



**INNOVATION PARK**  
A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

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## **NEWS**

### **Leon County Research and Development Authority Announces the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Technology Commercialization Grant Winners**

*Three entrepreneurs receive funds to develop their technology-based product*

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**Tallahassee** – A simulation software company working for the Department of Homeland Security, an anti-theft system that uses radio frequency and a company creating the revolutionary BuckyPaper are the recipients of this year's Innovation Park Technology Commercialization Grants. Each entrepreneur will receive \$15,000 from the Leon County Research and Development Authority (LCRDA) to expand their research-based products and services into the commercial arena.

"This year's grant winners are stellar examples of the innovative research going on in the Tallahassee area," said LCRDA Chairman Tom Barron. "This is the fourth year of the grant program and the competition is becoming increasing strong, which shows the wealth of marketable research-based products in our area."

TEAM Simulations, LLC, Comm-Engines, Inc., and Transformational Technologies Innovations, Inc. are the 2008 Innovation Park Technology Commercialization Grant Program winners.

TEAM Simulations, LLC was founded in 2007 to commercialize technology created at the Florida State University Center for Disaster Risk Policy. Its principle product, the Tabletop Exercise System Technology (TEST), is the first of its kind. The computer-based tabletop exercise system simplifies the development, delivery, and after-action reporting of tabletop exercises and management simulations. The software has been used to train and exercise over 900 agencies and over 5000 federal, state and local government officials.

"The TEST technology \_allows a much more interactive exercise experience people to prepare for things like never before including natural and man-made disasters," says Janet Dilling, president of TEAM Simulations. "The program guides users through a specific disaster or management scenario that includes simulated news reports, e-mails, video, and other appropriate documents to drive their actions."

According to Dilling, the company is planning to use the grant funds to purchase equipment, needed to develop a supplemental Web utility application, as well as spending some funds on marketing materials.



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Currently, TEAM Simulations is located at the Incubator at Innovation Park, which provides business counseling from the Small Business Development Center at FAMU as well as flexible lease space for start-up technology companies.

Transformational Technology Innovations, Inc. (TTI) commercializes advanced macro level nanotechnology materials such as BuckyPaper. Pioneered by Florida State University's High-Performance Materials Institute (HPMI), BuckyPaper is a novel paper-like substance formed with carbon nanotubes or nanofibers. The unique composition of BuckyPaper makes it 250 times stronger than steel, 10 times lighter, and only 1/50,000<sup>th</sup> the diameter of a strand of human hair. The uses for BuckyPaper are virtually endless. They could be used to light computer and TV screens, create smaller electronic devices, revolutionize airplane manufacturing, transfer heat, and protect electronic circuits from EMI.

"TTI is focused on the commercialization of revolutionary advanced material technologies, like BuckyPaper, that have an immediate market impact," says Dr. Amrita Kumar, the Director of Business Development for FSU's HPMI. "We are currently working on a manufacturing process that will produce continuous sheets of BuckyPaper."

According to Dr. Kumar, TTI will use the grant money to rent space in Innovation Park to continue their operation near the universities and fund any legal and/or accounting needs for the company.

Comm-Engines, Inc., the developer of an anti-shoplifting device using radio frequency, is a repeat grant recipient having won in 2007. Todd Franklin, president of Comm-Engines, is the former Director of Engineering for Talla-Com Industries and former Chief Engineer of Talla-Tech.

"We are all familiar with anti-shoplifting devices, we see them at Macy's and other large stores," says Franklin. "Comm-Engines is making this type of high technology available to small businesses by eliminating the installation costs and the system cost."

The winning proposals were chosen based on specific criteria established by the Authority to determine if the technology-related product or service has commercial potential and the ability to create jobs in Leon County.

Proposals for the 2009 Innovation Park Technology Commercialization Grant Program will be accepted in January. To learn more about Innovation Park and the Leon County Research and Development Authority, log on to [www.innovation-park.com](http://www.innovation-park.com).

**Innovation Park** is a 208-acre research park located in Southwest Leon County. Its mission is to promote scientific research and development and broaden the economic base of Leon County in affiliation with the local universities. Over 40 public and private organizations currently call Innovation Park home and employ more than 1,700 citizens from the Tallahassee area in high-paying, technology-based jobs. For more information, visit [www.innovation-park.com](http://www.innovation-park.com)

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