

For Immediate Release

Contact: Val Walton

205.943.4715 | vwalton@edpa.org

Alabama Innovation Awards Finalists Announced; Winners to be honored Sept. 2 in Birmingham at the 5th Annual Alabama Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference

Birmingham, Ala., July 1 –The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama announces today the 20 finalists for the 2015 Alabama Innovation Awards. The awards recognize companies that demonstrate significant achievement specifically in the areas of job creation, commitment to innovation, and innovation that addresses a local or global need.

“The Alabama Innovation Awards celebrate the remarkable diversity of innovation across the state – with applications ranging from a medical device to materials management systems, from fertilizer distribution tools to touchless fingerprint biometric software,” said Angela Wier, EDPA vice president. “The awards are helping EDPA discover companies that contribute to diversification of the economy and the creation of high wage careers for Alabamians. The awards are not just a celebration for accomplishment but a benchmark of success for those outstanding individuals and corporations who are nominated for these prestigious awards.”

Judges will next choose the five category winners, who all will be honored on Sept. 2 at the Fifth Annual Alabama Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference in Birmingham.

Finalists for 2015 are:

Corporate Innovator of the Year, large company (50+ employees)

- Integrated Medical Systems International, Inc., Birmingham
- Atlas RFID Solutions, Birmingham
- Digium, Inc., Huntsville
- Emerson Network Power, Huntsville

Corporate Innovator of the Year, small company (1-50 employees)

- Emergency CallWorks, Inc., Birmingham
- Diamond Fortress Technologies, Birmingham
- Hospicelink, Birmingham
- CDS-John Blue Co., Huntsville
- Kailos Genetics, Inc., Huntsville
- Time Domain, Huntsville

Outstanding Achievement in Innovative Manufacturing

- To Your Health Sprouted Flour Co., Fitzpatrick
- CDI Electronics, Huntsville
- iCubate, Inc., Huntsville

Outstanding Public-Private Partnership for Innovation

- Project HERO and related small businesses created, Greensboro
- iCubate, Inc. & HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, Huntsville
- City of Montgomery & Infinitus Energy, Montgomery

Lifetime Achievement in Innovation

- Rowland Kanner, Arab, vice president of technology, Atrion Medical Products
- Gary York, Birmingham, product marketing advisor Emergency Callworks
- Ashok Singhal, Huntsville, principal founder and chairman, CFD Research Corp. (CFDRC)
- Jim Busby, Mobile, president and COO, Centralite

Last year, judges selected winners in eight categories, including the Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Lonnie McMillian, co-founder of the renown HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology and telecommunications giant ADTRAN in Huntsville.

Judges for this year's awards, under the chairmanship of Tom Stanton, chairman and CEO of ADTRAN, are: Billy Harbert, CEO of BL Harbert International; Harris Morrissette, president of China Doll Rice & Dixie Lily; Yolanda Sullivan, CEO of YWCA of Central Alabama; Art Tipton, president and CEO of Southern Research; and Neill S. Wright, executive vice president of Liberty Bank.

The validation committee members for the judging process are: Cecil Bostany; Joseph Burchfield; Gwen Fewell; Dennis Hinton; John Gerdes; Blair King and Daniel Tait.

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 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.

www.edpa.org

About Alabama Launchpad: Alabama Launchpad helps high growth companies start, stay and grow in Alabama while supporting, advocating and recognizing entrepreneurship statewide.

www.alabamalaunchpad.com

###