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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Angel Investors Gain Insight into Technology Investment Opportunities in Maryland

TEDCO and Johns Hopkins University host forum for Angel Investors

COLUMBIA, Md. (March 3, 2009) – To provide investors with insight into technology investment opportunities available in Maryland, the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) and The Johns Hopkins University recently hosted a showcase event at the university's Montgomery County campus. More than 30 investors, including venture capitalists and angels from the Capital Exchange Group, The New Vantage Group, Capital Access Network and Baltimore Angel Network, were in attendance.

This Maryland event has been named the Power of Ten™. Ten companies from the John Hopkins spin-out and TEDCO portfolios made ten minute pitches to the investors focusing their presentations on their technologies and plans for commercialization. Five of the companies previously received seed funding from TEDCO: 13 Oncology, located in Baltimore; 20/20 GeneSystems, Inc., located in Rockville, Md.; American Dynamics Flight Systems, located in Jessup, Md.; Vorbeck Materials Corp., located in Jessup, Md.; and Innoscion, located in Baltimore.

Other companies that presented include: Amarani Therapeutics, located in Columbia, Md.; Oak Clinical Systems, located in Baltimore; SalvaCor, located in New Market, Md.; Gene Facelift, located in Kernersville, N.C.; and B4 Health, located in Annapolis, Md.

“Angel investors play a crucial role in the next stage of the development and commercialization of new innovation,” said Renée Winsky, president and executive director of TEDCO. “Events such as these allow early stage Maryland companies to showcase their technologies, and TEDCO is pleased to provide support and assistance in helping develop vital relationships with investors that will ultimately result in follow-on funding.”

Both TEDCO and Johns Hopkins have extensive experience providing companies and researchers with funding for technology transfer and commercialization. TEDCO has supported more than 140 companies in Maryland with seed funds, while the university in the last year created twelve spin-out companies based on technologies developed there. Angel investors can provide companies with valuable guidance and direction plus additional funding needed to help them expand and further develop their technologies.

“Startups have been a key driver to economic and job growth in the US historically,” said Steve Kubisen, senior director of ventures at Johns Hopkins Office of Technology Transfer and lead organizer of the event for Johns Hopkins. “It was extremely encouraging to see an increase in angel, VC and entrepreneur participation in our early stage investment event, even in these turbulent economic times. The spirit of entrepreneurship is alive and growing in Maryland.”

A reception and networking session sponsored by Womble Carlyle followed the company pitches. TEDCO plans to hold additional Power of Ten™ events in the next 8 months.

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), an independent entity, was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1998 to facilitate the creation of businesses and foster their growth in all regions of the State. TEDCO's role is to be Maryland's leading source of funding for seed capital and entrepreneurial business assistance for the development, transfer and commercialization of technology. TEDCO connects emerging technology companies with federal laboratories, research universities, business incubators and specialized technical assistance. For the fifth consecutive year, TEDCO was recognized as the most active seed/early-stage investor in the nation in the August 2008 issue of Entrepreneur magazine and received the national Excellence in Technology-Based Economic Development award from the State Science and Technology Institute (SSTI) for the Maryland Technology Transfer Fund (MTTF) program in October 2008. For more information on TEDCO and its programs and resources, visit www.MarylandTEDCO.org.

The Johns Hopkins University, founded in 1876, was the first university in the Western Hemisphere based on the European research institution, with a mission both to teach and to advance human knowledge through discovery. Its establishment revolutionized U.S. higher education. Today, Johns Hopkins remains a world leader in education, research and patient care. It ranks first among U.S. universities in winning federal research and development funds.

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