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UCF Incubation Program Expands – New Centers Added in Orlando and Seminole County

Nearly 200 people, including city, county and university officials, united in February 2008 to open the latest expansion of the University of Central Florida Incubation Program in Winter Springs – the new UCF Seminole County Incubator.

Like its sister program, the UCF Technology Incubator in Orange County, the 10,000 square foot Seminole incubator provides office space for emerging high-growth companies, as well as coaching and mentoring, training, educational and networking opportunities. The goal of those involved with the incubator is simple: provide enough assistance to area business start-ups that will help them make an impact on the economy.

Celebrating the grand opening of the new UCF Incubator-Seminole County are (left to right): Charles Lacey, Board President, Oviedo-Winter Springs Chamber of Commerce; Tom O’Neal, UCF; John Hitt, UCF President; Brenda Carey, Chair, Seminole County Board of County Commissioners and John F. Bush, Mayor, City of Winter Springs.

University-Driven Community Partnership Provides Early Stage Companies With Enabling Tools, Training And Infrastructure

The UCF Incubation Program is a family of business incubation facilities in Metro Orlando to provide tools, training, infrastructure and more to start-up companies in the community. In partnership with a wide array of organizations, UCF has established facilities in five locations to serve various sectors of the community.

Business incubation is a critical element of Metro Orlando’s economic development strategy. Studies show that 95% of companies stay in the community where they are established. Incubator support greatly reduces the risk of failure and 87-91% of companies that graduate from an incubator program are still in business five years later.

Since its opening in 1999, the Incubator has served over 100 emerging companies (including over 60 current clients), which have generated over 900 new jobs and more than $200 million in annual revenues.
Welcome to the inaugural issue of The Accelerator newsletters. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our clients, partners, sponsors, volunteers, and staff informed about the activities of the UCF Incubation Program.

Let me start out by highlighting the goal of the UCF Incubation Program (UCIFP) and its community partners, which is to facilitate smarter, faster startup and growth of emerging companies so those companies will become financially successful, high growth companies in the community.

UCIFP clients are provided an array of business development services and resources to help accelerate growth. The formal incubation process takes place through a series of strategic and tactical working sessions. The strategic sessions are designed to help define the company business, market and capital strategies and to build the business plan. Expertise and resources are identified for the company to utilize in addressing tactical needs as they are identified through the strategy sessions or through other informal interactions with Incubator staff and advisors.

UCIFP is a University-driven community partnership providing early stage companies with the enabling tools, training and infrastructure to create financially stable high growth enterprises.

Combined with efforts by other organizations such as the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, City of Orlando, Orange County Government, Seminole County Government, the city of Winter Springs, and others, the region will soon become one of the nation’s premier locations for high-tech enterprises. In partnership with a wide array of organizations, UCF has established facilities in five locations to serve various sectors of the community and consists of over 80,000 square feet.

Dr. O’Neal said he has a goal of filling the remaining 13 openings within the next year. “If we just add one a month, we’ll be there.” While some are high-tech companies, O’Neal said other businesses also are welcome, as one of the seven new members is a law firm, another a wireless communications company and yet another specializes in finding obsolete technology.

In addition to the opening of the Winter Springs facility, the UCF Incubation Program opened the Orlando Business Development Center, District 2 (OBDC2). Created as the vision of retired Orlando City Commissioner Berry T. Wyman, the OBDC2 incubator will be used to accelerate the growth and success of entrepreneurial companies in Orlando’s District 2 region. Wyman’s legacy continues with efforts spearheaded by Commissioner Tori future.

Site Manager, Jacqueline Barton commented “As Orlando’s only mixed-use and green incubator, our focus is to serve a variety of businesses as an economic development tool that fosters growth and entrepreneurship in an environmentally-friendly way.” Barton added that the OBDC2 is full with four in-house client companies and recently added a fifth virtual client. Plans for the facility are to expand by January 2009 with ten additional offices. Funding for the facility is provided by the City of Orlando in partnership with UCF.

The Accelerator Incubation Program has established a strong Advisory Board to coordinate the efforts of both the University and the community in providing tools and resources that enhance the prospects for the commercial success of developing companies. The Board serves as a liaison between the Incubator, the University, and the Central Florida community.

UCF Incubation Program Advisory Board – Spotlight

Jim Boyle, Managing Partner, Inflexion Partners

Jim is a venture capital investor with over 15 years of experience, primarily on behalf of Northern Telecom, Bell Canada Enterprises, and Capital Communications CDP, a subsidiary of La Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (a large Canadian pension fund). Jim’s financial skills were developed in the corporate finance departments of Union Carbide Canada Limited and Norelco.

Prior to joining Inflexion Partners, Jim was the Chief Operating Officer for Telinvest Management Corporation. Telinvest managed an investment allocation from Capital Communications CDP, primarily focusing on telecommunications opportunities in Latin America and Asia. Jim holds a BS degree in Chemistry from Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, and a M.A.B. in Finance and Accounting from McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

John Lewis, Economic Development Administrator, Orange County Government

John Lewis was Orange County’s first Economic Development Administrator, and has served in this position for almost 14 years. His responsibilities include advising County officials on economic development issues, administering the County’s economic development activities, and serving as a liaison with businesses, educational, and community organizations.

During his tenure as Economic Development Administrator, Lewis organized six regional economic summits, implemented the County’s targeted incentives program that has attracted many high value companies to the community, spearheaded two economic stimulus packages involving 25 different initiatives following 911 and the subsequent downturn in the economy. His work has brought numerous awards and recognition to Orange County.

Orange County’s economic stimulus packages represented expenditures on economic infrastructure beyond “business as usual.” The most successful programs have become “business as usual” for the County: the UCF Technology Incubator, the UCF Small Business Advisory Board Council Program, expanded programs of the UCF Small Business Development Center, the UCF Orange County Venture Lab, and the UCF Institute for Economic Competitiveness (the cornerstone of Economic Stimulus Package 2.0). The UCF Technology Incubator is an integral part of Orange County’s economic development strategy-increasing our community’s capacity for invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship,” said Lewis.

George Livingston, CPS, Founder and Chairman of NAI Realvest

As founder and chairman of NAI Realvest, George Livingston is a recognized leader and authority for the excellence reputation and long term relationships with partners and clients as well as providing property leasing and real estate services.

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The Orlando Business Development Center/District 2 Incubator opened its doors in February, 2008 to serve business start-ups in Seminole County/Winter Springs and the City of Winter Springs.  The modern facility, conveniently located in the Bennett Complex, a 40,000 square foot business incubator, opened in December, 2007.  A partnership with the City of Orlando, the Center is a general business incubator to support primary non-technology startups.

UCF Incubator-Seminole County/Winter Springs
1511 E. State Road 434, Suite 100
Winter Springs, FL 32708
407-278-4880
Site Manager: Esther Vargas-Davis

UCF Incubator-Seminole County/Winter Springs is located on UCF Business Park Drive in the City of Winter Springs.  The facility offers laboratories, office space, conference rooms, and other facilities that support the business incubation process.

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In March 2006, NR Electronics was given discontinued components and management services include:

- Active, passive and electromechanical components, hard-to-find, obsolete and discontinued components and management of excess stocks and end-of-life products.

In March 2006, NR Electronics was given the Export Award Achievement Award at the Walt Disney World Contemporary Resort from Jon Dudas, director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark office, who is particularly impressed with how small U.S. businesses are finding significant growth through exports.

In that same year, NR Electronics has been very much supporting and being especially helpful in facilitating contact early mentoring regarding technology licensing, business planning and management strategies, extremely supportive during our startup and growth phase. We have benefited from their early mentoring regarding technology licensing, business planning and management strategies, and very important, establishing a path to both public and private sources of financing.

Dr. Nilabh “Neil” Chaudhary is the CEO and Director of R&D. He has 15 years of management, commercialization, and research experience at biotech companies in Houston, Boulder, and Cleveland. Before joining the biotechnology industry, Dr. Chaudhary conducted molecular cell biology research in the laboratory of Nobel Laureate Günter Blobel at the Rockefeller University and Howard Hughes Medical Institute in New York.

Contact: Nilabh Chaudhary (Neil), Ph.D., (407) 408-9566

"The UCFTI incubator staff has been extremely supportive during our startup and growth phase. We have benefited from their early mentoring regarding technology licensing, business planning and management strategies, and very important, establishing a path to both public and private sources of financing." - Dr. Nilabh Chaudhary

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- Dr. Nilabh Chaudhary

novel therapies for neurodegenerative diseases and stroke. Dr. Suga is NeoCytex’s Chairman and Chief Scientific Officer.
Providing Simulation And Training Solutions

AVT Simulation provides professional engineering services and training solutions to the simulation, training and entertainment markets. Since its inception, AVT has been fortunate to provide its highly specialized staff of engineers to some of the top leaders in the simulation industry.

Some of these industry leaders include: PEOSTRI, NAVAIR, Morgan (a Stanley Company), Rockwell Collins, Advanced Systems Technology, Lockheed Martin Information Systems and DEI Services Corp

Founded in 1998 by Robert Abascal, a former software architect from Bell Helicopter and Lockheed Martin, he had a vision to service the simulation and training industry with niche applications and consulting services. In 1999, Abascal hired another former software engineer from Lockheed Martin to provide software engineering services to several training companies located in the Central Florida Research Park. Abascal recognized several gaps in the training market that weren’t being addressed and spent much of his time developing software tools to simplify Host-to-Image Generation integration and tools to provide quicker host development. In April 2002, Cliff Ingari, Larry Rodd and J. Bruce Howie joined AVT to support the US Army’s Close Combat Tactical Trainers (CCTT). In February 2003, based on the growing success of the support AVT was providing to PEO STRI, AVT was asked to provide visual engineering support to PM Comanche. In September 2003 AVT joined the University of Central Florida Technology Incubator program, graduated in July 2007 and established offices in Research Park located in Orlando, Florida.

Based on the growing success of providing highly specialized engineers, today AVT supports PEO STRI and NAVAIR with 15 engineers and project directors. Some of the PEO STRI programs that AVT support include CCTT AV-CATT, GCTT, Gaming Technology, Special Operations, SECORE and Future Combat Systems. AVT continued its growth in 2004 through 2006 by providing integrated solutions to its commercial customers on such programs as the EA-6B, the T-44A, the E-2C/D OFTs.

In 2006 AVT obtained a Prime contract with the USAF’s 508 Aircraft Sustainment Wing to provide maintenance to 25 existing visual databases and to develop 10 new databases. The growth and success of AVT is contributed to its professional staff, proven leadership, customer first/people first management philosophy and its commitment to provide products and services in a cost-effective manner that exceeds customer expectations and schedule.

AVT Simulation is a highly regarded simulation and training company that services US DOD, UK MOD and commercial training companies. Headquartered in the hub of the training and simulation industry, Orlando Florida, AVT today employs over 30 employees comprising some of the best in the simulation and training industry. Contact: Robert Abascal, www.avtsim.com

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