



January 4, 2018

## **Nanotools Bioscience Selected as a Semi-Finalist in the SPIE Startup Challenge Competition**

**San Diego, CA–** Nanotools Bioscience has been selected as a Semi-Finalist (Track 1: Biophotonics, Point of Care) at the SPIE Startup Challenge Competition that will be held at 2018 Photonics West (27 January - 01 February 2018) in San Francisco, CA. SPIE is the international society for optics and photonics that supports researchers and developers in the light-based fields of physics, including: optics, photonics, and imaging engineering.

Dr. Elena Molokanova, CEO and Founder of Nanotools Bioscience, entered the Startup Challenge Competition to present a proprietary optical stimulation based on unique optoelectronic properties of graphene materials. Nanotools Bioscience is developing specialized nanotechnology-based optoelectronic microtiter cell culture plates engineered to provide dynamic optical stimulation of genetically intact cells during high-throughput screening drug discovery campaigns. This platform allows non-invasive and physiologically relevant stimulation of cells without affecting their structural and genetic integrity, which represents a critical advantage over existing electric and optogenetic stimulation methods. Our cell-stimulating optoelectronic microplates are expected to have a transformative effect by making drug discovery profoundly faster and cheaper, and enable the development of new drugs with complex activity-dependent mechanisms of actions. This disruptive optical stimulation technology will revolutionize both novel drug discovery and safety pharmacology.

**About the SPIE Startup Challenge:** *This competitive global event held at Photonics West invites new entrepreneurs in photonics to pitch their light-based technology business plan to a team of corporate development experts and venture capitalists. The best pitchers receive cash prizes and are selected to attend a week-long entrepreneur boot camp to refine their ideas and make further contacts with experts. To learn more about the SPIE Startup Challenge, visit <http://spie.org/industry-resources/industry-events/startup-challenge>.*

**Forward-Looking Statement:** *This press release contains forward-looking statements, which are generally statements that are not historical facts. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the words "expects," "anticipates," "believes," "intends," "estimates," "plans," "will," "outlook" and similar expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on management's current plans, estimates, assumptions and projections, and speak only as of the date they are made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement in light of new information or future events, except as otherwise required by law. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, most of which are difficult to predict and are generally beyond our control. Actual results or outcomes may differ materially from those implied by the forward-looking statements as a result of the impact of a number of factors.*