



# QualySense

## Press release

Dübendorf, 15 June 2011

### **QualySense signs development agreements with the Swiss Commission for Technology & Innovation (CHF 1.1 Million) and with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (\$ 1.5 Million).**

QualySense, an EMPA-based start-up company focused on innovative grain and seeds sorting technology, announces that it has closed two R&D cooperation agreements with leading research institutions in Switzerland and the USA.

Within the CTI (Swiss Commission for Technology and Innovation) project a high-throughput pilot unit to sort wheat grains will be developed, with EMPA, Agroscope and leading players of the Swiss grain milling industry as partners.

The agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) focuses on the development of US oriented applications for wheat and corn grains and testing the first high-throughput QualySense units in the US market.

QualySense's Chairman, Alberto Romaneschi, says: «These two milestone agreements will enable us to significantly shorten our time to market. Both agreements provide for the best in class professional resources with respect to creating the next generation of grain sorting technology. With this technology, we can deliver a significant contribution to agricultural sustainability.»

Dr. Urs Sennhauser, head of Electronics/Metrology/Reliability Laboratory of EMPA says: «We are very pleased to be a partner in this challenging project and to support an innovative startup. In the envisaged high-speed sorter, fast and accurate capture of optical properties and real time evaluation is crucial. With our experience in optics, electronics and automation we are well positioned to develop these subsystems.»

Dr. Tom Pearson, lead scientist at USDA, says: «We are thrilled about our new European partner. Improved sorting systems will enable us to segregate many types of grain characteristics and improve food safety and quality. We will lend our expertise in sorting systems and leverage our partners to develop new applications for it.»

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Useful links:

[www.qualysense.com](http://www.qualysense.com)  
[www.ctistartup.ch](http://www.ctistartup.ch)  
[www.empa.ch](http://www.empa.ch)  
[www.agroscope.admin.ch](http://www.agroscope.admin.ch)  
[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

## About QualySense

QualySense is an EMPA-based start-up company co-founded in 2010 by Dr. Francesco Dell'Endice, along with Olga Mykhailova, Paolo D'Alcini, Alberto Romaneschi, and Stefan Blarer. QualySense aims to become the innovation leader in developing and marketing high-capacity sorting devices for quality and safety control of agricultural products. The unique and proprietary devices enable sorting grains, seeds and beans reliably by biochemical properties. QualySense is a Venture Kick winner of 2010, a finalist of the Swiss Technology Award 2010 in the seed category, one of the 20 best Swiss Start-ups of 2010 and carries the prestigious CTI Start-up Label.