

BUSINESS

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IN BRIEF

Local

ISSYS locks \$600,000 NASA grant

NASA will grant microsystems maker ISSYS Inc. \$600,000 to develop miniature sensors to test the effects of weightlessness in space and as a possible alternative to catheters on Earth.

The Ypsilanti-based ISSYS, which goes by the full name of Integrated Sensing Systems, will develop the miniaturized, wireless, battery-free sensors for NASA in hopes of expanding them to medical markets.

The recent grant picks up on \$210,000 ISSYS received from NASA in July to begin the project. NASA wants to use the sensors to measure blood flow of animals in space to gauge the effects of low gravity.

But the technology spillover from that effort could help ISSYS launch new, implantable sensors to measure blood pressure and flows. The company is designing the "non-invasive" sensors to help monitor and treat congestive heart failure and elevated pressure of the brain, known as hydrocephalus.

ISSYS is the only Michigan technology firm to win a second-stage NASA award in the last year, according to the Michigan Economic Development Corp.