



Baseband Processor Chip Firm SIGPRO Looks For First Customer

by *Michelle Tsai*



OTTAWA -- SIGPRO, developer of a system-on-chip for wireless communications, is in trials with potential customers and is raising \$30 million in venture capital for a close before the end of the year, CEO Sundara Murthy told VentureWire.

Mr. Murthy says the company's product has been out since 2001 and so far 14 companies have evaluated the technology. Three customers are

testing SIGPRO's boards at the moment, and Mr. Murthy believes the startup will sign its first customer this year.

Though Mr. Murthy's startup has only a minor stream of revenues from licensing at the moment, the CEO says he is not worried about the firm's revenues. SIGPRO's top priority is to raise its \$30 million Series B round. Mr. Murthy says the company will be looking for venture capital investors as well as strategic investors. In addition, SIGPRO will also be commercializing its product.

SIGPRO has developed a single-chip baseband processor for multiple standards and applications. Texas Instruments has a DSP for base stations but Mr. Murthy argues that the DSP consumes too much power. Qualcomm is another competitor with chips for different standards, but the chips are not programmable.

The startup will be looking to cell phone and PDA makers like Nokia, Motorola, and Samsung to buy its processors.

To date SIGPRO has raised \$9 million in a first round from Skypoint Capital and Celtic House International.

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