



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Susan Bardack/Buzz Media Solutions**

**Phone: (518) 867-7940**

**[susan@buzzmediasolutions.com](mailto:susan@buzzmediasolutions.com)**

**Elizabeth Glassanos/FuzeHub**

**[bethglassanos@fuzehub.com](mailto:bethglassanos@fuzehub.com)**

## **FuzeHub Announces Grant Awards to Support Innovation and Manufacturing Throughout New York State**

**In the first round of funding for 2018, close to \$300,000 is awarded to six projects, adding many high-skilled jobs to the workforce across New York State**

(Albany, NY – May 14, 2018) -- FuzeHub, a not-for-profit organization responsible for assisting small to medium-sized manufacturing companies (SMEs) in New York State by matching them with technical and business resources, recently awarded nearly \$300,000 to six companies through the Jeff Lawrence Innovation Fund.

**The Innovation Fund, consisting of \$1 million annually for five years, supports a set of activities designed to spur technology development and commercialization across New York State.** FuzeHub is administering this fund as part of its role as the Empire State Development (ESD)-designated statewide MEP center.

As part of the fund, in 2018 FuzeHub offers two rounds of Manufacturing Grant funding. The grants are available to New York State not-for-profit organizations, including higher education institutions, which are proposing innovative projects to be undertaken with small and mid-sized manufacturers or early stage companies. Projects can include adoption of new technology to enhance a process and/or product, prototype development, design for manufacturing, proof-of-concept manufacturing, certain equipment purchases, manufacturing scale-up, and other projects to advance manufacturing capabilities. The fund is also used to provide assistance to companies through an annual commercialization competition.

The sixth round of grant awardees plan to add over 50 new jobs to both existing and startup companies across New York State in the next two years. "The manufacturing grant program continues to produce highly competitive applications, and the latest round of winners is certainly a reflection of the innovation that is being realized across New York State," noted Julianne Clouthier, industry engagement manager for FuzeHub. "The infusion of FuzeHub funding has been recognized as being a catalyst towards significant impacts on these companies as well as being a contributor to the growing high-tech workforce that is needed throughout the innovation ecosystem," she added.

## **FuzeHub is pleased to announce the sixth set of grantees:**

### **Center for Economic Growth – VARA Corporation (Capital Region) \$50,000**

Vara Corporation is a firearm security company leading in design, technology, and user experience. Vara's mission is to create innovation that embraces customers' diverse lifestyles to enable safer, more convenient lives. In partnership with the Center for Economic Growth and support from FuzeHub's Jeff Lawrence Innovation Fund, Vara will be implementing a design for manufacturing project to assist them in creating new jobs, growing their supply chain, and improving their manufacturing capabilities here in Upstate NY.

### **Clarkson University – Create Orthotics and Prosthetics (North Country) \$49,200**

Create Orthotics and Prosthetics will work closely with Clarkson University to finalize the design, sourcing and manufacturing plan of the company's 3D printing systems. This project will lead to increased profitability at Create O&P, new manufacturing jobs in New York's North Country Region, and the commercialization of Create's cutting-edge fused deposition modeling printer head technology. Additionally, students at Clarkson University will benefit from real world experience in product design, process design, product sourcing and value engineering.

### **Regenerative Research Foundation - StemCultures, LLC (Capital Region) \$49,986**

The Regenerative Research Foundation (RRF) and StemCultures, LLC collaborate to develop, manufacture and distribute StemBeads®, a revolutionary controlled-release growth factor technology. The StemBeads® product is currently used for improved cell culture in more than 100 scientific laboratories globally. The enhanced manufacturing process supported by FuzeHub will provide an improved StemBeads® product to the research community through the use of a new microfluidic method and will foster compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices established by the Food and Drug Administration.

### **Rochester Institute of Technology - Enetics, Inc. (Finger Lakes) \$21,685**

The [Center of Excellence in Advanced and Sustainable Manufacturing \(COE-ASM\) at Rochester Institute of Technology](#) has partnered with Enetics, Inc., headquartered in Victor, NY, to design a test bed for advanced prototype and production unit testing of products that provide remote, near real-time condition monitoring of gas distribution pipelines. Natural gas distribution systems in the U.S. are under pressure to increase reliability and safety through monitoring. Enetics has partnered with multiple U.S. natural gas utilities to develop a first-of-its-kind telemetry product to remotely monitor the millions of miles of distribution pipelines. Under the project, COE-ASM will engineer and design a flow loop test bed for testing of gas telemetry systems. Upon COE-ASM's completion of the design, the test flow loop will be fabricated by Enetics as an on-site platform to rigorously replicate the testing of their telemetry system to ensure it performs effectively.

### **University of Rochester - EndoGlow (Finger Lakes) \$50,000**

This project will produce a medical device that fluoresces using near infrared imaging for clinical evaluation. The device is called "The GreenEgg" and is used in robotic-assisted surgery to help the surgeon identify critical anatomy and improve surgical efficiency. The project will complete proof-of-concept manufacturing including injection molding, safety testing, sterilization, and packaging validation necessary for FDA approval of the device. A mold for manufacturing will be fabricated for production of GreenEgg devices. The clinical evaluation trial data will support the application to the FDA for regulatory approval as well as publication in scientific journals and marketing materials.

### **University of Rochester - Imaginant, Inc. (Finger Lakes) \$50,000**

Professor Diane Dalecki of the University of Rochester Department of Biomedical Engineering is partnering with Imaginant, Inc. to develop ultra-high-frequency ultrasound transducers and novel batch-manufacturing processes for the biomedical and biotechnology markets. Imaginant, Inc., located in Pittsford, N.Y., is a world leader in ultrasonic instrumentation for non-destructive testing. This joint project enables the advancement of Imaginant's innovative, wafer-level, transducer-manufacturing process as well as the development of novel bioengineering applications and systems based upon these transducers.

For more information about the Jeff Lawrence Innovation Fund, visit <https://fuzehub.com/innovation-fund/> or contact Julianne Clouthier, Industry Engagement Manager at [julianne@fuzehub.com](mailto:julianne@fuzehub.com).

### **About Jeff Lawrence**

*During his more than 20 years at the Center for Economic Growth, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) affiliate in the Capital Region where he served as executive vice president and MEP Center Director, Jeff Lawrence directed programs of direct assistance to manufacturers and technology companies to increase their competitiveness. He is remembered for being an invaluable and generous mentor to many in the area's business community and a tireless advocate for manufacturing innovation throughout New York.*

### **About FuzeHub**

*FuzeHub is a not-for-profit organization that connects New York's small and mid-sized manufacturing companies to the resources, programs and expertise they need for technology commercialization, innovation, and business growth. Through our custom assessment, matching, and referral platform, we help companies navigate New York's robust network of industry experts at Manufacturing Extension Partners centers, universities, economic development organizations, and other providers. FuzeHub is the statewide New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program (MEP) center, supported by Empire State Development's Division of Science, Technology & Innovation.*

*For more information on FuzeHub, visit [www.fuzehub.com](http://www.fuzehub.com).*

### **About Empire State Development's Division of Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR)**

*Empire State Development's Division of Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) mission is to advance technology innovation and commercialization in New York State. NYSTAR's programs are designed to enable new and existing businesses to become more competitive through the use of innovative technologies, and emphasize the importance of working with industry to leverage the state's technology strengths. Through funded programs that support world-class technology research at colleges and universities, NYSTAR works to promote a robust network of industry-university partnerships throughout the state. It administers the New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which provides direct technology assistance to small and medium size manufacturers.*

###