



MARYLAND
INCUBATOR COMPANY
OF THE YEAR
2004

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Finalists Chosen for 2004 Maryland Incubator Company of the Year Awards

18 Finalists Chosen in Six Categories from Maryland Business Incubators – Winners to be Announced on June 16

COLUMBIA, Md. (May 12, 2004) – American Express Tax and Business Services, the Maryland Business Incubation Association (MBIA), the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) and Saul Ewing LLP today announced 18 finalists chosen in six categories for the fourth annual **Maryland Incubator Company of the Year Awards**. The awards recognize the achievements of current and graduate companies within Maryland's incubators. Winners from each category will be announced at a reception on Wednesday, June 16, 2004 at The Center Club in Baltimore.

"From a company in Baltimore using nanotechnology to bond materials together to a company in Annapolis developing countermeasures for anthrax, this year's finalists reflect the incredible breadth of innovation and technology being developed all around the State of Maryland," said Robert A. Spar, Esq., a partner at Saul Ewing. "Saul Ewing is proud to support and recognize the accomplishments of these cutting edge companies."

Secretary of DBED, Aris Melissaratos, said, "We are fortunate to have so many outstanding companies that have benefited from Maryland's incubator system and that enhance Maryland's reputation as the Technology State. The Incubator Company of the Year Awards spotlight the emerging technology that these companies have developed, as well as the impact of the prominent incubation system in the state."

The categories, finalists and incubators are:

Lifescience Companies

Biosurface Engineering Technologies, Inc. (TAP)
PharmAthene, Inc. (CIC)
ProteinOne, Inc. (TAP)

Technology Services Companies

DH Web, Inc. (TIC)
StreamCenter, Inc. (TAP)
Telecontinuity, Inc. (MTDC)

Graduate Companies

Cybergroup, Inc. (UMBC)
Reactive NanoTechnologies, Inc. (ETC)
Syntonics LLC (NeoTech)

Information Technology Companies

AgentSmith, Inc. (ETC)
Plethora Technology (NeoTech)
Salar, Inc. (ETC)

Technology Transfer Companies

Advanced Vision Therapies, Inc. (MTDC)
Biosurface Engineering Technologies, Inc. (TAP)
Fluorometrix (UMBC)

New Incubator Companies

BDMetrics, Inc. (UMBC)
MEDI-FLAG Corp. (GIEC)
StreamCenter, Inc. (TAP)

[Incubator key: Technology Advancement Program (TAP), College Park; Chesapeake Innovation Center (CIC), Annapolis; Emerging Technology Center (ETC), Baltimore; NeoTech Incubator, Columbia; Technical Innovation Center (TIC), Hagerstown; Maryland Technology Development Center (MTDC), Rockville; techcenter@UMBC at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Catonsville; Garrett Information Enterprise Center (GIEC), McHenry.]

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“Maryland’s incubators have flourished in creating and graduating promising companies that promote economic development in the technology industry, as well as in the state,” said Brian S. Meritt, managing director, Technology/Emerging Growth Companies Practice of American Express Tax and Business Services. “We are pleased to recognize these companies, which have become pioneers in their fields, by nominating them for these awards.”

Ann Lansinger, president of the MBIA and executive director of the Emerging Technology Centers in Baltimore, said, “The incubators in Maryland provide the support needed to create a foundation for success for small, start-up businesses. Thanks to this year’s sponsors, the awards give these companies the recognition and confidence they need in their product or service as they continue to grow.”

The selection committee this year included: James Broder – eCentury Capital Partners; Christine Copple – ASM Resources; Josh E. Fidler – Boulder Ventures; Chris Foster – DBED; David Freschman – Delaware Innovation Fund; Elizabeth Good – State of Maryland, Investment Financing Group; Mark Grovic – University of Maryland Dingman Center; Charles Heller – Beacon Global Private Equity; Paul Jan – Sterling Venture Partners, LLC; Hooks Johnston – Valhalla Partners; Richard A. Kohr, Jr. – Chesapeake Emerging Opportunities Club; Peter Krawiec – Mid-Atlantic Venture Funds; Penny Lewandowski – Greater Baltimore Technology Council; John May – New Vantage Group; Brian S. Meritt – American Express Tax and Business Services; Eric Orlinsky and Rob Spar – Saul Ewing LLP; Alexander Perry – Anthem Capital; Michael Salgaller – Toucan Capital Corp.; Heidi Sheppard and Phillip Singerman – TEDCO; Stefan Strein – NextGen Capital; Stanley Tucker – MMG Ventures; Dr. Geeta S. Vemuri – Quaker BioVentures, Inc.; Steve Walker – Walker Ventures; and Nora Zeitz – Enterprise Development Organization.

“The successes of these companies wouldn’t have been possible without the incubators, the incubator managers and the guidance of the Maryland Business Incubation Association, which all help to drive the success of technology and economic growth in the state,” said Phillip Singerman, executive director of TEDCO. “These awards showcase the many outstanding companies that have benefited from Maryland’s incubator system, one of our strongest resources to promote and enhance technology companies in the state.”

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. American Express Tax and Business Services, the Maryland Business Incubation Association (MBIA), the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), the Maryland Technology Development Corp. (TEDCO) and Saul Ewing LLP are the awards’ sponsors. For more information, visit www.mdincubatoraward.com.

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