# Dossier: OTHRAM INC

## SBIR Award Details

**Award Title:** N/A

**Amount:** $1,249,833.00

**Award Date:** 2024-05-24

**Branch:** USAF

## AI-Generated Intelligence Summary

**Company Overview:**

Othram, Inc. is a biotechnology company specializing in forensic genealogy, employing advanced DNA sequencing and analysis techniques to solve previously unsolvable cold cases and identify unidentified human remains. Their core mission is to bring closure to families impacted by violent crime and provide investigative leads to law enforcement using a proprietary DNA testing and analysis pipeline tailored for highly degraded or minute DNA samples. Othram's unique value proposition lies in its ability to reconstruct DNA profiles from evidence that is often considered too degraded or limited for traditional forensic DNA methods, offering a powerful new tool to law enforcement agencies lacking sufficient evidence. They have effectively carved a niche within the forensic sector by optimizing the extraction, sequencing, and analysis of challenging samples that other labs cannot process, thus allowing them to resolve cases that are often decades old.

**Technology Focus:**

* Forensic Genealogy Platform:\*\* Othram's core technology is a specialized DNA testing and analysis platform optimized for degraded, contaminated, or small DNA samples. It combines advanced DNA extraction, massively parallel sequencing (MPS), and proprietary bioinformatics algorithms to reconstruct DNA profiles suitable for genealogical searching.
* Othram's Parabon Snapshot® DNA Phenotyping System:\*\* Othram integrates Parabon Nanolabs' Snapshot DNA Phenotyping System for generating predictions about the physical appearance of an unidentified person from their DNA. This includes traits like eye color, hair color, skin color, and facial morphology, aiding in the identification process.

**Recent Developments & Traction:**

* Continued Success in Cold Case Resolutions:\*\* Othram has been instrumental in resolving numerous high-profile cold cases across the US, frequently announced through press releases and media coverage, demonstrating the efficacy of their technology. Examples include the identification of serial killers and the return of unidentified remains to their families.
* Partnerships with Law Enforcement Agencies:\*\* Othram has established partnerships with numerous local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies across the United States, solidifying its position as a key provider of forensic genealogy services. These partnerships often involve exclusive contracts for cold case analysis.
* Expansion of Testing Capacity:\*\* Othram has continually invested in expanding its laboratory capacity and technology infrastructure to meet the growing demand for its services, suggesting strong market traction and increasing revenue.

**Leadership & Team:**

* David Mittelman, CEO:\*\* Dr. Mittelman is a geneticist and bioinformatician. He previously founded and led Bode Technology's bioinformatics division, demonstrating significant prior experience in the forensic DNA sector.

**Competitive Landscape:**

* Verogen:\*\* Verogen (acquired by Qiagen in 2024) offers next-generation sequencing (NGS) solutions for forensic applications. Othram differentiates itself by focusing specifically on highly degraded and challenging DNA samples, whereas Verogen provides a broader NGS platform.
* Parabon NanoLabs:\*\* Though Parabon provides the Snapshot DNA Phenotyping System to Othram, they also compete in the broader forensic space with DNA phenotyping and kinship analysis services. Othram differentiates itself by its expertise in DNA extraction and sequencing from challenging samples, integrating Snapshot to enhance its overall solution.

**Sources:**

1. [https://othram.com/](https://othram.com/)

2. [https://parabon.com/](https://parabon.com/)

3. [https://www.justice.gov/](https://www.justice.gov/) (Search for "Othram" to find cases where they were involved).

4. [https://dnasolves.com/](https://dnasolves.com/) (Othram’s crowdsourcing platform for helping fund casework)