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Southeast Cleantech Open Teams Deliver Clean Energy Innovations from Energy Generation to Advanced Materials & Chemicals

Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee Startups Sweep Category Awards in World's Largest Cleantech Accelerator

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 15, 2013 – Five cleantech startups were named finalists at the 2013 [Southeast Region](#) Finals of the [Cleantech Open](#), the world's largest cleantech accelerator. The five finalist companies were selected from among 20 companies founded by innovative cleantech entrepreneurs that entered the Southeast regional accelerator of the Cleantech Open this year. Tampa, Fla.-based, Trash 2 Cash Energy, received both finalist and sustainability awards. Knoxville, Tenn.-based Fiveworx received a finalist award. Three finalists – Bio- Adhesive Alliance Inc., Nova Synthetix and Tethis – are located in North Carolina and the Research Triangle Park area.

As regional finalists, the startups will receive a "Startup in a Box" package that includes cash and donated services worth up to \$20,000 and will advance to compete at the [Cleantech Open Global Forum](#) next month for a chance to win a \$200,000 award package and the title of 2013 Top Cleantech Entrepreneur.

"Through participation in the Cleantech Open, we received broad exposure to mentors and investors and it is the best program in the energy area. We are going to use the award to work on a pilot program," said Mahour Parast of the Bio-Adhesive Alliance Inc.

"We are very excited to be a Cleantech Open Finalist. We have fully embraced the accelerator process, and it has helped us refine and focus our business model. Being selected as a finalist by a panel of experts validates that we are on the right track. We very much appreciate the long hours of volunteer service provided by many, and we congratulate all of the Cleantech Open participants, especially the other finalists from the Southeast region," said Suzanne Shelton, president and CEO of Shelton Group/Fiveworx.

"Our technology has been proven in a number of different ways and we are highly confident that it will work. The Cleantech Open award assures us that we are on the right path and we are pleased to

have participated in the accelerator program. There are many benefits of participating in the accelerator, including access to mentors and potential funders,” said Donald Walters, President of Nova Synthetix.

“We have a technology that bridges the gap between cleantech and other industries. Sustainability is an area that our customers and investors are interested in and the Cleantech Open provides us an opportunity to build that competency,” said Scott Bolin, CEO and co-founder of Tethis.

“We saw the Cleantech Open as a network and investor friendly opportunity with great prize if we do a good job. Upon winning, our funds have doubled and we are raising capital to fund a pilot unit. This funding will enable us to demonstrate the technology for customers in Florida. Once we demonstrate the technology at a few landfills, we are going to do more than turn heads,” noted Devin Walker, COO of Trash 2 Cash Energy.

“We congratulate all of our regional finalists on delivering innovative solutions to the world’s biggest energy and environmental challenges,” said Joshua C. Greene, co-founder and regional director of the Cleantech Open Southeast Region. “This year’s accelerator program included companies in new categories, such as advanced materials and chemicals and information and communications technology. As our regional finalists demonstrate, the breakthroughs and disruptive technologies in these verticals are presenting areas of opportunity for cleantech to continue to make a beneficial environmental impact around the world.”

The Cleantech Open is a nonprofit organization that fosters the most promising startups in clean technology fields through a nine-month program that includes education, relationship building and funding opportunities. The proven program encourages cleantech entrepreneurs from around the nation to compete for local recognition, and have a shot at part of the overall \$1 million purse for the national winners.

ABOUT THE CLEANTECH OPEN

The Cleantech Open runs the world’s largest cleantech accelerator. We provide entrepreneurs and technologists the resources needed to launch successful cleantech companies. Our mission is to find, fund and foster entrepreneurs with big ideas that address today’s most urgent energy, environmental and economic challenges. The 700 alumni companies of the Cleantech Open’s accelerator programs have raised more than \$800 million in external capital. In addition, Cleantech Open Southeast is sponsored by Washington Gas Holdings, Constellation, Bingham McCutchen LLP, Deloitte, and Patton Boggs LLP. Learn more at www.cleantechopen.org and follow us on facebook.com ([CleantechOpen](https://www.facebook.com/CleantechOpen)) [@cleantechopen](https://www.facebook.com/cleantechopen) [@cleantechopenSE](https://www.facebook.com/cleantechopenSE) and on Facebook ([CleantechOpenSoutheast](https://www.facebook.com/CleantechOpenSoutheast)).