

IN THE NEWS

APRIL 2019



MIT Startup Wins an AgriFood Tech Award

Cambridge Crops, a startup that uses edible silk to preserve fresh foods, won 2019 Most Innovative US Startup.

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MechE PhD Student Recognized for Water Access Innovations

Congratulations to Natasha Wright, winner of a Lemelson Prize for her work on off-grid solar desalination systems.

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J-WAFS PI Highlights How Food Supply Chains Affect Food Safety

In March, Sloan professor Retsef Levi presented at MIT, discussing the role food supply chain optimization plays in food safety management.

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J-WAFS Fellow Wins Research Award

Andrea Beck was recognized by the American Association of Geographers for global water industry analysis.

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IN-DEPTH LOOK

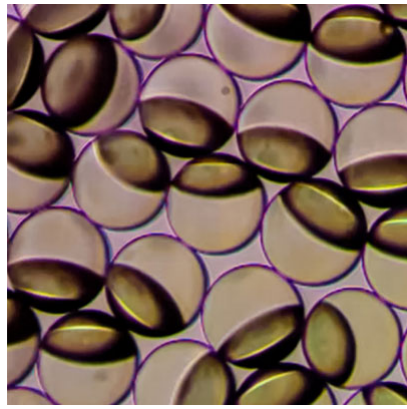
SPOTLIGHT ON J-WAFS SOLUTIONS SPINOUT

MIT spinout company seeks to transform food safety testing

“This is a \$10 billion market and everyone knows it.” These are the words of Chris Hartshorn, CEO of a new MIT spinout—Xibus Systems—that aims to make a splash in the food industry with their new food safety sensor.

Xibus Systems was formed in the fall of 2018 to bring a fast, easy, and affordable food safety sensing technology to food industry users and everyday consumers. It uses specialized droplets—called Janus emulsions—to detect bacterial contamination in food.

These innovative sensors were developed by a research team led by MIT PIs Timothy Swager and Alexander Klivanov in the Department of Chemistry. The research has been supported by two J-WAFS Solutions grants. The Xibus team is turning this technology into products for use by consumers and industry that could meet an unmet need for affordable, accurate, fast, and easy to use food safety sensors. Says professor Swager of this innovation, “the technology we originally



developed was completely unprecedented.”

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EVENTS

FOOD & WATER



Constructing an Inclusive and Resilient Food System

Apr. 11 / 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM / E62-276, MIT Campus

Join Dr. Laté Lawson-Lartego of Oxfam America to discuss food and climate justice through inclusive value chains and women's economic empowerment. [MORE INFO](#)



9th Annual MIT Africa Innovate Conference

Apr. 14 / 8 AM - 7 PM / MIT Samberg Center

Attend one of the largest Africa-centric conferences outside of the continent and explore methods to scale innovations across Africa. [MORE INFO](#)



Water Innovation Prize Pitch Night

Apr. 18 / 6 PM / MIT Media Lab, 6th Floor

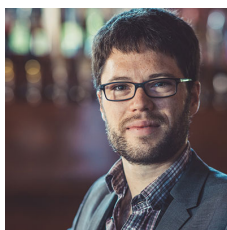
Hear finalist teams pitch water innovation start-up ideas and compete for cash awards at the culminating event of the Water Innovation Prize. [MORE INFO](#)



Seminar on Soil and Groundwater Contamination by PFOAs

Apr. 19 / 4 PM / 32-124, MIT Campus

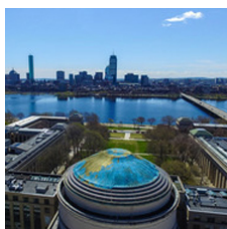
Join Dr. Chris Higgins of the Colorado School of Mines to discuss the implications of perfluorooctanoate (PFOA) contamination on human health. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT Alum on Tech Innovation for the Brewing Industry

Apr. 25 / 6-7:30 PM / 56-180, MIT Campus

Learn about MIT startup Sandymount Technology's water-reducing technology that helps beer companies reduce their environmental impact. [MORE INFO](#)



Explore Climate Solutions at MIT Climate Night

Apr. 25 / 4 - 7 PM / MIT Samberg Center

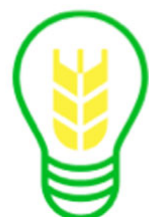
Join MIT innovators for a showcase of climate change research and policy solutions. [MORE INFO](#)



Aquifer Depletion on the High Plains

Apr. 29 / 4 - 5:30 PM / E53-354, MIT Campus

Join the Department of Anthropology for a discussion on aquifer depletion in the US, featuring Lucas Bessire of the University of Oklahoma. [MORE INFO](#)



Rabobank-MIT Food and Agribusiness Innovation Prize

May 1 / 6:30 PM / MIT Samberg Center

Hear student teams compete for \$30K in cash awards at this innovation prize for food and agribusiness start-ups. [MORE INFO](#)

FUNDING

AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

J-WAFS Call for Nominations for Water Fellowships

Deadline: Apr. 15, 2019

(MIT only)

Nominations are being accepted for J-WAFS fellowships for 2019-2020. Water must be a research focus.

[MORE INFO](#)

MITOS Sustainability Fellowship

Rolling Deadline

(MIT only)

Apply for paid positions in analytics, resiliency, outreach, food systems, and procurement at the MIT Office of Sustainability.

[MORE INFO](#)

NOAA Grants for Aquaculture Innovation

Deadlines: Follow link for more info

(Open to all)

Three grants are available from the National Sea Grant Office to support research addressing knowledge gaps in the US aquaculture industry.

[MORE INFO](#)

NSF Grant for Soil Sensing and Modeling

Deadline: May 15, 2019

(Open to all)

\$5.6M available for multi-disciplinary research projects aimed at improving our understanding of soil ecosystems and soil/plant interactions.

[MORE INFO](#)

Spring/Summer Fellowship for Meat Industry Research

Deadline: May 31, 2019

(Open to all)

4-month fellowship for PhD students providing up to \$25K for research into the negative impacts of industrial meat production.

[MORE INFO](#)

FFAR Seeding Solutions Grant

Deadline: Aug. 7, 2019

(Open to all)

Apply for grants of up to \$1M from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research for projects addressing food and water systems challenges.

[MORE INFO](#)

INTERESTED IN
SUPPORTING J-WAFS?

When you make a gift, you are making an investment in both the future of J-WAFS and our Institute-wide work to improve the productivity, accessibility, and sustainability of the world's water and food systems.

[DONATE ONLINE](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT

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J-WAFS is an Institute-wide effort that brings MIT's unique strengths to bear on the many challenges our food and water systems face.

Our program catalyzes MIT research, innovation, and technology for ensuring safe and resilient supplies of water and food while reducing environmental impact, to meet the local and global needs of a rapidly expanding and evolving population on a changing planet.

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