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GIGTANK issues final call for 3D printing, smart grid and healthcare startups

Application deadline for summer accelerator is March 14

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (March 3, 2014) – The Company Lab (CO.LAB) is inviting entrepreneurs with applications in 3D printing, smart grid development and healthcare to apply for participation in GIGTANK, Chattanooga’s leading accelerator for next-generation tech startups. Applications for the summer program are due March 14.

Now preparing for its third iteration, GIGTANK is renowned for being the world’s only startup accelerator connected to a living, metro-wide fiber optic network. With Internet speeds that run 100x faster than the national average, GIGTANK offers startups the opportunity to innovate on the broadband platform of the future.

The program attracts top talent from business and academia to Chattanooga each year for 10 weeks of intensive startup development. Qualified teams have the opportunity to present their work to an extensive network of angel and private equity investors. This summer, GIGTANK will help launch next-generation businesses in the 3D printing/additive manufacturing, smart grid and healthcare industries. The experience is designed to connect seed stage businesses with the tools, capital and connections to go to market.

“Over the last two months, we’ve been working hard to connect with top candidates at universities, colleges, conferences and tradeshows across the U.S.,” said Mike Bradshaw, executive director of CO.LAB. “Thanks to a great deal of teamwork and coordination, applications for GIGTANK are rolling in from all corners of the country. But with just two weeks until all applications are due, we have no intention of slowing down. As we move into the final phase of recruitment, we invite the community to join us in spreading the word about GIGTANK through our various networks.”

Throughout the duration of the program, GIGTANK participants will enjoy access to:

- \$15,000 in initial seed funding for teams or a \$3,000 stipend for specialists
- Free housing from UTC
- Leading industry experts and mentors
- Potential pilot and technology partners
- An opportunity to attract additional investment at the end of the experience

GIGTANK 2014 is America’s first startup accelerator created specifically for businesses in 3D printing/additive manufacturing and smart grid development. CO.LAB hosts the overall program and will coordinate the 3D printing vertical with support from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, as well as the smart grid track with support from EPB. ProjectLift will serve as the lead facilitator for the healthcare vertical.

The program will take place from May 12 to July 31 and will culminate with a nationally-promoted Demo Day. **Click here for details about how to apply to GIGTANK.** Visit www.thegigtank.com for the full overview.

About GIGTANK

Hosted by The Company Lab, GIGTANK is the world's only accelerator connected to a living, metro-wide fiber optic network. The program attracts entrepreneurs from across the globe to Chattanooga to prepare products and business models for commercialization on advanced broadband platforms.

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