San Diego Companies Win XPrize Rapid Testing Contest

**BIOTECH: ChromaCode, Reliable-LFC Chosen Along With the La Jolla Institute for Immunology**

**By FRED GRIER**

Los Angeles-based XPrize Foundation, a nonprofit focused on competitive problem solving in science and technology, has awarded a total of $6 million to five groups for developing affordable COVID-19 rapid tests.

Out of the winners, three of them are based in San Diego. ChromaCode and Reliable-LFC, both of Carlsbad, joined the La Jolla Institute for Immunology as local winners in the challenge. The other two winners include New York-based Mirimus and Alamedabased Alveo Technologies.

The fastest test from the winning groups was Reliable-LFC’s antigen test, called V-CHEK, which takes 10 minutes to determine if someone is positive for COVID-19. It is currently awaiting emergency use authorization from the FDA.

“We started this journey to ensure communities across the globe have access to fast, affordable, and easy-to-use COVID-19 tests,” XPrize Chief Executive Anousheh Ansari said in a statement. “We are grateful to have the best entrepreneurial and scientific teams on board to help bring their solutions to scale so we can properly reopen schools, businesses, and other vital institutions around the world.”

Each winner is guaranteed $500,000. They will receive an additional $500,000 over the next few months if they hit milestones for mass-producing their COVID-19 tests.

“We’re honored to be recognized by the XPrize Community after several rounds of review and testing. It’s not only one’s technology platform but the highly skilled side-by-side analysis and competitive power,” says Greg Gosch, ChromaCode’s co-founder, president and CEO.

Viasat to Invest More Than $400M in United Kingdom

**TECH: Carlsbad Co.’s Network Operations Center And Cybersecurity Center to Support New Satellite**

**By BRAD GRAVES**

Viasat UK Ltd., a subsidiary of Carlsbad-based Viasat Inc. (Nasdaq: VSAT), announced on March 30 that it has opened a state-of-the-art Network Operations Center (NOC) and Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC) in Aldershot in the United Kingdom. The facility will support defense, government and commercial organizations that rely on the guaranteed resilience of their networks, and who are targeted by increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks from a growing number of adversaries.

Viasat said its NOC and CSOC “represent the beginning of a major investment in the U.K. prosperity and sovereignty agenda from Viasat, which includes targeting the creation of more than 75 new highly skilled network, analysis and cybersecurity roles.” Viasat said it plans to spend more than $414 million (300 million pounds) in U.K.-focused investment to support the launch and service roll-out of the impending Viasat-3 constellation over Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

As a global customer care center, the NOC and CSOC offer customers monitoring, detection and network support to help ensure the overall health of the network, identify potential issues or security threats; resolve those issues and threats in the shortest time possible; and confirm that any threat resolution is successful. The Viasat NOC and CSOC services are available to customers operating Viasat’s cyber solutions or running over Viasat’s global satellite network or Managed Private Service. Viasat’s NOC analysts monitor network health and load balancing 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Viasat works closely with customers to determine their needs, develop security integration, optimize networks, provide monitoring structures and escalate processes to suit the customer’s mission. The NOC also provides available technical support and provisioning for the primary network, terminals and user devices. The CSOC itself builds on Viasat’s decades of experience protecting both commercial networks and working closely with the U.S. Department of Defense, U.K. Ministry of Defence and allied forces worldwide to protect classified data. Viasat’s integrated cybersecurity model processes more than 35 terabytes of metadata every day, including more than 2.4 billion events that the CSOC analyzes across Viasat’s network. This highly relevant, actionable intelligence means Viasat can maintain a vigilant and watchful defense against some of the world’s most advanced adversaries, deflecting thousands of attacks on its global network every day.

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**PEOPLE ON THE MOVE**

**HIRINGS, PROMOTIONS, BOARD MEMBERS AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS IN SAN DIEGO**

**Father Joe’s Villages**

Father Joe’s Villages is pleased to announce the addition of two new prominent members of the community to their Boards: Kevin Harkenrider, Executive Vice President, Global Operations and Chief Operations Officer of Viasat, and Lieutenant Brian Avera of the San Diego Police Department.

Additionally, Father Joe’s Villages is pleased to announce the appointment of long-time board member Eric Casazza as the new Chairman of their S.V.D.P. Management Board.

Casazza brings over 20 years of management experience to Father Joe’s Villages’ Board of Directors. As CEO of FMT Consultants, Casazza oversees 85 team members and is a leading provider of Microsoft, Salesforce and Oracle NetSuite software solutions and services to over 350 organizations throughout the United States, with a large concentration in manufacturing, distribution, health and life sciences. Casazza joined the organization in 2011 and has more than tripled the size of the business. Prior to joining FMT, Casazza was the Vice President of Program Management and Integration for AMV Healthcare, the nation’s largest healthcare staffing and workforce solutions company.

“We are thrilled to welcome Eric as the Chair of S.V.D.P. Management’s Board of Directors,” said Deacon Jim Vargas, President and CEO of Father Joe’s Villages. “The board voted unanimously to place our trust in Eric’s leadership. I look forward to working with him to strengthen our organization and continue the pursuit of innovative and compassionate solutions to homelessness in San Diego.”

Harkenrider also brings extensive leadership experience and insight to Father Joe’s Villages. In his role as Executive Vice President, Global Operations and Chief Operations Officer at Viasat, Harkenrider is responsible for Viasat’s global supply chain and product delivery strategy; corporate quality and product integrity; and worldwide facilities, which includes maintaining the safety and security of over 5,000 employees at more than 45 offices worldwide. Kevin joined Viasat in October 2006. During his tenure with the company, he has served in several senior leadership roles across operations.

As a Lieutenant for the San Diego Police Department and Director of the San Diego Police Officers Association (SDPOA), Avera will support Father Joe’s Villages’ community leadership objectives. Avera joined the San Diego Police Department in 2006 after being honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps. Avera served in a variety of assignments, including a patrol officer, a detective within the Street Gang and Homicide Units, a sergeant within Internal Affairs and Vice Administration, and now as a lieutenant who oversees the Homeless Outreach Team. He earned his Master of Public Administration at San Diego State University. As a sergeant, Avera served at Western Division, Internal Affairs, and Vice Administration.

“I am honored to be added to our Board of Directors,” said Vargas, “Kevin and Brian’s strong backgrounds in leadership, their passion for serving their community, and their commitment to our mission to end homelessness, will make fantastic contributions to the diverse experience within our Board leadership and will help shape the future of Father Joe’s Villages.”