

HudsonAlpha Institute Co-founder Jim Hudson encourages Alabama small business innovators to apply for the 2015 Alabama Launchpad Innovation Awards

Sunday is the deadline to nominate for the 2015 Alabama Launchpad Innovation Awards

Birmingham, Ala., May 11--Nominations close Sunday, May 17, for the 2015 Alabama Launchpad Innovation Awards.

Alabama Launchpad, a program of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, celebrates and honors contributions to Alabama's innovation economy through the annual awards.

Jim Hudson, co-founder of the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville, said innovation and entrepreneurship are essential to the future of Alabama. Hudson urges small business innovators to apply for a 2015 award.

"As a state, we should do everything we can to encourage small business innovation," said Hudson, who also is a member of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama Foundation Board of Directors. "Celebrating our innovators and their achievements is the best way I know to inspire other innovators to believe in themselves and come forward with their ideas."

Winners will be honored at the Fifth Annual Alabama Launchpad Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference Sept. 2 in Birmingham.

Nominations are accepted in the following categories:

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

Companies should demonstrate significant achievement specifically in the areas of job creation, commitment to innovation and innovation that addresses a local or global need.

Self-nominations are also encouraged. To see a gallery of last year's winners and to nominate, please visit <http://alabamalaunchpad.com/awards/>

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 80 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

###