

# Sophic Systems Alliance, Inc.

*Integrated Life Science Solutions*

## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Sophic and Biomax First to Achieve NCI caBIG™ Certification As Sophic Adds Software to GSA Contract**

Falmouth, MA – August 30, 2006. Sophic Systems Alliance Inc. today announced the achievement of two critical milestones in their government market strategy: Bronze caBIG certification for the Biomax BioXM Knowledge Management System and the addition of four Biomax software products to Sophic's GSA contract.

In September of 2005, the leadership of NCI's cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid™ (caBIG™) initiative invited Industry Partner's Meeting to learn about the caBIG initiative and companies were encouraged to invest in the adoption of caBIG software compatibility development standards. "Sophic and Biomax have been working with NCI on the Cancer Gene Curation Project since 2004 so we aligned with the caBIG initiative very early on," said Pat Blake, CEO of Sophic Systems Alliance, Inc. "My colleague, Dr. Klaus Heumann, President of Biomax Informatics AG implemented the caBIG software compatibility standards in the development of the BioXM Knowledge Management Environment. With the convergence of the high quality cancer information we are producing for the NCI Cancer Gene Curation Project and the Bronze certification of BioXM, we are well positioned to deliver both high quality content and powerful applications to scientists and physicians to wage war on cancer."

The caBIG strategic objective is to implement an effective and efficient network, a grid; of cancer research centers all working together to strengthen the prevention and treatment of cancer. To achieve this goal, NCI is implementing common technical standards so that all software deployed on the grid is interoperable. NCI established three levels of compliance to caBIG standards; Bronze, Silver and Gold and in April 2006, announced a structured process for submitting software to NCI for Bronze Compliance Review. Successful completion of the review process earns an official NCI Technology Transfer License certifying a system meets caBIG Bronze Compliance standards. The license authorizes the company to use the caBIG trade mark on product material. Sophic and Biomax volunteered to lead the way and are the first commercial companies to successfully complete the process.

Dr. Heumann said, "BioXM is a highly flexible knowledge management system with innovative technical design characteristics that make it easy to meet caBIG compliance standards. Our goal was to design BioXM as a Knowledge Management Environment that is flexible and configurable to support an almost endless number of use case scenarios for scientific, biomedical and clinical research – without programming." He went on to explain, "BioXM integrates information derived from genomic and proteomic research with biomedical and clinical information from oncology, pathology, epidemiology and biospecimens and tissue banks, connecting the "omics" with the

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“oligies.” The visibility of information from across these traditional “silos” provides researchers and physicians with a broad, expanded view of how the complex networks of relationships fit together. Based on our review of the NCI Silver standards, it should be very straightforward to install, configure and implement a Silver compliant installation of BioXM. We are actively discussing with NCI making a BioXM web-services API open source to support the caBIG initiative.”

The BioXM APIs together with flexible data export mechanisms make it possible to align with and leverage existing analysis systems. BioXM efficiently handles meta-data, vocabularies, ontologies, interoperability, all part of achieving useful and accurate knowledge integration. The advantage is that as scientists and researchers change and improve their approach, BioXM can easily be reconfigured to support any new hypothesis or change in research strategy while maintaining compliance with caBIG standards. This makes it possible to accelerate the entire processes in basic research, clinical, translational and biomedical medicine providing physicians with valuable support for diagnosing and treating cancer.

Pat Blake concluded, “At the September 2005 NCI meeting, I was stunned to learn that 1,500 Americans a day die of cancer. I would encourage all life science CEOs to support the NCI caBIG strategy and while there is an upfront investment to implement product compliance standards and go through product certification, we all need to join forces with NCI to win this battle with cancer. The old barriers and obstructions, the not-invented-here attitudes and ‘we only use open source software’ mantras are subsiding as it becoming increasingly obvious that we all need to do the right things for the right reasons. Doctors’ treating cancer and patients don’t care if valuable information comes from proprietary or open source software.”

The Sophic government strategy includes adding four Biomax software products to the Sophic GSA Contract, GS-35F-0549R. Federal and State Government institutions and the academic community can use GSA Schedule 70 to easily license BioXM Knowledge Management System, BioRS Data Integration and Retrieval System, BioLT Linguistics System and the Oncology Knowledge Base through GSA Acquisition Process. Sophic is also a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) which further simplifies the procurement process for software and implementation services.

For more details on our software, our evaluation roadmap and information on Sophic’s GSA offering, go to [www.sophicalliance.com](http://www.sophicalliance.com) or go to the GSA Advantage website and enter Sophic Systems Alliance Inc.

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## **About Sophic Systems Alliance.**

Sophic Systems Alliance Inc is an integrator of bioinformatics software and provides a full range of professional services including product configuration and implementation and scientific research projects. Sophic and Biomax, Munich Germany, have concluded a multi-year VAR agreement that authorizes Sophic to license Biomax software in the government market. The company is focused on providing software and professional services to support cancer and complex disease research. Customers include NCI for the Cancer Gene Curation Project, other government research organizations, pharmaceuticals, and biotech companies. Sophic is a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB). More information is available at [www.sophicalliance.com](http://www.sophicalliance.com).

## **About Biomax Informatics AG.**

Biomax, a recognized pioneer in the development of customized bioinformatics solutions, was founded in 1997 as a spin-off of the GSF-MIPS academic research group, now the German Research Center for Environment and Health-Institute for Bioinformatics (GSF-IBI). Founded by Prof. Dr. H. W. Mewes, Prof. Dr. D. Frishman and Dr. K. Heumann, Biomax developed a broad portfolio of bioinformatics solutions, including the well-known Pedant-Pro™ Sequence Analysis Suite, the BioRS™ Data Integration and Retrieval System, and other bioinformatics tools and services used in metabolic analysis, proteomics, and gene expression analysis. Additional information about Biomax can be found at the company's site on the World Wide Web at [www.biomax.com](http://www.biomax.com).

## **Press Contact:**

Chris Dozier  
Sophic Systems Alliance, Inc.  
(508) 495-3803  
[chris@sophicalliance.com](mailto:chris@sophicalliance.com)