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GIGTANK Selects Startup Teams for 2015 Accelerator

Fourteen startups to spend summer launching high-bandwidth applications in Chattanooga

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (May 12, 2015) – Fourteen startup teams from across North America and Europe will soon convene in Chattanooga to launch business applications that could thrive on gigabit networks. As the newest members of GIGTANK, these entrepreneurs will spend the next three months working with corporate partners, industry experts, investors and established business leaders to ready their companies for the next-generation marketplace.

Hosted by The Company Lab (CO.LAB), [GIGTANK](#) is a boutique accelerator for startups developing high-bandwidth business applications. As the nation's only startup accelerator wired to a metro-wide gigabit network, GIGTANK attracts world-class talent to Chattanooga each summer, as well as ongoing recognition from tech circles across the globe.

This year, the program will accommodate 12 startups working with advanced networks, two 3D printing companies and four specialists who will provide support to all the teams throughout the summer. The teams' applications address opportunities in virtual reality, big data analytics, beacon and sensor technologies, gigabit Wi-Fi and the Internet of Things, as well as several other areas of promise. To view a summary of each startup's work, [click here](#).

The participants of GIGTANK 2015 come from a diverse array of geographies, backgrounds and skill sets. Among them, some are based as far away as Menlo Park, Calif. and Madison, Wis., while others are located in nearby cities such as Atlanta, Huntsville and Nashville. A startup from Canada and a startup from Oxford, UK will also participate in this year's program. Most teams will be present in Chattanooga from May 25 through July 31 while free housing is available at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). Six teams will participate virtually as part of GIGTANK's new dual-enrollment partnerships with other regional startup accelerators.

"Chattanooga is a living laboratory for gigabit communities of the future," said Mike Bradshaw, executive director of CO.LAB. "As such, our program received a great deal of interest from startups based in Southeastern cities where this infrastructure is currently in the works. Some of those companies are already enrolled in other regional startup accelerators, so we decided to partner with those entities to offer dual-enrollment opportunities that complement the resources we respectively provide."

Partnering accelerators include Atlanta Tech Village, Nashville Entrepreneur Center, Knoxville Entrepreneur Center and Rocket Space in Huntsville, as well as others to be announced at a later date.

"Some of our teams are much further along in the startup development lifecycle than those we've supported in the past," said Alex Lavidge, director of GIGTANK 2015. "In fact, a few of them have already received initial investments. This is helping us bring more corporate partners and investors into the GIGTANK community."

That groundwork encompasses a focus on 3D printing startups, as well as those focused on gigabit app development. In 2014, GIGTANK became the nation's first startup accelerator designed specifically for 3D printing companies. Incorporating that focus area resulted in the relocation of two GIGTANK startups to the Chattanooga area – Feetz, which prints custom-fit footwear, and 3DOps, which prints patient-specific anatomical models for pre-surgical planning.

Feetz recently made headlines for attracting \$1.25 million in funding from Khosla Ventures, based in Silicon Valley, and other entities across the country. The team of seven is currently operating out of the The INCubator on Cherokee Boulevard and expects to expand its full-time staff over the coming year.

[Reality AM](#), an additive manufacturing consultancy that grew out of GIGTANK 2014, will manage the 3D printing component of the 2015 program.

Other local GIGTANK participants include a team of researchers and students from UTC. Each year, CO.LAB devotes one slot in GIGTANK to a group from the university as part of the UTC-GIGTANK Fellowship. This year's team will be led by Dr. Daniel Loveless and Dr. Donald Reising, both of whom are assistant professors of Electrical Engineering. The team, supported by a monetary gift from UTC's Dr. Ashish Gupta, is developing an apparatus that provides homeowners with information about the power consumption of individual electrical devices in the household.

In addition to the UTC-GIGTANK Fellowship participants, a local startup with ties to both CO.LAB and Mozilla's Hive Chattanooga will also be part of GIGTANK 2015. The company, called Adagio, is developing an online platform for multichannel audio applications. Led by Jonathan Susman, Adagio grew out of CO.LAB's 48Hour Launch startup development competition in 2014 and later went on to receive funding from the Mozilla Gigabit Community Fund to continue building the application. The company recently showcased its progress at GigHacks Chattanooga, where CO.LAB extended Susman and his teammates an invitation to join GIGTANK.

All members of the GIGTANK 2015 cohort will convene in Chattanooga during the last week of May. Participants will be available for a meet-and-greet with the public at the Chambliss Startup Social at Miller Plaza May 28. The event will take place from 5:30 – 8 p.m.

For more information about GIGTANK 2015, visit thegigtank.com.

About GIGTANK

GIGTANK is a boutique accelerator for startups developing ultra high-bandwidth business applications. The program is located in Chattanooga, Tenn. – home of the nation's only metro-wide fiber optic network. Held annually each summer, GIGTANK is a 100-day experience packed with on-the-ground guidance from industry experts and national thought leaders in broadband and entrepreneurship. GIGTANK culminates with a Demo Day, where startup teams pitch their business concepts to an audience of investors, partners, media and community supporters. GIGTANK is an annual production of The Company Lab (CO.LAB). Visit thegigtank.com to learn more.

About The Company Lab (CO.LAB)

The Company Lab (CO.LAB) is a nonprofit startup accelerator that supports entrepreneurial growth in southeast Tennessee. CO.LAB operates under the belief that entrepreneurial thinking is the foundation of our community's future. We work with founders, business leaders, corporations, foundations, civic and government organizations, thought leaders and a broad range of regional and national partners to connect entrepreneurs with practical resources needed to launch new companies. To learn more, visit colab.co.