



The Rapid Response Partnership Vehicle Consortium Awards Project to Sapphiros for Biothreat Diagnostics Initiative

Sapphiros was awarded approximately \$12.4 million to advance rapid molecular diagnostic testing options for tularemia, Nipah virus, and Hendra virus

Summerville, SC (July 14, 2026) — The Rapid Response Partnership Vehicle (RRPV) consortium has awarded \$12.4 million to [Sapphiros](#) for the development of a hand-held, rapid molecular diagnostic platform to detect *Francisella tularensis* from blood and culture isolates, and Nipah virus and Hendra virus from nasal swabs in remote and decentralized point-of-care settings.

“This project aims to advance the development of rapid diagnostic technologies targeting high priority biothreats,” said Dr. Mike Stebbins, Senior Vice President for Health Security at Advanced Technology International. “Our RRPV team is proud to support efforts that strengthen national health security by accelerating the development of technologies to detect emerging infectious diseases and other biological threats.”

The project will build on Sapphiros’ current single-use, swab-based molecular diagnostic platform by adapting the technology to detect *Francisella tularensis*, the bacterium that causes tularemia, from whole blood and culture isolates. Tularemia is a highly infectious disease that can present with nonspecific symptoms, making rapid and sensitive detection important for timely clinical decision-making.

Sapphiros will modify its platform to support whole blood testing, automated onboard sample processing, amplification, detection, and electronic display of test results. The effort is intended to advance a tularemia test designed for potential use in decentralized point-of-care settings, including field settings in endemic regions. Funding will support activities through design lock, preliminary analytical studies, external beta testing, clinical study preparation, and FDA pre-submission activities.

A funded Option is included in the award, to develop a multiplex molecular diagnostic assay for detection of Nipah virus and Hendra virus from nasal swabs. This Option will pressure test the existing swab-based molecular diagnostic platform by rapidly incorporating new target pathogens and evaluating performance against high-consequence zoonotic viruses associated with severe respiratory and neurological disease. The effort is intended to demonstrate the platform’s flexibility to pivot rapidly toward emerging infectious disease threats, where early detection is critical for outbreak response, infection control, and public health preparedness.



The project is part of the RRPV's [Diagnostic Rapid Response initiative](#), a biothreat diagnostics program that supports the development of diagnostics assays, instruments, and devices to diagnose diseases caused by biothreats.

Funding for the project comes from the [Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority](#) (BARDA), part of the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the RRPV under Other Transaction Authority agreement 75A50123D00005.

To learn more about the award, visit rrpv.org/awards/.

About Rapid Response Partnership Vehicle

Managed by [Advanced Technology International](#) (ATI), the [Rapid Response Partnership Vehicle](#) (RRPV) is a 10-year, multi-purpose ecosystem supporting the [Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority](#) (BARDA) in its mission to accelerate medical countermeasure (MCM) product and technology development to address evolving threats, including pandemic influenza, emerging infectious diseases and other chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) risks. The consortium brings together government, academia and industry to respond rapidly and effectively to health security threats by convening experts across Medical Technology (MedTech), Vaccines (Vx), Therapeutics (Tx) and Medical Countermeasure Clinical Research Centers (MCCRC). To learn more, visit [RRPV.org](https://rrpv.org), and stay connected by following RRPV on [LinkedIn](#) and [BlueSky](#).

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