



Collaborative Announces Alabama's First Cleantech Accelerator for Startups

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. November 20th, 2014 – Today Rocket Hatch, the Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy (ALCSE), Fortnum Capital and Cleantech Open unveiled Alabama's first accelerator for high-growth startups specializing in clean technologies and services to be held in the Summer of 2015 in Huntsville. The announcement was made at Rocket Hatch's signature event "Will This Fly" held at the historic Lincoln Mill before an audience of over 200 entrepreneurs, investors, mentors and innovators from across the Southeast. The accelerator will offer startup businesses the opportunity to examine their assumptions and turn business ideas into action.

"The Tennessee Valley region has a wealth of human and intellectual capital around clean technology, but the investors, the entrepreneurs and the ideas need a collaborative methodology and network to succeed," according to Chris Taylor, Managing Partner for Fortnum Capital. "Partnering with Cleantech Open for an accelerator will bring these components together into truly investable companies."

"Our success developing the startup community in town needed a next step," said Antonio Montoya, founder and Chairman of Rocket Hatch. "The Cleantech Accelerator will leverage the foundation laid by our community platform, events, mentor network and the CO.STARTERS program serve the full entrepreneurial stack in North Alabama."

The collaborative is encouraging interested partners to join the effort to build a vibrant cleantech sector for the southeast region with Huntsville as its hub. Partners, mentors, investors and volunteers can contact Daniel Tait (dtait@alcse.org) or Antonio Montoya (antonio@rockethatch.com) for more information about getting involved.

About the Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy

The Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy (ALCSE) is accelerating the transition to sustainable, clean energy throughout Alabama. We do this by widely promoting sustainable energy as a feasible, state-wide goal, by executing high-impact clean energy projects across the State, and by providing people with information and opportunities to help make clean energy choices. We work with policy makers, public agencies, local governments, educational institutions, utilities, business and civic leaders and individuals to transform Alabama's energy

marketplace and beyond. ALCSE is committed to powering Huntsville with 100% clean and efficient energy by 2025 and Alabama by 2035. For more about ALCSE, visit alcse.org

About Rocket Hatch

Rocket Hatch is an open community of creators and entrepreneurs with the mission of supporting the startup movement in the Huntsville Metro and surrounding areas. Rocket Hatch is leveraging the best available entrepreneurial resources connecting the local startups, innovators and entrepreneurs with the global startup ecosystem. For more about Rocket Hatch visit rockethatch.org

About Cleantech Open

The Cleantech Open (www.cleantechopen.org) is excited to be partnered with The Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy and Rocket Hatch to support cleantech startups and emerging growth companies throughout Alabama. The Cleantech Open is the world's largest cleantech accelerator with a mission is to find, fund, and foster entrepreneurs with ideas to solve our greatest environmental and energy challenges. The Cleantech Open's one-of-a-kind professional development platform includes extensive mentoring, training, business clinics, investor sessions, and numerous opportunities to showcase to the media and the public. Nationally since 2006, 865 companies have participated in the Cleantech Open, and in this time period have raised an aggregate of \$900 million. For more information please contact Shaun Enright at senright@cleantechopen.org.

About Fortnum Capital

Fortnum Capital Partners (www.linkedin.com/company/fortnum-capital-partners) is an angel investment company focused on developing and funding start-ups and early stage companies that are involved in environmental technology and clean energy. The company works with its partners to provide expertise regarding start-up strategy, business plan development, market evaluation, sales and marketing channels and technology evaluation.

###

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Daniel Tait by phone at (256) 303-7773 or by email at dtait@alcse.org, Antonio Montoya by phone at (256) 527-1521 or by email at antonio@rockethatch.com or Chris Taylor by phone at (615) 804-4884 or by email at chris.taylor@fortnumcapital.com.