

For Immediate Release

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Seven teams to compete in the 2013 Alabama Launchpad Start-Up Competition finale

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 24 --The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama Foundation today announces that seven teams will proceed to the finale in the Third Round of the Alabama Launchpad Start-Up Competition.

Judges selected the seven today after 12 teams each made pitch presentations.

The teams are in the “pre-seed” phase and are competing for a share of up to \$100,000 in award money. The competition is geared to promote, reward and increase the pipeline of high-growth, innovative ventures that have the potential to create and keep jobs in Alabama. The teams will make their final pitch presentations on March 21 at Evonik Industries, 750 Lakeshore Parkway, Birmingham. The event begins at 9 a.m.

Greg Sheek, Launchpad Programs director, said the continuing start-up competitions allow Alabama Launchpad to realize its ultimate goal of creating high-wage careers for Alabamians.

“We have to make investments in startups on a regular cycle throughout the year as ideas emerge and ventures mature into new businesses,” Sheek said. “We cannot expect a harvest if we do not plant the seeds.”

The Alabama Launchpad Competition, started as a pilot project in 2006, is financed by business, the state of Alabama and seven universities. Since its inception, 27 companies have been funded, splitting more than \$1.3 million. Alabama Launchpad has led to the creation of 221 knowledge-based jobs and \$15 million in follow-on funding.

Startups selected to proceed are:

- **Bidsters, LLC:** Bidsters, based in Tuscaloosa with a University of Alabama affiliation, is an online interactive database for personnel to efficiently connect, communicate and collaborate on project bids.
- **Child Safety Pass:** Child Safety Pass, based in Tuscaloosa with a University of Alabama affiliation, is a software system to manage student transportation safety
- **Complexity Engine:** Complexity Engine, based in Madison with a University of Alabama in Huntsville affiliation, turns the Internet into a textbook by identifying signal, eliminating noise and adjusting volume to levels that are "just right."
- **Healthfundit:** Healthfundit, based in Birmingham, allows people to directly donate to medical research and follow its impact while offering institutions a service that increases funding and facilitates efficient commercialization of biotech.
- **Paperless PCS, LLC:** Paperless PCS, based in Vestavia Hills, is a web platform that streamlines the often painful process of collecting Medicare required billing documents for ambulance companies by incorporating e-sign and document management technology.
- **Suture Health, Inc:** Suture Health, based in Birmingham, enables doctors to eSign through its Suture Sign platform all orders in one place, reducing agency cost and speeding cash flow.
- **Thermoelectric Generation for Aviation Applications:** Thermoelectric Generation for Aviation Applications, based in Birmingham, provides solid state solutions for aviation applications.

Judges for this second round competition are once again comprised of entrepreneurs, investors and corporate stakeholders:

- **Andrew Ellis** - Controller, Command Alkon
- **Jason Fewell** – Vice President, Preclinical Research and Development, EGEN, Inc.
- **Michael Perez** – Senior Vice President of Administration & Co-Founder, Malcovery Security

- **Bobby Bragg** - Director, Jamison Money Farmer
- **Lisa Riley** - Delta Manager, Accion Alabama

Alabama Launchpad is aligned with the state's larger economic development plan, Accelerate Alabama that focuses on recruitment, retention and renewal. For more information, please visit www.alabamalaunchpad.com.

About the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama: Now in its 22nd year, the non-profit Partnership represents the private sector's contribution to economic development in Alabama. Fully funded by 80 leading companies invested in the state's long-term economic success, EDPA provides leadership and services that recruit new businesses to the state, retain existing businesses and renew Alabama's economy by encouraging innovation both within existing industries and through the commercialization of new technologies. www.edpa.org

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