

## **Five teams win a share of \$214,300 in Alabama Launchpad's Startup Competition finale; First time all finalists awarded funding**

**Birmingham, Ala, March 20**--The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama Foundation today announces that all five teams competing in the Alabama Launchpad Startup Competition finale won a share of funding.

Greg Sheek, Alabama Launchpad programs director, said today marks the first time in the competition's history that judges determined all finalists should receive a share of funding. The judges awarded the teams \$214, 300. The amounts are based on the teams' submitted budgets and do not reflect any type of ranking.

"It's merit based," Sheek said. "They all made really great strides. There were strong teams in place."

- Abel Healthcare Enterprises, based in Birmingham with a University of Alabama at Birmingham affiliation, has a product, [SendMedicalImages.com](http://SendMedicalImages.com), which is a cloud based medical image transfer and viewing solution that solves the universal problem of access to medical images, minimizing wasted resources, saving lives, and making life better for doctors, patients, and healthcare facilities. (\$66,800)
- Brewery Buddy, based in Tuscaloosa, is an affordable web-based brewery management platform designed to automate business so customers can get back to what they love, brewing delicious craft beer. (\$24,600)
- In the Sports Zone, LLC, based in Birmingham, creates sports team activity books, activity pads and apps. (\$43,500)
- Skills For Success LLC, based in Birmingham, provides practical, hands-on materials and resources to teach children with special needs basic safety and life skills. (\$59,400)
- Wires, based in Birmingham, is a notebook for app ideas. Wires believe inspiration is spontaneous, and wire framing should be too. The Wires iPhone app creates sleek wireframes for app ideas while helping a customer focus on the big picture. (\$20,000)

"Now in its ninth year, Alabama Launchpad gives the competition winners access to funding, feedback and a robust network that is unparalleled in any other startup competition in Alabama," Sheek said. "These entrepreneurs represent the future growth and innovation of Alabama's economy, and we look forward to helping create more success stories. Alabama Launchpad helps harness the creativity of these early-stage startups and helps launch their ideas to market, leading to new job creation."

The Alabama Launchpad Competition, started as a pilot project in 2006, is financed by business, the state of Alabama and seven universities. Since its inception, Alabama

Launchpad has led to the creation of 305 knowledge-based jobs and \$20.4 million in follow-on funding.

Judges for this second round competition are once again comprised of entrepreneurs, investors and corporate stakeholders:

- Tanveer Patel, serial entrepreneur, CEO, Concert Care
- Nate Schmidt – co-founder/CEO, Instagift
- Mel Washington – director and lead counselor, University of South Alabama Small Business Development
- Avery Tucker – senior wealth director, BNY Mellon Wealth Management
- Robert Hergenrother – director, Southern Research Institute’s Medical Technology Department

***About the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama:*** *In its 25th year, the Partnership represents the private sector’s contribution to economic development in Alabama. EDPA is a private, non-profit organization funded by more than 70 leading companies committed to the state’s long-term economic success. EDPA provides leadership and services that recruit new businesses to the state, retain existing business and renew Alabama’s economy by fostering innovation both within existing industries and through the commercialization of new technologies.*