UCF Spinout Runner Up for Cade Prize

A UCF spinout company won third prize in the intensely competitive Cade Museum Prize competition that rewards promising new medical technology.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

New UCF Tech May Lead To Inexpensive Biofuel

A University of Central Florida chemistry professor’s low-tech process for breaking down raw materials into sugar may be the linchpin for making low cost biofuels.

Thor Renewable Energy Inc. has secured an exclusive license to the technology and plans to expand its commercial-scale biofuel production facilities to Florida’s Space Coast later this year.

Richard Blair, assistant professor of chemistry and forensic science at UCF, and a biofuels specialist, uses a milling process to convert raw materials to simple sugars and other useful compounds. He was initially exposed to the general technique while working at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Blair’s process uses a rotating drum to grind raw materials and, in a twist, uses a natural and inexpensive catalyst to convert cellulose into simple sugars. Most techniques used today rely on sulfuric acid to spark the conversion process, resulting in hazardous byproducts that must be reprocessed prior to disposal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

UCF Researchers Make National List

The University of Central Florida has earned five research grants worth about $1.2 million from the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP), placing UCF among the top 10 award recipients in the country.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Purdue University, the University of Michigan and the University of California San Diego also landed five awards. Only the Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Maryland, University of Washington and Pennsylvania State University earned more grants.

DURIP awards totaling $54.7 million will help 190 researchers at 100 academic institutions purchase state-of-the-art research equipment.
NBIA's 26th International Conference Highlights Best Practices
UCFBIP Graduate and Client Honored During NBIA Awards Luncheon

The National Business Incubation Association (NBIA) recently held its 26th annual International Conference on Business Incubation in Atlanta, Georgia. The event, which took place at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel from May 6-9th, drew in nearly 600 attendees from across 28 countries and offered attendees the opportunity to learn, network and collaborate on new ideas to help entrepreneurs succeed. The NBIA Business Incubation Conference offered attendees an exclusive look at the best practices of business incubation from industry veterans, executives and leaders in business incubation. The conference showcased a unique panel discussion of managers of incubators and their clients who made the 2011 Inc. 500/5000 list for their companies, and won a panel discussion of managers of incubators and incubators who best exemplified excellence in their respective industry.

Dr. Tom O’Neal, Associate Vice President for Research & Commercialization and Executive Director of the Florida Economic gardening Institute, which oversees the GrowFL program at the University of Central Florida was recognized by Florida Trend Magazine as one of the top five political and government newsmakers of the year in Florida for his leadership with GrowFL.

O’Neal has a long history as both an entrepreneur and visionary for UCF. He assisted with several university spin-outs using technologies developed at the university, as well as founded UCF Business Incubation Program (UCFBIP), recognized by the National Business Incubation Association as “Incubator of the Year” in 2004. The UCFBIP provides assistance to entrepreneurs from ten locations across Florida with valuable assistance to help facilitate growth. O’Neal is in such demand that he is traveling the globe spreading his message about entrepreneurship and working to create partnerships with UCF.

O’Neal shares his commentary on the importance of supporting small-start-up businesses for the success of our economy below.

In these hard economic times, as America searches for solutions to its economic woes, it becomes clear that one of the most innovative and productive job creating engines is being overlooked.

A recent nationwide study came to a comprehensive conclusion, showing that it’s the young, small startup companies creating the most new jobs — about three million annually. And if you look closer, you will see that it’s a tiny segment of small companies — usually young in their existence — creating these jobs. The UCFBIP is helping support these businesses. In the last year it has accepted a record number of 64 new startup companies, and graduated more than 20 companies, many of which are now succeeding with further assistance from UCF programs such as GrowFL. Over the last ten years UCFBIP has helped more than 201 client companies that in 2011 accounted for more than 1,600 new jobs.

What kinds of businesses are these? A St. Cloud company helps Florida ranchers and farmers sell fresh, locally grown foods to Florida restaurants and hotels. A Daytona Beach graduate company is greasing up transistors to produce its patented wind turbine that out-performs anything on the market. A client company in Kissimmee recently completed filming a feature length motion picture. In Leesburg, a client company produced an award-winning video series on healthcare and was awarded by the National Business Incubation Association the title of 2012 Outstanding Incubator Client in the Non-technology category. A client company in the Central Florida Research Park, developing a platform that helps federal, state, and management agencies cope with tornadoes and hurricanes.

The bigger question is what can we do to help these companies?

If we work to increase the success rate of these companies, we can create greater prosperity. A recent study reported that five-year survival rate of new Florida establishments is 37 percent. That value places Florida dead last in the US in that statistical category. That’s right, 50th. Without even making a judgment on the good or bad thing, just think of the consequences of increasing that rate by 5% or 10%. We need to work towards the cultivation of fertile and strong companies, so that they can be successful to benefit everyone.

America’s greatness lies in our ability to adapt to new conditions with innovation and enthusiasm. That spirit of innovation and enthusiasm, combined with perseverance and an entrepreneurial culture, is what has made America prosperous. We continue to see this ingenuity played out daily in small, young startups across the country. Not all will survive, but we should create a nurturing environment where an entrepreneur’s lack of experience can be mitigated and pure market forces can be the main factor in determining survival. That’s where you’ll find the real wealth of our nation and region.

New UCF Tech May Lead To Inexpensive Biofuel

UCF Facts Did you know?

- Average SAT scores of incoming freshmen increased for the seventh consecutive year.
- Ranked second in Florida and 14th in the U.S. for number of first-time-in-college National Merit Scholars.
- UCF athletic programs begin BIG EAST conference play in 2013.
- In 2010, UCF awarded $908 million in financial aid to students.

The ball mill converts biomass immediately to a sellable product. It is inherently green and easily scalable: this is unique because many lab processes are not green or easily scalable,” Blair said.

Many biofuel production systems use sugars as the raw materials. The availability of sugar is often limited by crop performance: if crop yields are low, or if crops fail, then biofuels facilities — such as ethanol plants — do not have the sugar feedstock to produce.

Blair thought that the ball mill had potential for biofuel production because it will convert any type of biomass — from yard waste to scrap brush — into sugar and it doesn’t leave behind problematic by-products. For Thor this could eliminate the production of food supplies such as corn and soybeans, for raw materials or feedstock.

“UCF’s breakthrough cellulose-to-sugar technology is a novel, practical, and efficient path that broadens feedstock possibilities for biofuels production. This gives us more flexibility in site selection,” said Thor’s CEO Bill Cox.

“This also lessens our dependence upon specific feedstocks, and to inherent price swings that occur within all crop commodities.”

Cox learned of the UCF technology at the Space Coast Energy Symposium sponsored by the Florida CleanTech Acceleration Network in February. Thor plans to scale-up and incorporate UCF’s technology as part of its future commercial-scale biofuels production facilities, including a likely expansion in Brevard County later this year.

The company will use the technology to produce clean fuels that offer higher horsepower and lower emissions. Thor’s commercial plants could create over 90 jobs, and is currently working with Brevard County’s Economic Development Commission, and incubators who best exemplified excellence in their respective industry.

BDG Construction Services, a graduate of the UCFBIP, and Hometown Health TV, a client of the Winter Springs UCF Business Incubator, BDG Construction Services strives to provide clients with exceptional customer service through all stages of the construction process. Recent clients of BDG include: Walt-Mart stores in Bentonville, AR, Lilburne Healthcare in Kissimmee and the City of Winter Springs. Founders Jay Brown and Kevin Guiffee joined the UCF Business Incubation Program in 2009. Since then, BDG’s reputation across Florida quickly grew and the company saw a steady increase in success. Between 2009 and 2011, BDG Construction Services increased their revenues from $218,578 to $1 million.

Hometown Health TV was honored as the “Florida Companies To Watch” by Florida Trend Magazine. The company was founded in 2009 by Marc Roberts-Schwartz to help make the wait time for patients to see a doctor a better, more educational experience. According to a study done in 2003 by the American Medical Association, the average wait time for a patient to see a doctor is 20 minutes. Schwartz partnered with several physicians from Central Florida to launch “Hometown Health: Good Things for Everyone” – an exclusive, educational TV program is used by area medical organizations, local cable network, Internet and county health departments. The program is seen by area medical organizations, local cable network, Internet and county health departments. The program is seen by medical organizations, local cable network, Internet and county health departments.
UF Researchers Make National List

UF’s College of Optical Sciences has received a $250,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for its research in optical and optoelectronic devices. The grant is part of the Foundation’s solicitation for proposals to support research in optoelectronics and photonics. The project, titled “Optical and Optoelectronic Devices: A New Paradigm for Optical Interconnects,” is led by Professor Qun Huo, an assistant professor in the College of Optical Sciences.

Huo’s research focuses on the development of novel materials and devices for optical interconnects. The project aims to develop new materials and devices that can be used to create faster and more efficient optical interconnects, which are used to transmit information between different components in computers and other electronic devices.

The grant will support research on the development of new materials and devices for optical interconnects, including the development of new materials for optical waveguides and photodetectors. The project will also involve the development of new devices for optical interconnects, including new photodetectors and modulators.

“The grant will enable us to continue our research on the development of new materials and devices for optical interconnects,” Huo said. “We are excited to have the opportunity to work on this important area of research and to contribute to the development of new technologies that can help to advance the field of optical interconnects.”

The project is expected to take five years to complete. It is one of several grants that have been awarded to UF researchers in the College of Optical Sciences in recent years. The research is expected to have significant implications for the development of new technologies for optical interconnects, including new materials and devices for optical waveguides and photodetectors.
Scientists Use Nanotechnology to Hunt for Hidden Pathogens

Researchers at the University of Central Florida have developed a novel technique that may give doctors a faster and more sensitive tool to detect pathogens associated with inflammatory bowel disease, including Crohn’s disease.

The new nanoparticle-based technique also may be used for detection of other microbes that have challenged scientists for centuries because they hide deep in human tissue and are able to reprogram cells to successfully evade the immune system.

The microbes reappear years later and can cause serious health problems such as sepsis, endocarditis and diarrhea. Current testing methods to find these hidden microbes exist, but require a long time to complete and often delay effective treatment for weeks or even months.

UCF Associate Professor I. Manuel Perez and Professor Saleh Naser and their research team have developed a method using nanoparticles coated with DNA markers specific to the elusive pathogens. The technique is efficient and more accurate than current methods; it could be picking up even small amounts of a pathogen of just one cell. Most important, it takes hours instead of weeks or months of UCF’s old deliver results, potentially giving doctors a quicker tool to help patients.

“Our new technique has surpassed traditional methods,” said Naser, a professor at the UCF College of Medicine. “Without compromising specificity or sensitivity, the nano-method produced reliable and accurate results within hours compared to months.”

Sesame Oil: Opening New Doors in Research

Sesame oil has been known for more than 2,500 years, but now it is inspiring new ideas for the treatment of heart disease.

Dr. Sampath Parthasarathy, who holds the Florida Hospital Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Sciences at the College of Medicine’s Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, is talking about his research into the healing traits of sesame oil at a recent Luminary Presentation Series.

Dr. Parthasarathy is an internationally known cardiovascular scientist who also serves as Associate Director for Research at the Burnett school.

“Sesame oil is opening new doors in research,” Dr. Parthasarathy told an audience at the InterTechion Country Club in Winter Park. He cited sobering statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about heart disease in the United States: In 2008, more than 616,000 people died of heart disease. In 2010, coronary heart disease alone was projected to cost the U.S. $308 billion.

Sesame oil is a rich source of polyunsaturated fatty acids, antioxidants, and polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats that can keep cells and arteries healthy. It shows promise in controlling inflammation of the arteries, which can signal a buildup of fatty deposits, or atherosclerosis.

Dr. Parthasarathy said.

Dr. Parthasarathy cited a 2009 study from the Ohio State University, where he held the Klaassen Chair of Cardiovascular Surgery. Researchers used two groups of mice, one fed polyunsaturated oil and another fed saturated fats, to test their effect on heart disease. The group fed saturated fats showed more inflammation and more deposits, which can ultimately lead to heart disease.

“Sesame oil had the opposite effect,” he said.

A slide from the control group showed white spots along the inner linings of arteries, indicating atherosclerosis. But arteries from mice fed sesame oil were clear.

When asked how he uses sesame oil in his diet, Dr. Parthasarathy said he includes it two or three times a week in salads or stir-fries. He recently found his favorite way to use it was mixing it with peanut butter and using it in salad dressings. In Indian culture, he said people garnish it with garlic to promote healthy gums.

Although more research into sesame oil is needed, Dr. Parthasarathy said, it “is exciting and encouraged” by its potential benefits.

“It’s a great idea for those who want to get cholesterol down,” he said.

CREOL Celebrates 25th Anniversary in Style

On March 15-16, the CREOL, faculty, students and staff were treated to a wonderful show. It was the 25th Anniversary of the founding of CREOL — and what a celebration! A technical symposium was attended by 280 people including industrial affiliates, exhibitors, guests from industry and academia, and representatives from optics and photonics professional societies (OSA, SPIE, and LIA).

Nobel Laureate Jan Hall in the conference keynote address described the incredible array of opportunities offered by optical frequency combs, from ultra-precise clocks to super-resolution telescopes.

Nobel Laureate Nico Bloembergen gave some history of nonlinear optics (NLO) and 14 distinguished speakers from the U.S. and Europe and nine speakers from CREOL described advances in optics and photonics in areas in which the CREOL faculty members are performing state-of-the-art research.

One of the highlights of the event was the banquet held on the evening of March 15 and attended by 337 people, including President Hitt and Provost Waldrop and many of CREOL’s affiliates and long-time supporters. Senator Bill Nelson made some remarkable congratulatory remarks. CREOL founding Director M.J. Soileau gave an entertaining history of the trials and tribulations of developing a program that eventually became the first college devoted to optics and photonics in the United States.

The event also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Towers Laser Institute and, happily, Nobel Laureate Charles Townes himself, at the age of 96 made a surprise trip across the country to wish CREOL well. In 2010, coronary heart disease alone was projected to cost the U.S. $308 billion.

And IST Turns 30!

The Institute for Simulation & Training began a months-long celebration of its 30 years in simulation and training research at UCF with a special cake cutting in its Parthenon building on May 2.

The institute, established in 1982 and starting with only a handful of dedicated staff and faculty, the institute has grown to more than 250 faculty, staff and students operating out of three modern Research Park buildings.

Florida High Tech Corridor Council Connects Entrepreneurs with Tools to Thrive

For many entrepreneurs, one of the primary challenges of starting or growing a small business is knowing where to turn for help. Thanks to the Florida High Tech Corridor Council’s (FHGCC) Florida Virtual Entrepreneur Center, that help is now just a mouse-click away.

FHGCC, a regional economic development initiative of the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida and Florida Atlantic University, sponsored the program as part of its mission to grow high tech industry and innovation through research, workforce and mentorship development.

The Florida Virtual Entrepreneur Center online portal at fve.com connects entrepreneurs with the tools needed to start, expand or relocate a business. Completely free and easy to use, the site provides access to a host of governmental and commercial services including law, accounting, IT and communications, as well as the latest information on business permitting, regulations, tax incentives, funding sources and more.

“The FHVGC database is a fantastic tool that lets entrepreneurs know there are people out there willing to help,” said Matthew Inhoff, vice president of business development for EquityNet, a provider of business analysis and planning software.

“Our vision is to see a future where entrepreneurs that fund our business planning and funding tool via FV3C. Every county in Florida, as well as every state should have a tool like FLVEC.”

In its sixth year, FLVEC has grown to serve entrepreneurs in 37 counties, including UCF’s service area in central Florida. The Florida Virtual Entrepreneur Center team also expanded the redesigned site to offer additional resources to all counties throughout the state assisting even more startups.

Local, state and national professional service provider resources are intuitively organized in the database, allowing entrepreneurs to search by topic and directly engage with vendors who can serve their needs.

Not only can entrepreneurs search for resources for free, but also companies geared to help small businesses can register and list their contact information and business services at no cost. For more information including county sponsorship opportunities, log on to www.fve.com.

UCF Business Incubation Graduate Gets Deal on ABC’s “Shark Tank”

Phil Dumas, President of UniKey Technologies Inc. (UniKey), recently beat out more than 24,000 applicants for a spot on the May 18th episode of the ABC hit-series, “Shark Tank”. Dumas skillfully pitched his business concept to five investors on the season finale of the nationally televised show, successfully landing deals from all five investors.

“The Shark Tank” features entrepreneurs from across the country in need of capital who pitch their business ideas to a panel of elite investors. The investors (also referred to as “sharks”) then ask a series of rapid-fire questions to the entrepreneurs, sometimes causing them to sweat bullets about the risks and benefits of their business ideas. Dumas, a UCF College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS) ’05 alum, developed the UniKey idea and launched UniKey Technologies in 2010. UniKey Technologies, a UCF Business Incubation Program graduate, developed a high-tech lock that allows residents to simply touch their door to enter their home as long as they have their Smartphone with the UniKey application with them. The UniKey application is a patented “hands-free” Passive Keyless Entry system that can be easily integrated into any access control system to replace keys, codes and passwords.

For more information visit www.UniKeytech.com.
The City of Apopka is home to the newest location for the UCF Business Incubation Program. Expanding to ten sites across Central Florida, the Apopka site is located at 325 S. McGee Avenue, providing easy access to major arterial highways, with the goal to attract promising startup companies that will generate new jobs and fuel new economic activity.

“We are happy to have the University of Central Florida Business Incubator-Apopka program in our community and look forward to exciting things happening in Apopka,” said Mayor John H. Land.

The facility is equipped with a state-of-the-art training room that seats 40, with a large computerized presentation board and modern facilities as well as plenty of parking to accommodate training events and small seminar.

Gordon Hogan, director of the UCF Business Incubation Program, said Compendium Software Systems LLC, a woman-owned, high-tech small business, is the first client company to operate from the 8,000 square foot facility.

“We were previously working from the Sanford Incubator, which we loved but when we learned

Compendium is the creator of BrightFleet, a software-as-a-service company that provides award-winning fleet management solutions that help fleet owners save money and reduce risk by proactively identifying and mitigating risk among their drivers.

Hogan and Rick Parks, site manager at the UCF Business Incubation Program in Apopka, said they expect to add at least five more client companies this year once the companies complete the University’s Excellence in Entrepreneurship training program.

Dr. Teresa Nico, founder and executive director of the UCF Business Incubation Program, said the UCF Business Incubation Program has helped more than 200 companies. In a recent study updated in 2011 by an independent firm, the UCFBIP accounted for more than 1,600 jobs in the Central Florida area that year.

The UCF Business Incubation Program operates business incubation facilities in Orlando on the UCF Campus, at Central Research Facility near UCF and on East Colonial Drive, and in Kissimmee, St. Cloud, Daytona Beach, Sanford, Winter Springs and Leesburg, in addition to Apopka. Visit www.incubator.ucf.edu for more information.

Updated FHTCC Study Shows increases Economic Impact

A recently updated study of the University of Central Florida’s Business Incubation Program (UCFBIP) demonstrates the program’s impact on the regional economy, showing a total economic output from client and graduate companies that exceeds $560 million annually. Since 2009 when the Florida High Tech Corridor Council originally commissioned a similar study, the UCF Business Incubation Program has grown to include five new facilities around the region which have produced additional jobs and increased the level of employee earnings.

“The past two years – 2009 through mid-2011 – in the midst of the most severe national and statewide economic downturn in decades, the UCF Business Incubation Program has proven instrumental in the creation of almost 1,500 new jobs with earnings in excess of $52 million annually in the Metropolitan Orlando region,” reported William H. Owen, CRE, president and CEO of the research firm that conducted the study, WHOWC Consulting.

The updated analysis of UCF’s Business Incubation Program also shows that the program’s success rates have increased significantly since the 2009 study. Specifically, the incubator has increased the number of active client companies from 70 in 2009 to 2011 in 2011, and the aggregate number of employees in the client companies increased from 303 in 2009 to 721 in 2011 – an increase of 138 percent.

Using an industry standard ‘multiplier effect,’ these additional employees generated an additional 672 jobs within the Metro Orlando region, compared to 313 jobs in 2009.

“The explosive growth of UCF’s Business Incubation Program in just two years has been matched by an equally impressive impact on our regional economy,” said Randi Revitte, president of the Florida High Tech Corridor Council. “This study reveals the true power of incubation using UCF’s proven formula for success.”

Since its inception, the UCFBIP has serviced and worked with more than 200 emerging companies including 130 current clients as of February 2012.

To date, more than 69 companies have graduated from the incubation program, more than doubling the 30 graduates noted in the 2009 study. Of those 69 companies that had graduated when the report was prepared, 50 have remained in the Metro Orlando Region, providing 845 jobs, representing an 85 percent retention rate from the five incubators studied in 2009.

The total direct economic output of the graduated companies that have remained in the Metro Orlando region is estimated to be $54 million annually, a 70 percent increase over the 2009 estimate of $34.7 million. Additionally, the total jobs created by graduated firms equals 1,717 jobs with earnings of $69.8 million, compared to 1,000 jobs and earnings of $46.0 million in 2009.

By helping emerging companies in their early years, we are making a significant impact on the Central Florida economy and creating high-wage jobs that benefit our region,” said Tom O’Neal, UCF’s associate vice president for Research & Commercialization and executive director of the UCFBIP. “We look forward to helping more companies become successful, and we are very excited about adding the tenth incubator, located in downtown Apopka to the program.”

Following the 2009 study, local and county government partners funded the opening of five additional UCF incubators in Kissimmee, St. Cloud, Leesburg, Daytona Beach and Sanford, bringing the total to nine sites, and expanding the reach and accessibility of services to entrepreneurs throughout the Central Florida region.

Total annual funding for all nine current facilities topped $1.8 million in 2011 from city and county governments; however, the study estimated an annual return on investment of $9.1 million in the form of property, school and sales taxes from client and graduate companies. As well, the study calculated a separate ROI only looking at the facilities that were originally studied in 2009. The ROI of the original incubator sites in 2011 rose to more than $10 for every $1.00 invested, compared to a $5.25 return in the 2009 study.

Over the past 10 years (2002-2011) public government funding commitments for the UCF BIP have reached a cumulative total of $6.45 million provided by the University of Central Florida, Orange County, the City of Orlando, Seminole County, the City of Winter Springs, the City of Sanford, Lake County, the City of Leesburg, the City of St. Cloud, and the Florida High Tech Corridor Council. To view the entire study, visit www.floridahightech.com/publication/study/ucf- incubator-impact-study-update.pdf

UCF Facts Did you know?

- 8th Consecutive Year of More Than $100M Funding
- Saved $3.8 million in energy costs during the past 5 years
- Broadcasts WUCF and PBS programming to 3.5 million households
- UCF, founded in 1963, is the second largest university in the nation
- The Princeton Review and Kaplan’s name UCF a best value university, and Forbes ranked UCF one of the nation’s 50 most affordable public colleges
- Located in Orlando, Florida, UCF and its 12 colleges provide opportunities to 48,587 students, including 6,983 graduate students,
- 1,400 faculty members and 17,965 students. Programs lead to more than 800 bachelor’s and 225 master’s and 190 doctoral degree programs.
- Students come from all 50 states and 145 countries

The Office of Technology Transfer licensed a promising diagnostic test to RedHill Biopharma in September 2011. This biopharmaceutical company is developing a treatment for Crohn’s disease and will use this technology developed by the UCF team of researchers led by Dr. Saleh Naer, to strengthen its portfolio of medications that fight Crohn’s. RedHill will use Naer’s technology to screen Crohn’s patients for MAP (Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis) infection, which is thought to be present in nearly half of Crohn’s sufferers and a possible cause of the disease. The company will determine whether the developing drug RB101-104 will serve as an effective treatment option.
The UCF Venture Lab is an economic development program run by UCF Office of Research and Commercialization and the Orange County Government, to assist early stage entrepreneurs in creating high-growth companies in Central Florida. In addition to working with over 150 entrepreneurs annually, the Venture Lab is active with several development initiatives designed to provide funding and support to startup companies in two growing markets: clean technology and software. The two clean technology programs are Megawatt Ventures and the Florida Solar Energy Acceleration Network (FL-CAN). Megawatt Ventures was created with a $1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to provide seed capital and six months of mentoring to ten companies developing renewable energy technology across the state of Florida. Each company will produce a prototype and compete for a $100,000 Florida. Each company will produce a prototype and compete for a $100,000 prize and be invited to participate in the SUOC Startup Weekend event in Orlando, the premier sponsor of the first ever Canadian Acceleration Network (FL-CAN) startup competition. In its first several months of operation the Florida CleanTech Acceleration Network (FL-CAN) program has already made available to the public vital information that will aid in the creation of more clean technologies in the state.

In January the program created a one-stop shop to assist clean-tech entrepreneurs in finding funding. The program brings together business leaders, professional service providers, and investors. In March, in collaboration with several Florida universities and the Kennedy Space Center, FL-CAN made available a list of more than 450 intellectual properties, including patents, trademarks, and copyrights. These and other cataloged intellectual properties can be viewed at www.flcleantech.com/services/ip-catalog.

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The mentor network is designed to fill experience gaps common to most technology startups. These often include but are not limited to business model development, fundraising, and identifying a strategic path. Mentors offer a seasoned veteran as a resource that has “been there, done that” the first time. While the startup focuses on core efforts critical to success.

FL-CAN is funded with a $1.3 million grant from the United States Department of Energy to provide “seed capital” to promising technology companies. Each company will receive an additional $10,000 in seed funding and rent-free space in one of the six UCF Business Incubation Programs.

The UCF Venture Lab is dedicated to assisting entrepreneurs in transforming their ideas into sustainable companies with high-potential potential. Over 20 technology companies have been created in Florida as a result of the UCF Venture Lab’s role in Megawatt Ventures, FL-CAN, and Startup Orange County. For more details visit www.venturelab.ucf.edu.

Angel Network Created to Raise Capital for UCF Commercial Initiatives

The concept of “angels” as investors, known as “angels” or “seed investors,” has a long and storied history in the venture capital community or simply the guidance necessary to help entrepreneurs turn their ideas and innovations into viable companies. These and other cataloged intellectual properties can be viewed at www.flcleantech.com/services/ip-catalog.

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Angel investors, known as “angels” or “seed investors,” have a long and storied history in the venture capital community or simply the guidance necessary to help entrepreneurs turn their ideas and innovations into viable companies. These and other cataloged intellectual properties can be viewed at www.flcleantech.com/services/ip-catalog. The online database the program has made available are intended to support emerging technology-based businesses as they mature and demonstrate their market potential, making them more attractive to investors and helping entrepreneurs turn their ideas and innovations into viable companies.

The mentor network is designed to fill experience gaps common to most technology startups. These often include but are not limited to business model development, fundraising, and identifying a strategic path. Mentors offer a seasoned veteran as a resource that has “been there, done that” the first time. While the startup focuses on core efforts critical to success.

FL-CAN is funded with a $1.3 million grant from the United States Department of Energy to provide “seed capital” to promising technology companies. Each company will receive an additional $10,000 in seed funding and rent-free space in one of the six UCF Business Incubation Programs. The UCF Venture Lab is dedicated to assisting entrepreneurs in transforming their ideas into sustainable companies with high-potential potential. Over 20 technology companies have been created in Florida as a result of the UCF Venture Lab’s role in Megawatt Ventures, FL-CAN, and Startup Orange County. For more details visit www.venturelab.ucf.edu.
Technology Transfer Process Flow Chart

The team of experts in the Office of Technology Transfer at UCF works to bring impactful technology to market by carefully reviewing invention disclosures and working closely with UCF researchers to evaluate feasibility, novelty, and market potential. The team works to find the best industry partners to realize the technologies’ applications, through commercialization. To help navigate the process, a diagram is provided to the right of this paragraph, which outlines the process.

Contact the Office of Technology Transfer at UCF to partner with you!