

For Immediate Release

Contact: Val Walton

205.943.4715 |

vwalton@edpa.org

Five startups to compete in Dec. 8 Alabama Launchpad Finale in Auburn

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 25 -- Alabama Launchpad, a program of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, announces today that five startup teams advance to the Dec. 8 finale in Auburn to compete for a share of up to \$250,000.

A judging panel selected the five finale competitors from the nine startup teams that pitched Friday at Evonik Corporation in Birmingham.

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 Alabama's economy and job creation.

"We were impressed with the startups that competed," said Greg Sheek, Alabama Launchpad programs director. "Alabama Launchpad is excited for this next stage of the competition that gives winning startups funding to kick start their business at an early stage."

Since its beginning, Alabama Launchpad has invested \$2.4 million in 51 Alabama companies; the startups have created 365 jobs and secured \$24 million in follow-on funding.

The finale event, which is free, will be held on Dec. 8 at the ALFA Pavilion on the campus of Auburn University from 4 to 8 p.m.

The five companies to compete at the finale are:

- **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.

- **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.

Judges for the finale competition 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