

## **Sixteen teams admitted to 2011-2012 Alabama Launchpad class**

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 25 -- The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama announces the 2011-2012 Alabama Launchpad class. These 16 teams were chosen from a field of entrants by a review panel consisting of entrepreneurs, investors, and university officials from partnering universities. Teams continuing in the competition hail from: Auburn University (one team), University of Alabama (three teams), University of Alabama at Birmingham (six teams), University of Alabama in Huntsville (three teams), and University of South Alabama (three teams).

Teams will now submit business plans, which will be sent to a second team of Alabama reviewers. Frost and Sullivan will conduct market assessment studies for each team valued at \$10,000 each. Teams will then proceed to the finale stage of the competition where the class will be grouped by seed and proof-of-concept ready companies. Seed companies will compete for a \$100,000 grand prize, while proof-of-concept companies will compete for up to four \$25,000 prizes, for a total of \$200,000 in cash awards.

Teams were chosen to compete in the annual business plan competition based on factors including intellectual property/technology, market potential, and management team.

Now in its sixth year, Alabama Launchpad ([www.alabamalaunchpad](http://www.alabamalaunchpad)) is a program of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama Foundation. The program operates with support from a grant from the Alabama Research Alliance, a program of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. Alabama Launchpad receives support from six partnering universities, Alabama State University, Auburn University, The University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama in Huntsville, and the University of South Alabama.

“The Alabama Launchpad business plan competition is an activity that feeds into a larger plan for economic development in the state of Alabama,” said EDPA President Bill Taylor. “The Governor’s Economic Development Alliance is organizing the state’s economic development resources around three topic areas – recruitment, retention, and renewal.”

“Commercializing high growth innovations and giving them a Launchpad from which to grow is a key component of the renewal topic. This competition is a microcosm that demonstrates the success that we can achieve on a larger scale. There are innovations taking place daily within the state and this is a small window into those activities. The competition also provides an arena for public private partnerships for economic development in the state.”

**Finalist teams are:**

**Arch Data Intelligence, Inc. (UAH):** Arch Data has developed an internet-based free patent search tool which aims to be the “eBay of IP,” with enhanced functionality and ease-of-use over existing products.

Team leader: Brad Chassee

Team members: Tony Rainoldi, Jason Martin

**Blondin Biosciences, LLC (UAB):** Blondin is a biotechnology company developing low-cost solutions to improve the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other diseases of aging. It currently has three inventions being patented by UAB-- a new genetic test of DNA released from dead cancer cells; the use of chloroquine, an antimalarial and amebicidal drug, to inhibit cancer invasion; and the treatment of mesothelioma with bisphosphonates, which are currently used to counter osteoporosis.

Team leader: David Graves

Team members: Kevin Harris, Katri Selander, Clinton Graves

**Bulheller Consulting, Inc (UA):** BCI’s Automax is a customized software modeling tool that simplifies/standardizes the process planning, robotics code generation, and validation of highly automated processes like robotics for automotive manufacturing. Two other BCI products, Robmax and Factoryworkx, are already deployed on more than 3,000 robots within the automotive industry.

Team Leader: Karlheinz Bulheller

Team Members: Jeff Gray, Nick von Baillou, Christian Fischer

**Carbon Nanotube Engineered Surfaces, LLC (Auburn):** CNES is a nanotechnology company that produces multi-walled composite materials at scalable manufacturing quantities at a fraction of current costs. The product offers stronger bonding composite materials, allowing end users to reduce material consumption while achieving the same, if not superior, mechanical and electrical properties.

Team Leader: Dr. Bud Brainerd

Team Members: Xinyu Zhang, Adam Ficken

**Endomimetics, LLC (UAB):** Endomimetics is dedicated to creating therapeutic solutions for medical problems in cardiovascular disease, wound healing, and diabetes. Its novel coatings for biomedical implants allow the body to better accept these medical devices.

Team Leader: Brigitta C. Brott

Team Members: Ho-Wook Jun, Stephen Snowdy, Thomas Barr

**Grace Innovative Technologies, Inc. (USA):** Grace is a medical devices and equipment company that is in the final development phase of its first product, a medical device to assist in diagnosis of abdominal penetrating trauma. The Trauma Wound Explorer ("T-Rx") is a catheter instrument that helps to quickly assess these wounds which often present in emergency rooms as complex and hard to diagnose.

Team Leader: Steve Cumbie

Team Members: Patrick Bosarge, Cheryl Winters

**inDegree (UAB):** inDegree is an alumni tracking service that helps universities stay connected with graduates and build stronger alumni communities, while helping students to leverage their alumni networks in the job market. The service benefits universities by helping them meet the compliance standards. For alumni, degree verification services give an advantage in the job market. The services are provided through applications that aggregate university transcript data with student/alumni social media profile data.

Team Leader: Alex Miningham

Team Members: Molly Wasko, Samuel Wasko

**Innovare Care (USA):** Innovare Care is developing new at-home sleep monitoring technology for obstructive sleep apnea hypopnea syndrome (OSAS) that will allow doctors to significantly expand their practice without increasing their staff or facilities. The device sends data from the home to the physician's office via the internet.

Team Leader: Paul Cox

Team Members: Jim Geyer, Don Meyer

**MicroGreen Technologies (UA):** MicroGreen technologies is developing a cost effective, environmentally sustainable agricultural crop fertilizer that delivers phosphate to plant roots through plant-beneficial microbes. The product reduces phosphate requirements and offers cost savings for farmers, environmentally friendly and sustainable crop fertilization, and decreased reliance on foreign phosphate sources.

Team Leader: Robert Martinez

**MilliTherm Technologies (USA):** MilliTherm is developing millimeter wave flowmetry technology to quickly and safely determine the rate of blood flow in a region of skin, without contacting the skin surface. The technology can change the standard of care for burns and other trauma and has applications for health care, fitness evaluation and medical research.

Team Leader: David Nelson

Team Member: S.J. Leavesley

**Nanogn (UA):** Nanogn is developing a nano drug delivery platform to reduce cost of current therapies, increase efficacy to patents, and increase the value of existing pharmaceutical companies IP portfolios. Nanogn offers both standard and custom libraries of high purity nano-peptide drug delivery complexes for use in drug screening, target validation, T-cell and B-cell epitope mapping, cytotoxic T-cell assays, protein-peptide binding assay, peptide vaccine development, and structure-activity studies.

Team Leader: Terrance Opichka

Team Member: Carol Duffy

**Oblique BIO, Inc. (UAH):** Using a new chemical process for oligonucleotide (oglio) synthesis, Oblique BIO will provide oligos for the molecular biology field in quantities needed by customers, increasing profit margins, and saving the customer money. Current oglio production methods have remained unchanged for 30 years and provide customers in excess of 100 times the oglios they need.

Team Leader: Lance Larka

Team Members: John Williams

**Proteomic Profiling Technologies LLC (UAB):** Proteomic Profiling Technologies is developing an automated process to improve scientific research at the molecular level by quantitative mass spectrometry using a proprietary product and software. The process facilitates high throughput screening identification of biomarkers of disease, quantitative determination of unknown components in complex mixtures, and targeted measurements of sample constituents.

Team Leader: Michael Heaven

Team Members: Erik Schweibert

**RaptorX (UAH):** RaptorX is developing a high resolution, wide field imaging system capable of capturing visual and spectral data from multiple platforms. The data is useful in multiple activities such as disaster response management and situational awareness.

Team Leader: Justin Morgan

Team Members: Ross Cortez

**Regenerative Solutions (UAB):** Regenerative Solutions is a contract research organization providing highly specialized preclinical testing for biotech/pharma offering improved pre-trial testing that offers more accurate prediction of a drug candidate's potential to "work" in human patient clinical trials.

Team Leader: Lousie Hecker

Team Members: Doug Ayers, James Childs, Perry Cronin



**Snip-IT (UAB):** Snip-IT enables users to segment You-Tube video without video editing software, allowing users to bookmark segments, play it in any browser, and embed in applications such as Microsoft PowerPoint.

Team Leader: Scott Brande

Team Members: Jeff Gray, Kursat Arslan

***About the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama:*** Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the Partnership represents the private sector's contribution to economic development in Alabama. Fully funded by some 70 leading companies invested in the state's long-term economic success, EDPA is a private, nonprofit organization that 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. EDPA provides these critical services through working relationships with the State of Alabama, local communities, institutions of higher education, and partnerships with business and industry. EDPA is a member of the Governor's Economic Development Alliance. [www.edpa.org](http://www.edpa.org)

**Contact:**

Wendy Johnson

[wwallace@edpa.org](mailto:wwallace@edpa.org), 205.943.4715

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