected based on a variety of criteria, including interest in new markets, interest in targeted metro markets, assessed impact of funds, current international traction and more. Applicants were assessed by a panel of judges, including representatives from Qualcomm Ventures, Biocom, UC San Diego, Rough Draft Brewing, San Diego State University, Tech San Diego, U.S. Department of Commerce, UC San Diego, San Diego Regional EDC and WTC San Diego.

Tioga Research joins a cohort of 14 other [companies](#) representing a unique cross-section of San Diego's industries, from cleantech to maritime to craft brewing and life sciences – each with plans to expand the global impact of San Diego innovation.

Participating companies will also be considered for the program's MetroConnect Grand Prize Pitchfest in May 2018, which will provide an additional \$35,000 to help one or two companies further advance their global agendas.

MetroConnect is underwritten by JPMorgan Chase & Co., with additional support provided by Air Canada, CDC Small Business Finance, Japan Airlines, Japan External Trade Organization, Qualcomm, SYSTRAN, Taylor Guitars and others.

About Tioga Research, Inc.

Tioga Research supports the research and early development of skin-applied products (for superficial, topical, regional or transdermal delivery), offering especially formulation innovation and skin permeation screening CRO services. Tioga Research has pioneered high throughput experimentation ("HTE") technologies for screening skin delivery. Tioga Research is based in San Diego, CA.

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About World Trade Center San Diego

World Trade Center San Diego operates as an affiliate of San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation. WTC San Diego works to further San Diego's global competitiveness by building an export pipeline, attracting and retaining foreign investment and increasing San Diego's global profile abroad.

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