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Finalists in State’s Innovate Illinois Competition Announced

Twelve of the state’s most innovative entrepreneurial companies compete for \$80,000 in awards

CHICAGO – Twelve companies will compete for a chance to be named one of Illinois’ most innovative companies after advancing to the final round of the Innovate Illinois competition. Companies applied in autumn to present in one of three semifinals competitions for the northern, central and southern area of the state. The top four presenters from each of the three regional semifinals were advanced to the Finals, which includes two competition tracks for early and later-stage companies. The companies are competing for a chance to win \$80,000 in prize money, which will be used to help commercialize their product. The two top honorees at the finals will each receive a \$30,000 cash prize, and the two runners-up will each receive a \$10,000 second place prize. The finals will be held on Thursday, December 16 from 12:00 pm – 5:30 pm at the University of Chicago’s Gleacher Center. Finalists will have seven minutes to present their innovations to a panel of judges followed by a three minute question and answer session.

The Innovate Illinois program is administered jointly by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center, an affiliate of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, which works to accelerate high-growth entrepreneurial companies. To learn more about the program, visit www.innovateillinois.org.

“The future of the Illinois economy depends in large part on our ability to leverage our existing strengths to develop new opportunities,” said DCEO Director Warren Ribley. “The Innovate Illinois competition provides the state’s best and brightest with important resources to develop their ideas into market successes, and supports our efforts to further innovation in the state.”

The 2010 Innovate Illinois finalists are:

Early Stage Companies	Location	Contact	Company Summary
Diagnostic Photonics	Champaign	Scott Carney	The company is developing a state-of-the-art, high resolution, imaging technology for real-time, in vivo use in the surgical suite.

HeartSounds	Brookfield	Michael McCoy	A medical device company focused on providing “smart” cardiac monitoring solutions that will improve efficiencies and advance the overall quality of patient care.
Lumec	Peoria	Paul Luebbers	Presently developing its Dynamic Orifice Valve, a highly capable flow control device for commercial natural gas combustion processes.
R&R Racing	West Frankfort	Brett Ray	Created a new design for a motorcycle brake master cylinder. It will dramatically improve safety for motorcycles.
Six Convert, LLC	Collinsville	Jeffrey Fornero	Developing an environmentally sustainable wastewater treatment practices that will reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
VesselTek BioMedical	Chicago	Guillermo Ameer	The company is developing an implantable devices to improve the outcome of open and endovascular therapies.

Later Stage Companies	Location	Contact	Company Summary
Cazoodle	Champaign	Govind Kabra	Builds new search engines through the strength of their Data Factory technology that can crawl and transform the unstructured Web content into structured format.
Dr. Paul’s Piggy Paste	Washington	Paul Kinsinger, MD	Produces a topical, over the counter product to improve the appearance of thick ugly toenails.
Innovative Exams	Chicago	Ruben Garcia	Developed a self-service computerized testing system that allows candidates to take an exam while preventing cheating and protecting content.
Neurowave Medical Technologies	Chicago	Farhan Hussain	Develops advanced neuromodulation devices for the treatment of a range of acute and chronic conditions.
Potential Pallet	Effingham	Jude Koester	A pallet remanufacturing business that handles used pallets that would otherwise be put in landfills. They repair the pallets for resale at a discounted price to the customer.
WBT	Salem	Gregg Winn	Manufacturers wire mesh cabletray products. The trays support, protect and provide a pathway for cabling, and are used in datacom, electrical, and industrial environments.

Of the over 90 companies from across the state that applied to the 2010 Innovate Illinois program, 38 were selected to present at one of three regional semifinals competitions, hosted by the Southern Illinois

University Carbondale Office of Economic and Regional Development, the Bradley University Entrepreneurship Center and the Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center. The top four presenters from each of the regional semifinals were then advanced to the statewide finals, which includes two competition tracks for early and later-stage companies.

Semifinalist companies in the later stage were: Bolder Thinking, Cazoodle, CMMS Data Group, Dr Paul's Piggy Paste, InContext Solutions, Innovative Exams, LLC, NaturalMed Apothecary, Inc., Neurowave Medical Technologies LLC, Potential Pallet, Practice Velocity, LLC, Shift Worldwide, LLC, Southern Illinois Garden Supply, Vobal Technologies, LLC, and WBT.

Semifinalist companies in the early stage were: Algorithm Cabinet LLC, Church Music Solutions, D.M. Mattson, Inc., Diagnostic Photonics, Inc., Farm and Ranch Technologies, Kamelflage, L.B. Richwood, Lotus Creative Innovations, Lumec Control Products, Inc., On Your Own Emergency Survival Kits, PrintEco Inc., R&R Racing, Rover Enterprises, LLC, Six Convert, LLC, and Sugar Rides Inc.

The Entrepreneurship Centers are part of the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network (IEN), administered by DCEO. The IEN was created to strengthen the state's capacity to develop small businesses into market successes and help entrepreneurship act as a more dynamic engine of growth. IEN partners, which offer varying levels of expertise and access to services, include: Entrepreneurship Centers, Small Business Development Centers, Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, SBDC International Trade Centers, and Manufacturing Extension Centers. Entrepreneurs in need of assistance can visit the IEN Web site at www.ienconnect.com, or call the DCEO Business Hotline toll-free at **1-800-252-2923**.

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