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Three Innovation Entrepreneurs Vie for Coastal Pitch Competition

Three tech-based companies will participate in the first annual Gulf Coast Pitch Event to be held October 17 at the Great Southern Club in Gulfport, Mississippi. The pitch contestants include 1) Soldier Fly from Baton Rouge, LA 2) Innovative Imaging & Research from Stennis, MS and 3) DaVinci Research Solutions from Mobile, Alabama. The multi-state collaboration is co-hosted by the Small Business Innovation Research Consortium (SBIRC), Louisiana Technology Transfer Office, Marine Industries Science & Technology Cluster (MIST) and Innovate Mississippi.

“The pitch competition will showcase tech talent, provide business-to-business networking, and allow entrepreneurs to meet investors in a social setting,” says Andy McCandless, SBIRC Chairman. Joe Graben, MIST Manager, adds “The idea of the pitch event is to compound the efforts of smaller states to increase our competitiveness as a region. We are excited about the line-up of pitch companies!”



Soldier Fly Technologies is a startup based in Louisiana that focuses on alternative proteins for pet and animal nutrition. By 2050, the world's population will increase by 30% and we will demand 60% more food than we currently produce. Our oceans are under pressure to keep up with current fish meal demands and there are needs for alternative proteins. Our company uses insects to recycle food waste into a sustainable protein that will supplement the use of fish meal and soybean meal in current livestock feeds.

Learn more at www.soldierfly.com

"The Soldier Fly Technologies team is beyond excited to participate in the upcoming Gulf Coast Pitch Event. As a business startup, entrepreneur events like these are essential to the development of our company, and we would like to thank the SBIRC and its partners for the opportunity," says Vance Noland, Business Development Director.



Innovating Imaging and Research (I2R) of Mississippi develops precision, electro-optical imaging technologies for scientific remote sensing applications. I2R has developed near-real time high speed, high dynamic range imaging capabilities for rocket motor test and launch monitoring and is now developing a new generation of nighttime imaging technologies to enable quantitative nighttime remote sensing.

Learn more at www.i2rcorp.com

Mary Pagnutti, co-founder of I2R, believes "there are tremendous opportunities to use quantifiable night-acquired imagery to monitor socioeconomic conditions, measure atmospheric properties, support climate research and gather commercial intelligence. I am excited and pleased to participate in the Gulf Coast Pitch. Events like this enable us to hone our ideas and increase our chances to bring our ideas to fruition."



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DaVinci of Alabama - when a patient participates in a clinical trial, billing performed by the healthcare provider is complicated. The responsibility for correcting errors often lands on the lap of the patient and can result in hefty fines for the healthcare provider. CAPTURE is a web-based financial tool designed to automate the research billing accountability process, thus improving the patient experience and mitigating risk of compliance. CAPTURE is a joint venture product of Da Vinci Research Solutions and Phase Up Research.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to present to this innovative group," comments Beth Higdon, CEO of Da Vinci. "We are proud of what we've been able to accomplish and know that it will make a positive impact for those conducting clinical trials, as well as the patients. We welcome feedback and guidance from experienced entrepreneurs," adds business partner Rhonda Paz, PhD, CEO of Phase Up.

Learn more at <http://www.davinciresearchsolutions.com/>

The Gulf Coast Pitch Night is supported by a growing list of sponsors, including Title Sponsor Callais Capital, Cara Stone, Baker Donelson, MIST, Model Content, IDEA Village, and the Louisiana Technology Park. This mix of sponsors signals a diverse gathering expected for this innovation event. The sponsors will help underwrite the event and support the pitch winner package, valued at \$10,000 of cash and in-kind services.



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