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News from The 8th Continent

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Event Listings

Visit the Calendar section of the [8C Website](#) for all of the details.

Of lightweight utility poles, a breakthrough polysilicon manufacturing process, and housefly worms...



The 8th Continent Project Business Plan Competition once again challenged students to create business plans that employ aerospace-derived technology in products and services with immediate commercial applications on Earth. And did they deliver in 2010!

Competing university teams from around the world developed their concepts and were judged based on the single criterion "Would I invest my money in this venture?" A panel of judges, with both technical and business expertise, selected five semi-finalist teams to compete for the cash prize and additional services. This includes legal assistance from the intellectual property law firm Townsend and Townsend and Crew to help launch the ventures.

Brigham Young University's student start-up venture, Altus Poles, won \$40,000 in cash, support services, and secured a spot in the Global Moot Corp Competition - the Super Bowl of world business plan competitions held at the University of Texas in Austin -- for the potential to win \$100,000 in prizes.

Altus Poles serves many industries by providing a new automated manufacturing process for the production of long composite grid poles that are stronger, lighter and cheaper than steel. The design of its composite grid structures achieves an incredibly high strength-to-weight ratio with a special geometry that uses longitudinal and helically-wound members. Application of this technique reaches virtually every structures market, including poles and towers, wind power generation, aerospace and defense, sports, high-rise building construction, and civil infrastructure.

Also headed to the Global Moot Corp Competition is the runner-up team Green Valley Solar, from the University of Arkansas, and semi-finalist team Deli Worm, from Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China.

Other semi-finalist teams included Advanced Battery Control from the University of Michigan and Nano-Protection, from the University of

About The 8th Continent Project

The Colorado School of Mines' 8th Continent Project is the world's most comprehensive effort to integrate space technology and resources into the global economy. 8th Continent provides the infrastructure and resources to solve a wide range of challenges from global warming to biomedical to renewable energy development. 8th Continent brings space down to Earth with the industry's first trade association, incubator, funding network and research hub, all working together to develop the next generation of space-derived business ventures.

Virginia.

Nanotailor nabs \$250K to commercialize NASA technology

Nanotechnology developer Nanotailor Inc. received \$250,000 from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund to commercialize its single-walled carbon nanotube technology, developed through a license agreement with NASA. The technology company found a way to manufacture the tubes without using a metal catalyst... [<more from the Austin Business Journal>](#)

Fixed-wing drone lands vertically on walls

Researchers at Stanford University's Biomimetics Laboratory have developed "a fixed-wing, non-transforming drone" that can land vertically on walls. "Their drone approaches the wall at full speed," and "then pitches sharply upward to angle its belly toward the wall and slows its approach speed to just under 7 mph." The drone uses carbon-fiber and balsa landing legs "tipped with steel spines" in order to make a vertical landing. "The researchers still face engineering challenges such as tuning the suspension system so that the drone doesn't simply rebound upon landing approach."... [<more from Popular Science>](#)



The Need Continues: Help for Haiti

The need for relief resources for Haiti will be with us for some time to come. [Please give...again and again](#)

This Month's "Word to the Wise" - Two New Employer Tax Benefits

Two new tax benefits are now available to employers hiring workers who were previously unemployed or only working part time. These provisions are part of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act enacted into law recently.

Employers who hire unemployed workers this year (after Feb. 3, 2010 and before Jan. 1, 2011) may qualify for a 6.2-percent payroll tax incentive, in effect exempting them from their share of Social Security taxes on wages paid to these workers after March 18, 2010. This reduced tax withholding will have no effect on the employee's future Social Security benefits, and employers would still need to withhold the employee's 6.2-percent share of Social Security taxes, as well as income taxes. The employer and employee's shares of Medicare taxes would also still apply to these wages.

In addition, for each worker retained for at least a year, businesses may

claim an additional general business tax credit, up to \$1,000 per worker, when they file their 2011 income tax returns....[<more from the Internal Revenue Service>](#)

Until next month,



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