

Oak Ridge National Laboratory presents:



Global Venture

Challenge 2008

.... Seeking
innovative solutions
for the world's
energy needs

What is the Global Venture Challenge?

The Global Venture Challenge is a unique **educational event** hosted at the **Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)** which is designed to foster entrepreneurial spirit by engaging students, industry, government and the investment community in the **discovery** and development of **innovative ideas**. The ultimate goal is to encourage students to **launch** new **technology-based businesses** that can improve the well-being of the world.

The Global Venture Challenge builds on a successful event held at Oak Ridge last year that focused on nanotechnology. Fifteen interdisciplinary graduate school teams from the US and United Kingdom presented innovative business plans, and major nanotechnology investors met with start-up companies from across the southeastern US.

The focus of this year's event is on **energy**, one of the world's most critical issues. Graduate school teams from across the globe will be recruited to develop unique and innovative



product ideas that can solve existing market needs and have the potential to become sustainable businesses. We will again utilize the **Idea to Product® competition** model, which identifies market-viable technologies faster than traditional business plan competitions. As a result, it can accelerate patenting efforts and ultimately the formation of new companies. Team submissions will be judged by diverse panels consisting of experienced energy executives, venture capitalists, technologists, entrepreneurs and the legal profession. The winning team will receive a minimum of a \$25,000 cash prize.

Another feature of the event is an **Energy Venture Showcase** that highlights selected start-up companies and gives them the opportunity to interact with industry and the investment community. Not only will these companies receive valuable advice for furthering their businesses, but entrepreneurial students will see first-hand what will be required of them as they launch their businesses.

All participants will have the opportunity to learn more about ORNL and its capabilities in both research and applied science. Special meetings will be held with the leaders of different areas of the Lab and tours of the most advanced scientific facilities in the world will be available.



The 2007 winning team from The University of Texas receives the top prize of \$25,000. Pictured from left to right: Cristal Glangchai, Jakub Felkl, Abiola Ajetunmobi, former ORNL Director Jeff Wadsworth, event Managing Director Joy Fisher and Nicholas Rojeski.

Why should I participate in the Global Venture Challenge?

This event will provide several benefits:

- **Foster innovation and discovery in education.** Help nurture the growth and success of a new generation of talented scientists and entrepreneurs from around the world — in a unique setting that encourages interaction with people from diverse industries, backgrounds and cultures.
- **Help increase focus on important energy solutions.** Increase global understanding of the importance of new energy innovations, and provide support for the development of new ideas that will address the world's most pressing energy needs.
- **Corporate recognition.** Be identified as an organization that helps foster unique educational forums in the area of alternative energy.
- **Early access to hot start-up companies.** Obtain early looks at some innovative new companies and investment/collaboration opportunities.
- **Networking opportunities.** Meet and converse with people deeply involved in the energy industry, including researchers, government, investors and industry representatives.
- **Talent identification.** Meet entrepreneurially-minded students with technical backgrounds in energy fields. Although some will pursue their proposed business, many will be seeking entrepreneurial opportunities with large multinational energy organizations.
- **Learn more about Oak Ridge National Laboratory.** This is an excellent way to discover the expertise and capabilities of ORNL, the nation's largest and most diverse energy laboratory.



Chinmay Soman from Vanderbilt presents his team's idea to the judges.

When and where is the Global Venture Challenge?

The Global Venture Challenge will be held **April 2 – 4, 2008**, at the ORNL, located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.



How can I get involved?

The success of this event is very much dependent upon the dialogues created between companies, students, investors and researchers. For general information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact us via email at info@globalventurechallenge.com.

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Managed by



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