



**Radiation detectors and voice recognition software awarded \$500,000 prize fund to develop their technologies as winners of the 2011 Global Security Challenge**

**London, 25 October 2011:** After pitching their security innovations to a panel of judges before a live audience of investors, industry, government, VCs and peers, *Arktis Radiation Detectors* and *Agnitio SL*, have been crowned winners of the 2011 Global Security Challenge, and awarded prize funds worth \$200,000 and \$300,000 respectively.

The awards were made at PitchLive, a Dragons' Den style pitching event for hi-tech innovators, which marks the culmination of the 2011 Global Security Challenge, an annual competition to find the Best Security Start-Up and Best Security SME. The competition attracts entrants from around the world, and innovators must excel at regional finals to be invited to the final summit in London, where the 12 finalists pitched their ideas.

**The winners**

***Agnitio SL, Best Security SME***, develops advanced technology to identify individuals through voice recognition. The advanced voice biometrics technology allows identification, surveillance and precise ID verification. By filtering out specific and unique voice patterns, an individual can be recognised.

The technology has found applications in forensics and law enforcement, monitoring and surveillance in military and intelligence operations and remote voice recognition for call centres that use the technology as a way of unique password identification process.

***Arktis Radiation Detectors, Best Security Start-Up***, has developed a technology for detecting ionizing radiation. Arktis' technology uses tubes of compressed helium to detect the hard-to-shield, high-energy 'fast' neutrons emitted by special nuclear materials and identify their source. The technology has applications in various markets including border security where it can be used to spot the transportation of material that could be used to build nuclear weapons.

The technology overcomes many challenges associated with radiation detection, notably that radiation material intended for criminal use has to be differentiated from that which occurs naturally, and that materials necessary for detection are often scarce and expensive.

**How the competitions work**

OmniCompete's competitions have a history of identifying some of the most exciting new technologies, facilitating millions of pounds of commercial deals, and turning fledgling technologies into successful international businesses. In just five years, OmniCompete has awarded over £1.85 million in prizes and helped finalists and winners generate over £75 million in funding and acquisitions.

2010 Best Security Startup mPedigree has dramatically expanded its counterfeit medication identification system since winning last year, and previous finalists such as Safend and TenCube have been acquired in lucrative deals.

Simon Schneider, CEO of OmniCompete, says: “Our competitions have a proven track record of changing the fortunes of innovators who have ideas which solve today’s challenges. Unlike other competitions, finalists must prove both their technology and their business case to a panel of industry experts and investors. Anyone reaching the final has huge commercial potential and the winners even more so. Reaching this stage gives companies the credibility to secure further investment and win big contracts. Expect big things of these companies in the coming years.”

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### **About the Global Security Challenge**

The Global Security Challenge (GSC) is an annual prize competition for security innovators, start-ups and investors. It provides a valuable launching pad for security innovation and each year over \$500,000 USD is awarded to entrepreneurs and researchers within the security technology field. The mission of the GSC is to stimulate technological innovations that make airports, cities and enterprises safer without encroaching on civil liberties.

Powered by OmniCompete, GSC is supported by the Technical Support Working Group (TSWG), BAE Systems and Nauta Capital.

### **About OmniCompete**

OmniCompete was founded in 2006 out of London Business School, and has hosted over twenty international prize competitions to date, in sectors including security, energy, cyber, health and social innovation. Through these, OmniCompete has awarded \$2.9M prizes and helped finalists and winners generate over \$104.25M in investment and acquisitions.

Competitions hosted: Global Security Challenge (now in its 6th year), Cyber Security Challenge (now in its 3rd year), Energy Storage Challenge, Health Pitch Battlefield, Cloud Security Challenge, IFSEC Future of Security Competition, Crowded Places Challenge, the Security Technologies of Tomorrow Challenge.

Success stories from these competitions include TenCube (2007 GSC regional finalist) which was acquired by McAfee for \$10.6 million. British SME, Kromek, raised \$18.9 million in investment after winning the 2009 GSC. Safend (2010 GSC finalist) was bought in September by Wave Systems for \$12.8 million.

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