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Competition showcases top talent emerging in the energy sector

Leankor takes top prize at Energy New Venture Competition

Calgary-based Leankor took home the top prize worth \$50,000 in cash and in-kind services at the Energy New Venture Competition on January 26 for its enterprise-ready visual process management solution. Powered by Salesforce, Leankor is a visual collaboration tool that distills workflow management into three simple steps, cutting the time and costs typically required to set up such systems, while reducing the number of meetings and unnecessary emails.

"The oil and gas sector is undergoing a significant evolution, and now is the time for innovations that allow organizations along the entire value chain to quickly adapt," says Emilio Bernabei, CEO of Leankor. "The \$50,000 prize will help Leankor deliver its workflow automation tool to even more organizations to assist them in running leaner operations and streamline their workflows. We are very proud of our accomplishments to date, and we are honoured by the first-place finish at the Energy New Venture Competition."

Leankor's prize includes \$25,000 of in-kind services from Davis LLP and the opportunity to attend and pitch at the PROPEL Energy Tech Forum to more than 100 investors.

Fourteen ambitious emerging energy sector entrepreneurs and tech companies competed *Dragons' Den*-style with teams from Canada and the United States pitching their concept and early-stage ventures to a panel of esteemed judges from Fronterra Ventures, Collins Barrow, Sustainable Development Technology Canada, VA Angels, AVAC Ltd, Innovate Calgary, BASF Venture Capital and GE Canada.

"Our goal is to help drive Calgary forward as a leader in energy technology and development," said Kim Neutens, director of the Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. "We provided emerging companies and concepts with a major hand-up with their ventures through mentorship from experts in entrepreneurship, innovation, company creation and investment development leading up to the competition as well as the opportunity to pitch for cash prizes and network with potential investors."

Created by the Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Calgary's Haskayne School of Business and Innovate Calgary, and supported by Encana, the competition was designed as a platform to help advance emerging energy technology companies and concepts to the next level.

Taking second place in the venture stream and \$15,000 in cash was Sustainable Power Systems, a Boulder, Colorado company that delivers electricity to remote, off-grid communities through the Universal Microgrid Controller™, which addresses the technical challenges of microgrid deployment and operations. SIX Safety Systems, also from Calgary, took home third place and \$10,000 in cash for its industry leading technologies for reducing risk in the workplace and positively impacting their client's bottom line.

AltaCarbon Inc., a clean-tech manufacturing company, based out of Edmonton, is developing a patented platform process for converting petroleum coke into a valuable filtration material which took top prize in the concept stream

earning \$7,500 in cash, plus \$2,500 in-kind prizes. Second place was awarded to Illusense Inc. from Richmond BC, for a high accuracy pipeline leak detection and prevention solution. Jamii Power, from Logan Lake BC, took third place for their low-cost, smart mini-grid metering and management system.

The Energy New Venture Competition is a pre-event to the PROPEL Energy Tech Forum, a new two-day energy technology-focused investment conference that will bring together a delegation of 200 stakeholders and investors within the energy tech industry on January 27 and 28, 2015.

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The Haskayne School of Business was founded at the University of Calgary in 1967, and was named in honour of Richard F. Haskayne, OC, AOE, FCA, in 2002. The business school has approximately 3,300 full and part-time students enrolled in bachelor's, master's, doctorate, and executive education programs, and stays connected with its more than 21,000 alumni in 80 countries worldwide.

The vision of the Haskayne School of Business is to be an internationally recognized centre of excellence for business education, research, and community outreach, with a special emphasis on the distinct elements that define Calgary and Alberta: energy, entrepreneurship, and ethical leadership.

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