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New biological agent detectors developed

EVANSTON, Ill., Sept. 13 (UPI) -- Northwestern University's Center for Quantum Devices says it's developed solar-blind avalanche photodiodes that hold promise as biological agent detectors.

The researchers say once optimized, the sensitive detectors could be combined with ultraviolet light-emitting diodes already pioneered by Northwestern to create an inexpensive detection system capable of identifying the unique spectral fingerprints of a biological agent attack.

The center's director, Manijeh Razeghi, recently presented the details of the research during a workshop organized by Henryk Temkin, a new program manager with the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.