

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – [Launch Tennessee](#) (LaunchTN), a public-private partnership that supports the creation and development of high-growth companies in Tennessee, will recognize the top 50 early-stage companies in the South during [Southland](#), its new conference highlighting the best in technology and Southern culture in Nashville on June 12-13.

A committee of investment professionals and entrepreneurs from the South and Silicon Valley is helping select the Southland presenters. The final group of 50 companies selected will have a presence in Southland's Startup Village. One company out of all the companies chosen to participate in Southland will be awarded \$10,000 and named "Southland's Most Innovative Startup" during the conference. Applications for the remaining 30 spots are being accepted until Monday, May 20. Startups can apply at www.southlandse.com.

"We're giving 50 of the most promising startups in the South the chance to network with top venture capitalists and angel investors from Silicon Valley, the East Coast and the South," said Charlie Brock, CEO, LaunchTN. "The Southland Conference is going to be a unique confluence of talent, ideas and funds that will benefit our entire region, not just the companies participating. We're very excited about the potential of this conference and believe it will become the premier event highlighting the South's most promising young companies and entrepreneurs each year."

The first 20 firms represent a broad cross section of the south, with companies from eight southern states including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. These companies have developed new technology and products across the enterprise, consumer and healthcare markets.

The Southland conference will blend a generous helping of entrepreneurship and investment with unique offerings of Southern food, drink and music. It is positioned between the CMA Music Festival in Nashville and Bonnaroo in nearby Manchester, and many conference participants are expected to attend one or both of the music festivals.

LaunchTN is a public-private partnership focused on supporting the development of high-growth companies in the state of Tennessee with the ultimate goal of fostering job creation and economic growth. LaunchTN focuses on four key areas: entrepreneurship, commercialization, capital and outreach. LaunchTN is in part funded by a grant from the State of Tennessee. Please friend LaunchTN on Facebook (www.Facebook.com/LaunchTN), Twitter (www.Twitter.com/LaunchTN), YouTube (www.YouTube.com/LaunchTN) and Flickr (www.Flickr.com/LaunchTN).

For more information on Southland, please visit www.southlandse.com.