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FuzeHub

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FUZEHUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2020 COMMERCIALIZATION COMPETITION

Six New York State entrepreneurs awarded a total of \$300,000 at fourth annual FuzeHub Commercialization Competition

(November 19, 2020) FuzeHub, a not-for-profit organization responsible for assisting small to medium-sized manufacturing and technology companies in New York State, is pleased to announce the winners of the FuzeHub Commercialization Competition, which took place November 18-19. Six companies were awarded \$50,000 each from the Jeff Lawrence Manufacturing Innovation Fund, which is supported by Empire State Development's Division of Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) and administered by FuzeHub.

During the competition, 14 finalists from across New York State pitched their innovations in front of a live virtual audience. A panel of three industry experts selected the award recipients based on the commercialization potential of their technology.

Winners include:

Paradigm of NY LLC - Rochester

Paradigm manufactures diesel emission control devices which uses their novel plasma technology to eliminate up to 98% of the carbon soot in diesel engine exhaust. Trucking fleets and bus fleets will reduce CO2 and improve fuel mileage up to 6%, reduce maintenance costs up to 25% and increase engine uptime.

Mechanismic Inc. - Stony Brook

Mechanismic Inc. is a Stony Brook University spin off with technology invented in the Computer-Aided Design and Innovation Lab in the Mechanical Engineering department. Their goal is to make Robotics affordable and fun for everyone without sacrificing the authenticity of design and engineering experience. Mechanismic Inc. has received SBIR/STTR phase I funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) as well as additional grants from the Stony Brook Manufacturing Technology Research and Consortium (MTRC), SensorCAT, NY-state SPIR program. The company, in collaboration with Stony Brook University, also received an award from the SUNY Research Foundation Technology Accelerator

Fund (TAF) program and received assistance from the NSF I-Corps program in helping conduct the customer discovery interviews and determine product-market fit. It is a C-Corp registered and located in NY State.

Hands-Free LLC – New York City

Hands-Free's mission is to increase independence and to improve quality-of-life and safety for the millions of people with physical and cognitive challenges who struggle with the task of putting on their shoes. Our product, Quikiks Hands-Free Shoes, is the first fully supportive and securely fastening footwear that allows people to easily get in and out without the need to bend over or use their hands.

WexEnergy LLC – Rochester

WindowSkin® by WexEnergy is a low-cost window retrofit that reduces operating expenses for building owners by improving the energy efficiency of aging windows, the most porous component of the building envelope. WindowSkin® improves comfort for building occupants, lowers energy bills for ownership and reduces carbon emissions for communities. No construction. No tools. No disruption.

Aviate Audio - Amherst

Aviate Audio, formed in Buffalo, NY by Ryan Jaquin and Shane Nolan (who each earned M.B.A and B.S. Degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University at Buffalo), won numerous competitions including UB's Henry A. Panasci Jr. Technology Entrepreneurship Competition (Panasci TEC) and the New York State Business Plan competition. Aviate Audio has successfully crowdfunded their innovative Airpatch device and is now preparing to deliver a range of new products that will utilize ultra-compact electronics, wireless communications and advanced processing to the audio industry.

Del Tocaroro (Norwhey) LLC - Ithaca

Norwhey is an innovative beverage company that focuses on sustainably fulfilling consumer needs through fermentation. Consumers are looking for foods and beverages that enable them to meaningfully balance their life, health, and planet. Norwhey leverages deep expertise in food microbiology and new product development to take underutilized food by-products and 'waste' and convert those into delicious, nutritious beverages that are better for consumers and the environment. Their first product, Norwhey Nordic Seltzer, uses yogurt whey, a by-product of the New York Yogurt industry, as its main ingredient. They work with companies to take every nutritious drop of yogurt whey, and with a proprietary fermentation process, upcycle it into a refreshingly delicious, low alcohol beverage naturally high in electrolytes, like calcium, and B vitamins. Norwhey is sustainability you can taste.

The Commercialization Competition was launched in 2017 to support pre-revenue businesses at a specific stage in their product development. Award money must be used to produce or improve upon a working prototype, enabling companies to pursue additional investments and customers, leading to commercialization of new products. The Competition is part of the Jeff Lawrence Innovation Fund, which supports activities designed to promote technology development and commercialization across New York State. The Fund deploys \$1 million annually and is administered by FuzeHub, the statewide New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership Center.

"FuzeHub is proud to be a part of New York State's entrepreneurial ecosystem, supporting our start-ups in overcoming hurdles to commercialization and success," said FuzeHub Executive Director Elena Garuc.

“These are companies to watch as they contribute to the growth of strategic emerging industries. We would also like to thank NYSTAR for its critical support for this program, and its support of New York’s robust network of innovation assets.”

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. 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 (MEP) center, supported by Empire State Development’s Division of Science, Technology & Innovation (NYSTAR).

About NYSTAR

The mission of Empire State Development’s Division of Science, Technology & Innovation (NYSTAR) 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 to 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 mid-sized manufacturers.

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.