

OmniCompete Press Release

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Most disruptive security, energy and health innovations at PitchLive 2011

Finalists of global innovation competitions awarded \$750,000 to develop their technologies

Five of the world's most exciting technology companies in energy, security and health have been awarded nearly £500,000 to develop their innovations after pitching to a panel of expert judges and a live audience of investors, industry, government, VCs and peers. The winners have been identified as having technologies that could help address global challenges in security and energy.

Cella Energy took first prize in the Energy Storage Challenge worth \$250,000. *Arktis Radiation Detectors* and *Agnitio SL*, were crowned winners of the Global Security Challenge, and awarded prize funds worth \$200,000 and \$300,000 respectively. Canadian startup *iThink Security* won the Cyber Security Challenge prize fund of \$10,000 with its solution to data leakage, and *ReavillMED* won the inaugural Health Pitch Battlefield.

The awards, presented at PitchLive in London on 24th & 25th October 2011, marked the culmination of a series of global innovation competitions. PitchLive is a Dragons' Den style pitching event for hi-tech innovators. It marks the culmination of a series of global innovation challenges, in security and energy storage, as well as smaller competitions in cyber security and health. The competitions attract entrants from around the world, and innovators must excel at regional finals to be invited to the final summit in London, where the finalists pitch their ideas.

The winners

Agnitio SL, Best Security SME (Global Security Challenge), 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.

CEO Emilio Martinez said "We're really honoured to win the Global Security Challenge. Through this process, we've made a lot of important connections and have also received a lot of good feedback. Winning the GSC will help us develop new products and move into new markets. Our win also validates voice biometrics as a key security technology, an important step for the industry."

Arktis Radiation Detectors, Best Security Start-Up (Global Security Challenge), 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.

Speaking about the win, COO Mario Vögeli said “I am very excited about winning Global Security Challenge and I would like to thank all my team for the excellent work they have put in to get us here. We are honoured to get opportunity to work together with TSWG and to receive this chance to accelerate the introduction of our transformational fast-neutron detection technology to increase global security.

Cella Energy, Energy Storage Challenge Winner, uses a technique developed and spun out of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory near Oxford, UK, to develop low-cost hydrogen storage materials. The result is a fuel with more energy than gasoline or lithium-ion batteries that could be handled safely in the open air and pumped like a fluid.

The hydrogen fuel will be rolled out in two stages. The first will be as a fuel additive, enabling lower emissions without any change to the fuelling infrastructure or to regular vehicles. The second stage would require changes to vehicles, but this would provide a pure hydrogen solution with zero carbon emissions.

Professor Stephen Bennington, Chief Scientific Officer for Cella Energy, commented “We’re really pleased to win the Energy Storage Challenge award. I think more than anything else it’s going to help us accelerate one of our most important projects, one where we can use our hydrogen storage technology to make a practical demonstrator”.

iThink Security, Cyber Security Challenge Winner, impressed the judges with its QI product. QI facilitates the secure encryption & decryption of selected files & folders, independently of their location in 3 clicks. QI enables a user to share encrypted volumes with other QI users while also offering a range of value-added services including file audit trail, geo-location & massive decryption prevention. QI can be immediately deployed on top of existing infrastructures without any training or tech support.

ReavillMED, Health Pitch Battlefield Winner, has developed a simple way to catheterize the heart without the need for creating a sterile field. By moving the catheter insertion from the neck to the arm insertion risks can be drastically reduced to an absolute minimum.

This innovative product replaces a commonly avoided, time consuming (20 minute) and complex wire guided surgical procedure (central line placements) with a simple (20 second) infusion that accomplishes the same thing.

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 \$2.9

million in prizes and helped finalists and winners generate over \$117 million in investment 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."

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 \$117M 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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