

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

36 Promising Startups Showcased at the Golden Capital Network's Angel and VC Investment Summit in El Dorado Hills

Davis start-up Marrone Organic Innovations wins the Best of Show Award

Sacramento, CA May 26, 2006: Golden Capital Network (GCN), in association with UC Davis CONNECT, LearningChange, the Sacramento Angels, Morgan Dorado Public Relations, DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary, Pacific Gas & Electric Company and the County of El Dorado, presented the GCN Angel and Venture Capital Investment Summit at the Holiday Inn Express in El Dorado Hills on May 23-24, 2006. The Summit featured 36 emerging growth companies from the Life Sciences, Emerging Technologies, Software/IT and Communications Technology sectors. Over 60 venture capitalists and accredited angel investors, 40 CEOs from innovative early stage companies, leading professional service providers and entrepreneurship public policy advocates joined the event hosts to share knowledge, build relationships and pitch deals.

Best of Show Award went to Marrone Organic Innovations, a new start-up based in Davis CA led by Pam Marrone who previously launched and built Davis-based AgraQuest into a growth venture generally recognized as the most successful biopesticide company built from the ground up.

Marrone Organic Innovations (MOI) is a new start-up that discovers and develops effective natural products that fill unmet market needs for weed and pest management. CEO/Founder Pam Marrone is the world's expert in biopesticides and has commercialized more products than anyone else.

Of the 36 companies that presented to segment-specific investor panels at the conference, the other five companies who were recommended by investor panelists to the Finalist Showcase included:

- MaxPreps, Cameron Park CA
- Online Video Service, Seattle WA
- Radial Electronics, El Dorado Hills CA
- Industrial Origami, San Francisco
- XCOR, Mojave CA

The GCN Angel and VC Investment Summit included the largest contingent of active angel and venture capital investors for any event in Northern California outside Silicon Valley. Each year, this highly attended annual conference serves as the leading hub for entrepreneurs, investors, executives and professional service providers focused on emerging regions of the Western United States.

“The Sacramento Angels considers the annual GCN conferences as the most effective conference of this kind in the region. Prior GCN conferences have provided the source of much of our deal flow that resulted in subsequent investments,” said Jim Kitchel, past chairman of the Sacramento Angels investment organization.

“If you are an entrepreneur with a solid business plan, an investor looking to check out the best deal flow in the West, or simply interested in networking with leading Silicon Valley-based venture capitalists and angel investors from across the Western U.S., the GCN Angel and Venture Capital Investment Summit is the place to be,” said Jon Gregory, president of GCN.

36 early-stage companies from throughout California and four other western U.S. states gave ten-minute presentations to panels of leading investors who are

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actively seeking investment opportunities. [This year, for the first time, a special session previewed three startup companies with origins at UC Davis, with three others presenting later in the day. UC Davis is the region's dominant research institution, with more than \\$500M in research funding, and a commitment to supporting entrepreneurship.](#)

The investor panelists then selected the finalists who competed in the final “showdown” for “Best of Show” honors. Scott Lenet, Managing Director of DFJ Frontier moderated the showdown, while Corley Phillips of American River Ventures, David Frankel of Blueprint Ventures, Pete Sinclair of Leapfrog Ventures, Jack Crawford Jr. of Velocity Venture Capital, Steve Mills of DCA Capital Partners and Tom Toy of PacRim Venture Partners formed the panel that chose the winner.

GCN's unique angel and VC conference formula – matching active investor panelists and extensively screened and coached presenting entrepreneurs by broad industry segments and deal stages in emerging geographic markets – makes for a powerful and eclectic mix of opportunities and participants. GCN acts as a networking and facilitation catalyst for entrepreneurial activity and economic development. All investors at GCN events are professional venture capitalists, members of established angel groups, or individually accredited angel investors.

ABOUT GOLDEN CAPITAL NETWORK (GCN)

Golden Capital Network, formed in September 1999, is a nonprofit corporation with the mission of educating and showcasing promising entrepreneurs to its growing network of angel, corporate and venture capital investors to facilitate quality economic growth. Since its inception, companies featured at Golden Capital Network events have gone on to raise over \$1 billion in investment capital. Golden Capital Network also facilitates the

Silver and Gold Venture Club, an exclusive investor-only networking group that connects investors across western U.S. regions for deal sharing and discussion on topics of interest. Golden Capital Network has also launched a number of other innovative initiatives including the Entrepreneurs Grill and the Entrepreneur Hot Seat. The network is also a founding sponsor of the UC Davis Big Bang Business Plan competition.

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