

OKLAHOMA INNOVATIONS - OCAST'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

OCAST»



September 2016 Newsletter

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INNOVATIVE OKLAHOMA COMPANIES FEATURED IN THE OKLAHOMAN

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS OKLAHOMA ENERGY INDUSTRY DIVERSIFICATION WITH \$1 MILLION GRANT TO OCAST

Federal grants will fund projects developed by Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology that support market diversification of energy-related businesses



A project, developed by the state's technology-based economic development agency to help Oklahoma's energy supply-chain businesses weather economic downturns through market diversification, has received \$1 million in federal grant support.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, through its Economic Development Administration (EDA), made the award to the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) in a ceremony held Tuesday at i2E Inc. located in the OU University Research Park.

EDA awarded the funds to OCAST to support an innovative project that will assist oil and natural gas supply chain companies across the 38 Oklahoma counties most affected by the current downturn in the energy industry.

"We identified a compelling need to diversify markets for energy-related businesses in Oklahoma," said Jorge Ayala, regional director of the Austin Region of the EDA. "We are pleased to make this award to OCAST with confidence that the funds will help energy-related businesses grow markets, create jobs and withstand economic downturns like the one the industry is currently experiencing."

The two-year, \$1 million grant is the largest federal award made to OCAST in its 30-year history.

"This represents a momentous milestone to OCAST because it is a resounding statement of confidence in our Oklahoma Innovation Model," said C. Michael Carolina, OCAST executive director. "The EDA grant allows us to support Oklahoma's oil and natural gas supply chain companies as they work to diversify their products and services to better weather shifting economic conditions and industry downturns."

Nicknamed "Project Diversify Oklahoma," the OCAST initiative launches October 1 and is designed to help impacted companies expand their markets and generate additional revenue streams.

Goals of Project Diversify Oklahoma are:

- Help Oklahoma businesses regain jobs lost over the last 12 months
- Create more than 300 new higher-wage jobs with an estimated increase in payroll in excess of \$17 million
- Develop sustainable solutions to assist energy-related businesses in weathering future economic downturns
- Generate collaborations which benefit not only local firms but also the communities in which they operate

The Oklahoma Innovation Model is a partnership between the public sector, private industry and research institutions that access additional partner organizations across the state to provide advisory, financial and technical support to technology-based businesses. Partners in the Oklahoma Innovation Model include the private nonprofit Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, the Oklahoma State University New Product Development Center, private nonprofit corporation i2E Inc. and OCAST.

HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE HELD IN OKLAHOMA CITY



Oklahoma's annual Health Research Conference hosted by OCAST was held September 14 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Samis Education Center at Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City. More than 90 researchers were available to explain their research projects, all funded through the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology.

Researchers outlined projects on issues ranging from diabetes and cancer research to infertility and mental health issues, retinopathy, eating disorders, vaccine development against RSV in infants, corneal disease and autoimmune diseases. This year's conference included researchers from Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, University of Oklahoma and the University of Tulsa.

The conference is intended to expose Oklahoma's health research community to opportunities for financial and business support they might not otherwise be able to access and to provide the legislature and public a showcase of OCAST-funded research. Researchers also benefit from OCAST's annual Health Research Conference which focuses on ways to assist the commercial development of new products and services resulting from health research projects.

Chad Eckert, Ph.D., senior scientist for preclinical affairs, Ethicon (a Johnson & Johnson company), presented the keynote entitled "How do I get a global biotechnology company interested in my work?" Mary Beth Humphrey, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Oklahoma Health Research Program Advisory Committee, and professor of medicine, McEldowney Chair in Immunology, division chief of rheumatology, immunology, and allergy, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, provided closing remarks.

NEW BROKEN ARROW FACILITY WILL INCREASE MANUFACTURING CAPACITY BY 800%



On September 2 Tactical Electronics celebrated the opening of their new 30,000 square foot building in Broken Arrow.

Tactical Electronics is moving both manufacturing and production to the brand new facility which will be located in Broken Arrow. The new facility offers the potential to increase their manufacturing capacity by 800 percent and will house the following departments: machining, production, training, inventory and quality assurance.

Tactical Electronics provides advanced technology and training solutions for military and law enforcement agencies. Their extensive product line includes covert wireless camera systems and EOD equipment used by special operations teams around the world. Their training division provides counter IED training courses and IED training aids for EOD technicians and tactical operators. All of their services are designed to prepare technicians for what they might encounter behind a closed door, in a suspect package or unsecured area. Tactical Electronics designs, engineers and manufacturers all of their products in-house at their headquarters in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

The new building will join their existing location on Hemlock Avenue. That location will continue to house engineering, sales, marketing, program management and corporate offices.

FOUR OCAST ASSISTED COMPANIES RECOGNIZED AS 50 FASTEST-GROWING COMPANIES IN CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

50 of the fastest-growing privately held companies were honored at the Metro 50 Awards dinner held September 26 in Oklahoma City. These companies must be headquartered in Oklahoma City, have been in business for three years or more and had at least \$1 million in operating revenue the immediate past year. This year's winners generated more than \$800 million in combined revenue and employed 2,700 Oklahomans.

TokenEx helps organizations across different industries with their data and business needs by means of a secure, cloud-based tokenization platform. As data breaches get larger and more sophisticated, so must the security of that data. TokenEx is a cloud security platform company that provides tokenization, encryption, data vaulting and management.

WeGoLook is a mobile technology company which leverages an on-demand workforce of 25,000+ nationwide "Lookers" (independent contractors) to provide inspections, verifications and custom tasks for individual and enterprise customers.

IMMY manufactures affordable diagnostics for fungal diseases throughout the world. While the company is devoted to manufacturing high-quality fungal diagnostics, the scope and reach of the product line has broadened to improving diagnostics for the developing world. Areas such as sub-Saharan Africa lack the necessary infrastructure to provide patients with adequate healthcare. However, they can help alleviate this problem by delivering diagnostics that can be performed without complex laboratory equipment or even the basic necessities, like electricity or running water

Monscierge provides a mobile solutions for guests of the hospitality industry to connect to hotels, restaurants and the local area through a virtual concierge. This platform gives travelers a way to meet their needs by connecting and communicating with their host in a way that is easy to implement and is affordable.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2016 OKLAHOMA TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

The Fifth Annual Oklahoma Technology Showcase will be held Wednesday, November 2 at Northeastern State University - Broken Arrow.

[Register now and be inspired!](#)

[Learn more about the event](#)

[See the tentative agenda](#)

