

TiE International Angel Investment Group awards close to \$400k during the 2016 Rice Business Plan Competition - TiE Houston

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TIE ANGELS 2016 GECKO ROBOTICS 2016 #3

Nearly \$400k in investment awards presented at world's richest and largest startup competition

(Houston, TX – 20-April-2016) – The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) RBPC Angel Investment group awarded nearly \$400,000 during the 2016 Rice Business Plan Competition (RBPC) to a handful of technology start-ups revolutionizing the health care and robotics industries. This group, consisting of entrepreneurs and investors from

across the globe, converged on Houston to host a three-day mentoring boot-camp, before judging the RBPC, the world's richest and largest business plan competition.

“TiE and RBPC have over a decade long relationship in delivering actionable efforts to entrepreneurial ventures...” Said Aruna Viswanathan, President (TiE Houston) adding, *“We believe the RBPC demonstrates how Houston supports the innovation economy. TiE Houston looks forward to showing our continued commitment to entrepreneurship through our global network of mentors and investors in bringing these breakthrough technologies to market.”*

This group of 25 investors from the US, Europe and Asia, through the TiE RBPC Angels, will seek to invest in five university-based innovative start-ups while providing support to the entrepreneurs through mentorship. These start-ups include:

Bold Diagnostics (Northwestern University); Gecko Robotics (Carnegie Mellon University); Oncolinx (Dartmouth/Harvard); PreDxion Bio (University of Michigan); as well as 2016 RBPC Champion, TriFusion Devices (Texas A&M).

“Commitment to entrepreneurs...it's the thing that continues to impress me about the TiE community,” said John Reale, President-Elect of TiE Houston. *“Members flew in from around the world, donating their time to provide valuable mentorship. At the conclusion of the competition, our group is now providing a path for investment, mentorship and access to its global community of TiE members to these promising ventures that can shape our world. We are so excited!”*

Brad Burke, Managing Director of the Rice Alliance of Technology and Entrepreneurship, said, *“TiE's deep involvement in the competition perfectly demonstrates the international culture of the competition and how the Houston community brings that ecosystem together to launch and build startups. TiE's mentorship and education and network helps provide global reach to the Rice Business Plan Competition teams.”*

TiE also ran a three-day boot-camp in the days leading to the RBPC, where TiE Charter Members from around the world mentored competing entrepreneurs to improve their pitches, as well as challenge their business plans and approach. Thomas De Moor, CEO of Eventigrade (Belgium), who was voted as runner-up amongst 42 start-ups during the elevator pitch competition said, *“The TiE Bootcamp was an incredible experience. Next to practicing our pitch, we discussed and optimized our business for three full days. We took our business completely apart and put it back together in the best possible way. The boot-camp was truly invaluable to our startup and personal development.”*

“Fostering Entrepreneurship” is core to TiE’s mission, and its success and engagement from its Charter Members during the 2016 RBPC shows the network is doing just that!

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For more information about TiE Houston, please visit <http://houston.tie.org>

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About The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE):

TiE (*The Indus Entrepreneurs*) is the world’s largest entrepreneurs network. Established in 1992 in Silicon Valley, the organization now spans 61 chapters in 20 countries, and has contributed to over \$200 billion in economic growth worldwide. The organization provides mentoring, funding, advice and education to high-growth start-ups and has been a partner at the Rice Business Plan Competition (RBPC) for over a decade.

About TiE Houston:

TiE-Houston is an active and engaged community of seasoned entrepreneurs, investors, corporate executives and individuals interested in growing the next generation of entrepreneurs. With over 60 Charter Members and an active General Member base, TiE Houston is actively engaged in the local community working collaboratively with local startup incubators, accelerators, universities, and co-networking spaces to co-host workshops and events targeted at the broader community.

About The Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship:

The Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship (Rice Alliance) is Rice University’s nationally-recognized initiative devoted to the support of technology commercialization, entrepreneurship education, and the launch of technology companies. The Rice Alliance is a catalyst for building successful ventures through education, guidance and connections. Its mission is to support the creation of technology-based companies and the commercialization of new technologies in the Houston community and Southwest.

About The Rice Business Plan Competition:

The Rice Business Plan Competition is the world's richest and largest graduate-level student startup competition. It is hosted and organized by the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship, which is Rice University's internationally-recognized initiative devoted to the support of entrepreneurship, and the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business. This is the 16th year for the competition. In that time, it has grown from nine teams competing for \$10,000 in prize money in 2001, to 42 teams from around the world competing for more than \$1.5 million in cash and prizes.

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