

For Immediate Release

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Registration Opens Monday for Second Round of Alabama Launchpad Start-Up Competition

Birmingham, Ala, April 19 –Registration begins Monday morning for the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama Foundation’s second round of the popular Alabama Launchpad Start-Up Competition, which seeks to help create high-growth and high-wage jobs for the state.

Teams can register, beginning at 9 a.m. (CST) by visiting www.alabamalaunchpad.com.

Greg Sheek, Launchpad programs director, said Alabama Launchpad is excited to have a second round of competition for “pre-seed” startups in 2013, a first in the competition’s seven-year history.

Teams interested in this second round of the “proof of commercial relevance” start-up competition must submit an application and a \$150 non-refundable application fee. Applications are accepted until just before midnight May 22. A webinar is set for April 29 at 2 p.m. to answer any questions from startups on how to apply for the completion. Registration for the webinar is through Alabama Launchpad’s website.

Up to 25 startups will be chosen to participate. Applicants accepted to compete will be announced on June 13.

Alabama Launchpad is open to any Alabama startup that meets eligibility requirements. Participants admitted to the competition will be required to submit business plans by June 30. The teams ultimately will compete to win a share of up to \$100,000 in prize money.

Registration for the second round comes as Alabama Launchpad prepares for the May 3 finale of its first round of competition. Five startup teams from across the state will make their final pitch presentations for their businesses before a panel of judges for up to \$100,000 in prize money. The five were narrowed down in the competition process from 22 teams that registered to participate.

The Alabama Launchpad Competition, started as a pilot project seven years ago, is financed by business, the state of Alabama and seven universities. Alabama Launchpad is aligned with the state’s larger economic development plan, Accelerate Alabama that focuses on recruitment, retention and renewal. For more information, please visit www.alabamalaunchpad.com.

About the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama: Now in its 22nd 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