

For Immediate Release

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EDPA Seeks Nominations for the 2016 Alabama Innovation Awards

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 4 -- The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama has put out the call for nominations for the 2016 Alabama Innovation Awards, an annual recognition of the state's top innovators.

All of this year's winners will be recognized at the 6th Annual Alabama Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference on Aug. 31. This premier event celebrates and recognizes the vital role entrepreneurs, startups and innovators contribute to Alabama's economy and new job growth.

Since 2014, EDPA, through its Alabama Launchpad program, has been identifying game-changing businesses and corporations, with the goal of celebrating innovation and raising public awareness of the importance of innovation-based economic development.

Nominations for the 2016 awards are being accepted in the following categories:

- Corporate Innovator of the Year (small company, 1-50 employees)
- Corporate Innovator of the Year (large company, 50+ employees)
- Outstanding Achievement in Innovative Manufacturing
- Outstanding Public-Private Partnership for Innovation

"The awards celebrate the achievement and job creation that comes from bringing new products and services to the market," said Greg Sheek, Alabama Launchpad programs director. "We want to encourage entrepreneurs and inventors to continue and accelerate this important work."

Self-nominations are encouraged. Deadline for nominations is March 20. For more information, please visit alabamalaunchpad.com/awards/.

About the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama: Now in its 26th year, the non-profit Partnership represents the private sector's contribution to economic development in Alabama. Fully funded by more than 70 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.

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About Alabama Launchpad: For 10 years, Alabama Launchpad has helped high growth companies start, stay and grow in Alabama while supporting, advocating and recognizing entrepreneurship statewide. www.alabamalaunchpad.com