

OKLAHOMA INNOVATIONS - OCAST'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016

INNOVATIVE OKLAHOMA COMPANIES FEATURED IN THE OKLAHOMAN

- [OKC's Max Doleh keeps five tech startups spinning at same time](#)
 - [Exaptive repurposes big sets of data](#)
 - [Data-protection technology spurs growth for OKC's TokenEx](#)
 - [Broken Arrow's Access Optics designs, makes tiny lenses for use in medical devices worldwide](#)
 - [Tulsa's Infinite Composites Technologies joins space race with lightweight, linerless pressure vessels](#)
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FY17 HEALTH FUNDING CYCLE NOW OPEN

OCAST's FY17 funding cycle for the Oklahoma Health Research program is now open. View the [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) for more information and to find out how you can apply.

RECENT SUCCESSES HIGHLIGHT PAYOFF FROM LONG-TERM INVESTMENT

Selexys Pharmaceuticals Corporation, a company specializing in development of therapeutics in certain hematologic and inflammatory disorders was acquired in November by Novartis, the number two ranking pharmaceutical in the world. Sickle cell disease affects millions of people around the world and there are limited therapies available for treatment. With this acquisition, Novartis will be able to leverage its leadership in hematology research to advance development of a potential new treatment option for patients living with this debilitating condition.

WeGoLook, an online and mobile collaborative economy platform recently entered into a partnership with Crawford & Co. Crawford is one of the world's largest independent providers of claims management solutions to insurance companies and self-insured entities. WeGoLook dispatches over 20,000 Lookers (agents) to verify claims made by internet sellers about their assets or properties. The service is designed to help people avoid scams on sites like eBay, Craigslist and online dating sites.

Both of these acquisitions will create new jobs, as well as retain others. Selexys is now working on their next partnership with Tetherex Pharmaceuticals, another Oklahoma-based therapeutic company. WeGoLook and its jobs will remain in Oklahoma while receiving the support to grow even further from its new majority owner, Crawford & Co.

Read the full story as published by *The Oklahoman* [here](#).

OCAST ADDS NEW TEAM MEMBER



Connor Cox recently joined the OCAST team as Programs Officer III in the Programs Division. Mr. Cox will report to Dan Luton, Director, Programs. He will have responsibilities in the economic development plans and initiatives in Oklahoma City and southern Oklahoma, as well as initiating and supporting outreach activities and communicating the benefits of OCAST programs and services to partner organizations, businesses, economic development organizations and other interested parties or stakeholders.

Prior to joining OCAST, Connor was most recently employed by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce as Research Coordinator. He previously worked for the city of Norman and the Norman Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute and the Oklahoma Professional Economic Development Council (OEDC).

Connor holds a bachelor's degree in public affairs and administration from the University of Oklahoma. While at OU, he was a member of the President's Leadership Class (2012).

LUNCH AND LEARN HELD AT 36 DEGREES NORTH



OCAST Associate Director of Programs, Cornell Cross, hosted a Lunch & Learn this month at 36 Degrees North, known as Tulsa's Basecamp for Entrepreneurs.

Almost 40 startup founders and small business owners attended in order to learn how to use OCAST's resources and partnerships with local universities to acquire new talent and help their companies grow. To learn more about 36 Degrees North or to see upcoming events, visit www.36degreesnorth.co.

INNOVATIVE OKLAHOMA COMPANIES ON DISPLAY AT FIFTH ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE



When U.S. soldiers in hostile territory suspect the road ahead is booby trapped with improvised explosive devices, they can turn to innovative technology developed by an Oklahoma company to ensure their safety.

Curtis Sprague, with Broken Arrow's Tactical Electronics, told the attentive audience at the annual Oklahoma Technology Showcase - hosted by Northeastern State University and OCAST - how soldiers can save lives by using the company's technology to defeat explosive devices.

The Sire remote controlled robot is designed to carry its own explosive payload up to the suspected device and blow it up. The robot is so light and compact that three of them will fit in a soldier's backpack.

"The military had a very specific need for a robot that they could put explosives in, send downrange and detonate," said Sprague. "It's very cheap compared to other robotic systems because it's designed to be destroyed."

Tactical Electronics provides training, tools and equipment to military and law enforcement customers. It exhibited a variety of cameras at the Tech Showcase that were attached to flexible extension pipes, long poles and even connected to thin devices that can be slid under a door.

"Anything we make comes from a customer request," said Sprague, who was a member of a police Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit before joining Tactical Electronics five years ago. "We don't make anything on spec."

Tactical Electronics, which employs about 80 people from its Broken Arrow headquarters, was one of six innovative Oklahoma companies that made presentations at Wednesday's Tech Showcase.

The Tech Showcase audience also heard presentations from Pryor's HE&M Saw; Optecks and Synercon, both of Tulsa; Spiers New Technologies from Oklahoma City; and Amethyst Research Inc. of Ardmore. The event was sponsored by the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST).

"These innovative companies and the research that drives them demonstrate how diverse Oklahoma's economy is, even in a prolonged energy industry downturn," said C. Michael Carolina, OCAST executive director. "We are proud of the innovations showcased here today, because they are examples of the enterprising nature of Oklahoma entrepreneurs."

In addition to the company presentations, a special unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) competition by area colleges and high schools was conducted in the atrium of the administration building on the NSU campus.

Three OCAST Impact Awards were presented during a noon luncheon, honoring Dr. Brenda Rolls with Frontier Electronics in Stillwater, Phil Albert of Pelco Structural of Claremore and Representative Scott Martin from Norman. Keynote speakers at the luncheon were Scott Goodwin with Flight Safety International and Steve Hahn with AT&T.

Rajitha Dissanayake, an engineer with Pryor's HE&M Saw, described how technology has become a key element of the manufacturing industry. HE&M makes 70 different models of steel cutting band saws that are used by the petroleum, agriculture, automotive and steel industries.

Almost every HE&M Saw product includes what Dissanayake called a programmable logic controller (PLC) that ensures precise cutting specifications.

"We've been putting a PLC and touchscreen on almost every saw because the generation has shifted to touchscreens," Dissanayake said. "The operation of the bandsaw is done primarily through the touchscreen."

SAVE THE DATE!

Event: Full-Day SBIR Workshop
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2017
Host: Meridian Technology Center
Location: Meridian Technology Center, 312 S Sangre Rd, Stillwater, OK 74074
Sponsored by: OCAST & the UAS Cluster Initiative
Led by: SBIR expert Jim Greenwood
Registration: Coming Soon
More details: Coming Soon