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## **DaVinci/Phase Up Joint Venture Wins Gulf Coast Pitch Competition!**

DaVinci Research Solutions based in Mobile, Alabama was selected as the winner of the Gulf Coast Pitch competition held Wednesday in Gulfport. DaVinci is joint venturing with Phase Up Research to provide a new technology platform through proprietary software called CAPTure. The web-based financial tool automates billing and compliance for clinical trials, thus improving the patient experience and optimizing payments for clinical trial host sites. Learn more at <http://www.davinciresearchsolutions.com/>

DaVinci won a \$10,000 prize package of cash and in-kind professional services. The technology company was selected among three competing proposals. Others included:

- Soldier Fly Technologies from Baton Rouge that focuses on alternative insect proteins for pet and animal nutrition to meet future world food demands.
- Innovate Imaging and Research (I2R) from Stennis, MS that is developing precision day and night imaging technologies for scientific remote sensing.

The entrepreneurs pitched their unique ideas to an esteemed panel of judges: Hal Callais of Callais Capital, Adam Vickers of Cara Stone, and Carl Hagstrom of Hybrid Plastics. Additional commentary and critique was offered by Tom Stanley of NASA. Hal Callais summed up the quality of the pitch proposals, “The three technologies introduced were impressive and varied from food science to star based sensing to proprietary software for clinical trials. I offer my congratulations to DaVinci and all the innovative businesses who presented.”

The first time, multi-state event was co-hosted by: the Small Business Innovation Research Consortium (SBIRC), Louisiana Technology Transfer Office, Marine Industries Science & Technology Cluster (MIST) and Innovate Mississippi.

The Gulf Coast Pitch event was supported by several sponsors, including Title Sponsor Callais Capital, Cara Stone, Baker Donelson, MIST, Model Content, Louisiana Technology Park, Idea Village and Patent Dive. The sponsors helped underwrite the event and support the pitch winner package.

Andy McCandless, Chairman of the SBIR Consortium, served as Master of Ceremonies and was pleased with the event success, “The Pitch program attracted a strong gathering of entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, and businesses executives. On behalf of our partners, we thank all those who participated and supported the event. Next year, we hope to make it bigger and better.”

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