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Press Release

Source: Great Lakes Entrepreneur's Quest

Great Lakes Entrepreneur's Quest Business Plan Competition Winners Announced

Thursday June 8, 2:59 pm ET

Rapid BioSense takes Grand Prize of \$25,000; Space Weather Forecasting is Runner-up; Blizzard Boost is New Business Idea Winner**Automation Alley Innovation Award goes to Check the Crib; NextEnergy Innovation Award won by EnVironmental Transportation - EcoV**

ANN ARBOR, Mich., June 8 /PRNewswire/ -- The Great Lakes Entrepreneur's Quest (GLEQ) business plan competition culminated its spring program with six companies pitching to a panel of four judges from the Michigan Venture Capital Association in the Grand Prize Ceremony last night at the Michigan Union at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

The panel of venture capital judges included Mina Sooch, Apjohn Ventures; Pete Farner, TGAP Ventures; Darrin Eaton, Oracle Capital Partners; and Tom Porter, EDF Ventures. The venue was highlighted with a keynote address by the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of The Barteck Group, Inc., John Barfield. A special recognition award to the Ann and Carman Adams Fund for the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan was delivered by Judy Johncox, Director for Venture Development at Wayne State University and GLEQ board member.

All teams participated in the full GLEQ program of educational training and networking events, one-on-one coaching with industry experts, and received written feedback on their business plans from investment experts.

The winning Emerging Company teams were:

- * Grand Prize -- \$25,000 cash and in-kind services:
Rapid BioSense -- John Cunningham -- Designs and markets a rapid biosensor able to detect bacteria and viruses in a liquid sample.
- * Runner-up -- \$5,000 cash and in-kind services:
Space Weather Forecasting -- Joshua Botkin -- Technology developed at the University of Michigan to help clients protect their high-value assets from the destructive and costly effects of solar storms and other forms of space weather.
- * Automation Alley Innovation Award -- \$12,500 investment and in-kind services:
Check the Crib -- Oliver Baer -- An industrial spare parts solution improving MRO processing for manufacturers and their suppliers.
- * NextEnergy Innovation Award -- \$12,500 investment and in-kind services:
EnVironmental Transportation Solutions - Richard Marks - EcoV Electric, an electric vehicle.

Additionally, winners in the early-stage New Business Idea category were:

- * 1st Place -- \$5,000 cash and in-kind services:
Blizzard Boost - Mervyn Carse - Next-generation all electric hybrid

intercooler/supercharger

* Runner-up -- \$1,000 cash THREE-WAY TIE!

Blaze -- Michael Tarasev -- Develop and market blood analysis devices.

Intelligun -- Yishai Mendelsohn -- Design and sell a patented safety system for firearms.

Eventrue -- Charles Du -- Coupon-on-paper-system online.

In-kind donations of consulting time and business advice from venture capitalist, legal, accounting, public relations and internet marketing are provided by:

Michigan Venture Capital Association; Butzel Long; Miller, Canfield PC; Barnes & Thornburg; Eiler Communications; Lambert Edwards & Associates; Plante Moran; and Net Portfolio.

The GLEQ is a nonprofit educational program designed to accelerate the formation of high-growth companies throughout Michigan. "Our winners represent a robust cross-section of technology companies," said Art DeMonte, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Entrepreneur's Quest. "From life sciences and advanced automotive to alternative energy and space technology, we expect many of them to contribute to Michigan's economy."

Interested entrepreneurs who would like to learn more about the Quest, please visit <http://www.gleq.org> .

About the Great Lakes Entrepreneur's Quest

The GLEQ is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational program designed to accelerate the formation of high-growth companies across Michigan. Anyone who lives, works or attends school in Michigan can participate in the competitions and educational programs at no cost. The organization is currently sponsored by the Ann and Carman Adams Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, Wayne State University, Apjohn Group, NextEnergy, Automation Alley, Southwest Michigan First, MPI Research, Samuel Zell and Robert H. Lurie Institute at the University of Michigan Business School, The Right Place and Lambert, Edwards & Associates. Founded in 2000, the GLEQ has awarded over \$700,000 in prize money during the first five years of its annual business plan competition, which is aimed at encouraging and educating entrepreneurs on the creation, start-up, and commercialization of high-growth businesses within the state of Michigan. Additional information is available at <http://www.gleq.org> or by calling Art DeMonte, GLEQ Executive Director, at 734.913.0090.

Source: Great Lakes Entrepreneur's Quest

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