



M A R Y L A N D
INCUBATOR COMPANY
OF THE YEAR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Innovative Businesses Recognized at Ninth Annual Maryland Incubator Company of the Year Awards

Envisionier Medical Technologies, Oculis Labs, Inc., Lurn, Inc., Encore Path, Inc., WGS Systems, Inc., Gliknik, Inc., and A&G Pharmaceutical, Inc., receive honors. Ann Lansinger inducted into the Robert A. Spar Hall of Fame

COLUMBIA, Md. (June 17, 2009) – The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), RSM McGladrey Inc., and Saul Ewing LLP announced Tuesday evening the winners of the ninth annual **Maryland Incubator Company of the Year Awards** during a reception at the Center Club in Baltimore. The awards, chosen by a selection committee comprised of venture capitalists and government and business leaders, recognized the achievements of six companies currently located in Maryland's incubators and one graduate company. The awards were presented by Henry "Pete" Linsert, President and CEO of Columbia Biosciences Corp., and Konstantina Katcheves, Partner and Co-Chair of Saul Ewing's Patent Practice Group.

"The winners and participants of the 2009 Maryland Incubator Company of the Year Awards are to be commended for their forward thinking leadership, as well as the significant role they play in strengthening Maryland's economy," said DBED Secretary Christian S. Johansson. "Fostering a supportive environment for these cutting edge companies is a critical part of our strategy to advance Maryland as a national leader in technology and innovation."

"The Maryland Incubator Company of the Year Awards has developed into one of the region's most elite and prestigious recognition programs," said Renée Winsky, president and executive director of TEDCO. "TEDCO is pleased to honor the success and hard work of these promising companies and we congratulate the incubator managers who support them."

The winning companies were selected based on the organization's goals and its success in achieving the objectives. Judges considered factors such as technology or product development; proprietary intellectual property; increase in employee numbers; growth in revenue or earnings; engagement of significant customers and strategic partners; receipt of awards or grants; attraction of outside investors; innovation; self-sufficiency; impact on the region; and usage of the incubator's services.

"The 2009 winners demonstrate the vision and fortitude it takes to succeed as an early-stage company," said Konstantina Katcheves, a partner at Saul Ewing LLP. "In spite of an uncertain economy, these companies have developed novel technologies and advanced concepts that make a difference in our everyday lives. Saul Ewing congratulates this year's winners and applauds the work of the Maryland incubator community."

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“We are incredibly fortunate to have these outstanding companies right here in Maryland,” said Brian S. Meritt, a managing director with RSM McGladrey Inc. “From companies that develop e-learning technology platforms to cutting edge therapies for cancer patients, our incubators spark innovations that change the American technology landscape. RSM McGladrey is pleased to be affiliated with these rapidly emerging companies and the Maryland incubator system, which helps them achieve their visions.”

The categories and award winners (incubator in parentheses) are:

Life Science Company of the Year – **Envisionier Medical Technologies** (Rockville Innovation Center, Rockville) *Developed and markets the endogo®, the world’s first palm-held endoscopic imaging system.*

Information Technology Company of the Year – **Oculus Labs, Inc.** (NeoTech, Columbia) *Creates pioneering software solutions to protect data privacy that is more effective, more efficient, and at a lower cost than current solutions.*

Technology Service Company of the Year – **Lurn, Inc.** (Technology Advancement Program, University of Maryland College Park) *provides a range of products and services including online training courses and live events on a variety of online marketing topics, online communities and publications for internet marketers and e-learning technology platforms for educators of business and marketing professionals.*

New Incubator Company of the Year – **Gliknik, Inc.** (UMB BioPark BioInnovation Center, University of Maryland, Baltimore) *Develops immune modulators that boost the body’s immune response to tumor antigens.*

Technology Transfer Company of the Year – **Encore Path.** (Emerging Technology Center, Baltimore) *Develops stroke rehabilitation technologies and recently introduced the Tailwind arm rehabilitation device for stroke survivors.*

Homeland Security Company of the Year – **WGS Systems, Inc.** (Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Frederick) *Provides premier defense and homeland security services that provide excellence in systems development, systems engineering, and contract support services.*

Graduate Company of the Year – **A&G Pharmaceutical, Inc.** (graduate of the Emerging Technology Center, Baltimore; currently located in Columbia, MD) *creates and develops monoclonal antibodies to cancer specific targets as a basis for novel therapeutic and diagnostic products.*

Robert A. Spar Hall of Fame – **Ann Lansinger** (President of the Emerging Technology Centers at Canton, Johns Hopkins Eastern and Baltimore Development Corporation)

For the first time, an individual, rather than a company, was inducted into the Robert A. Spar Hall of Fame. Ann Lansinger currently heads up the Emerging Technology Centers, a non-profit business incubator program with two facilities in Baltimore City. She is a pioneer in developing programs for technology commercialization and venture creation, and she has been a champion of business incubation in Maryland for over twenty years. Ms. Lansinger was the Founding President of the Maryland Business Incubator Association (MBIA) and serves on the board of the National Business Incubation Association (NBIA), among others.

This year’s selection committee included: Jonathan Aberman, Amplifier Ventures; Tanya Dobash Berlage, Saul Ewing LLP; Patrick A. Cairnes, Montagu Newhall Associates, Inc.; Brian Carney, Harbert Venture Partners; Martha Connolly, Maryland Industrial Partnerships at University of Maryland; Christine Copple, Starise Ventures; Chuck Cullen, Grotech Ventures; Brian Darmody, University of Maryland, Research & Economic Development; Randy Domolky, Liquid Capital Group; David Freschman, Innovation Capital Advisors, LLC; Jay Fridkis, CentreTEK Solutions; Valerie Gaydos, Fifty-First Associates, LLC; Tom Gillespie, In-Q-Tel; Elizabeth Good Mazhari, University of Maryland, Baltimore; Mark Grovic, New Markets Growth Fund; Mike Gutch, HIG Ventures; Jack Hollerbach, HarVest Bank of Maryland; Andy Jones, Boulder Ventures; Tina Katcheves, Saul Ewing LLP; Rick Kohr, Evergreen Capital, LLC; Steve Kozak, Greater Baltimore Technology Council; Lenard Marcus, Edison Venture Fund, Aris Melissaratos, Johns Hopkins University, Tech Transfer Office; Robbie Melton, TEDCO; Brian

Meritt, RSM McGladrey, Inc.; Joe Migliara; Dave Mott, New Enterprise Associates; Eric Orlinsky, Saul Ewing, LLP; Alexander Perry, Anthem Capital; Jigar Raythatha, Red Abbey Venture Partners; Michael Salgaller, Biologics Consulting Group, Inc.; Paul Silber, Silber Associates; Kyp Sirinakis, MASA Life Science Ventures LP; Sever Totia, Edison Venture Fund; Geeta Vemuri, Quaker BioVentures; Christian Walker, Toucan Capital Corp.; Jonathan Wallace, WWC Capital Group; Ben Wu, DBED; Matt Zuga, Red Abbey Venture Partners.

Maryland Incubator Company of the Year Awards recognize the achievements of current and graduate companies within Maryland's incubators. Application finalists and category winners are chosen by a group of regional industry leaders and early stage investors. The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), RSM McGladrey Inc., and Saul Ewing LLP are the awards' sponsors. The Maryland Business Incubation Association (MBIA) and the Mid-Atlantic Venture Association (MAVA) are partners of this year's program. For more information, visit www.mdincubatoraward.com.

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