

For Immediate Release

Contact: Val Walton

205.943.4715 |

vwalton@edpa.org

Alabama Launchpad Reveals Which Alabama Startups Will Compete for Funding

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 12 -- Alabama Launchpad, a program of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, announces today the selection of 10 startups to participate in the next round of its competition.

Alabama Launchpad, which started as a pilot project in 2006, conducts the competition that provides a share of up to \$250,000 in funding and mentoring for aspiring entrepreneurs as part of the statewide economic development efforts to diversify the Alabama's economy.

A judge panel selected the 10 competitors from 37 applicants on Thursday.

"Final decisions were difficult because there were so many impressive startups that applied," said Launchpad Programs Director Greg Sheek. "This is a testament to the innovative talent in the state. Our judges carry out the selection process, and we are grateful for the knowledge and thought leadership they bring to the table. We look forward to continuing our important work with the next round of the competition to help companies start, stay and grow in the state to create jobs."

The startups will make their first pitches before the judges at a free event set for 9 a.m. on Oct. 21 at Evonik Industries, 750 Lakeshore Parkway, Birmingham.

The 10 companies to make first pitches are:

- **Aevum, Inc.**, based in Huntsville, is a commercial space and aeronautics company that specializes in supersonic and hypersonic systems.
- **Alasaw**, based in Birmingham, mills urban lumber and transforms it into elegant designs, obsessively crafted to delight and endure.
- **The Ark Labs**, based in Florence, offers a water monitoring device that contains a remote shutoff and is powered by artificial intelligence that can be controlled through a mobile app.
- **Book-It Legal**, based in Birmingham, is an online marketplace connecting attorneys and law students.
- **ClinPrep**, based in Mobile, brings a digital solution to nursing schools across the country to make the clinical experience less cumbersome for both instructors and students.

- **Koyote**, based in Birmingham, has developed a new technology that makes it easy and inexpensive to track how people move through a city in real time.
- **Linc Research Inc.**, based in Huntsville, is a U.S. Small Business Administration certified Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) company that specializes in structural engineering, specifically vibration damping for aerospace and structural applications.
- **Nanobio Healthcare**, based in Mobile with an University of South Alabama affiliation, provides low density polyethylene (LDPE) sleeves for electronic communication devices (ECD), touchscreen interfaces to prevent hospital infections transmitted by touchscreen devices
- **PatientPhotos.net**, based in Vestavia Hills, provides a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant online platform to store, show, and share patient photos.
- **Track & Trace Meds**, based in Auburn, is a cloud-based pharmaceutical supply chain management platform.

Startups will be selected from this first pitch to compete in the Alabama Launchpad Startup Competition finale on Dec. 8 in Auburn.

Judges for this competition round are:

- **Gary Parisher**, CEO, Cheeriodicals
- **Dr. Andreas Karau**, head of Project House Medical Devices, Evonik Corp.
- **James Outland**, managing partner, New Capital Partners
- **Tina Graham**, senior vice president, Greenway Health
- **Steven W. Davis**, director, Stonehenge Growth Capital

About the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama: Now in its 25th year, the non-profit Partnership represents the private sector's contribution to economic development in Alabama. Fully funded by more than 60 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

About Alabama Launchpad: Celebrating its 10th year, Alabama Launchpad helps high growth companies start, stay and grow in Alabama while supporting, advocating and recognizing entrepreneurship statewide. www.alabamalaunchpad.com