



Monday, November 24, 2008

Murphysboro Company Prepares for Innovate Illinois Finals Competition

Murphysboro, Ill. - Clipius Technologies from Murphysboro was selected by a panel of judges to advance to the Innovate Illinois finals on Nov. 18, where it will compete for a \$40,000 top prize. Clipius Technologies' subsidiary Clipius Spine is now preparing for the last leg of the competition, where it will present its innovation to a new panel of judges.

Clipius Spine creates antimicrobial coatings for spinal implants and instrumentation. Two types of novel coatings are being investigated. One is a customized silica-based coating, while the other is a novel diamond-based coating. Both coatings are hydrophobic, have a low coefficient of friction, are chemically inert and are biocompatible.

More than 130 companies applied to Governor Rod R. Blagojevich's entrepreneurial innovation competition, Innovate Illinois. From there, 32 companies were selected by the state's Entrepreneurship Centers to participate in the semifinals on Sept. 26. The finalists were announced that evening at WIRED NextFest, the premier showcase of global innovations transforming our world, presented by Wired Magazine.

Finalists are divided in two categories: early stage, a company with an idea for an innovative product, service or process; and later stage, a company that recently implemented an innovative product, service or process. Clipius Spine is an early stage company.

The finals will occur Nov. 18 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the University of Chicago's Gleacher Center (450 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive). The Innovate Illinois program is administered jointly by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center, a nonprofit affiliate of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, which works to accelerate high-growth entrepreneurial companies. To learn more about the program, visit www.innovateillinois.org