

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Three Alabama startup teams win funding at Alabama Launchpad Competition Finale in Auburn**

**Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 9** — Three startup teams, two from Birmingham, won a share of up to \$250,000 Thursday night through Alabama Launchpad, a program of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama designed to give entrepreneurs access to capital to help launch their businesses.

A five-judge panel selected the teams after a well-attended live pitch event Thursday night at the ALFA Pavilion (Big Red Barn) on the campus of Auburn University, Auburn. The competition was a part of the first Auburn Innovation Fest, with the City of Auburn and the university working together to promote entrepreneurship.

The three winners were among five finalists that made pitches to the panel of investors, entrepreneurs and industry experts. The judges also determined the amount of funding given to each startup team.

The winners and the amounts awarded by the judges are:

- **Alasaw**, based in Birmingham, mills urban lumber and transforms it into elegant designs, obsessively crafted to delight and endure. (\$100,000)
- **Book-It Legal**, based in Birmingham, is an online marketplace connecting attorneys and law students. (\$50,000)
- **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. The company pitched its Earthquake Absorber, designed to save lives and lessen damage from earthquakes. (\$100,000)

“We congratulate the winners,” said Greg Sheek, Alabama Launchpad programs director. “Alabama Launchpad is committed to helping entrepreneurs succeed, so the companies can create jobs and grow Alabama’s economy.”

The judges also provided feedback to all teams. Judges for the finale competition were:

- **Gary Parish**, 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](http://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](http://www.alabamalaunchpad.com)

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