

For Immediate Release

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ENTREPRENEURS WILL PITCH BUSINESSES FRIDAY TO WIN PRIZE MONEY DURING ALABAMA LAUNCHPAD START-UP COMPETITION FINALE

Birmingham, Ala., March 18 -- Seven entrepreneurs from Birmingham, Tuscaloosa and Madison hope to win a share of more than \$100,000 in prize money Friday, March 21, when they pitch their businesses before five judges during the Alabama Launchpad Start-Up Competition Finale.

The pitch event starts at 9 a.m., but the winners will be announced in the evening. The competition will be held at Evonik Corp., 750 Lakeshore Parkway, off Lakeshore Drive, in Birmingham. The event is free and open to the public.

Alabama Launchpad, a program of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, is ramping up efforts to make the state a start-up hotbed and to help entrepreneurs turn their ideas into products and services that will result in high-wage jobs for Alabamians, another form of economic development.

More than \$1.3 million has been awarded to competition winners since Alabama Launchpad started as a pilot project in 2006. Alabama Launchpad has led to the creation of 221 jobs and \$15 million in follow-up funding.

The teams competing Friday 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.
- **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."
- **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.

- **Thermoelectric Generation for Aviation Applications:** Thermoelectric Generation for Aviation Applications, based in Birmingham, provides solid state solutions for aviation applications.
- **Child Safety Pass:** Child Safety Pass, based in Tuscaloosa with a University of Alabama affiliation, is a software system to manage student transportation safety.
- **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.
- **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.

For more information, visit www.alabamalaunchpad. Follow the competition on twitter @AlaLaunchpad #StartUpAL2014.

About the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama: In its 22nd year, the Partnership represents the private sector's contribution to economic development in Alabama. EDPA is a private, non-profit organization funded by more than 70 leading companies committed to the state's long-term economic success. EDPA provides leadership and services that recruit new businesses to the state, retain existing business and renew Alabama's economy by fostering innovation both within existing industries and through the commercialization of new technologies.

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