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Five Companies to Compete for Cash and Services at UNC Charlotte

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CHARLOTTE -- Five Ventures(tm), UNC Charlotte's fifth annual entrepreneurial event will be held on campus on April 7th, 2005, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The event will feature a three-phase business acumen competition where five teams or "five ventures" will demonstrate their abilities to secure funding, close the sale and hire CEOs.

The finalists (in alphabetical order), Bioptigen, Core Audio, Ometric, RIO and Witty Bit World, were selected to compete for cash prizes and mentoring services after two screenings. After being selected based on their business plan from an international pool of applicants, they were grilled by over 20 judges from various industries in the region.

In addition to the competition, the event will include Dwaine Gullion, featured in February 2005 Inc. magazine, who will share the Magnet America story. In the afternoon, a panel will discuss "Should the State Take a More Active Role in Early Stage Investing?" and a group of CEOs will address "What Issues Keep Our CEOs Awake at Night". The event will end with a social networking hour sponsored by Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice, PLLC. To register for, or find out more about the event, please visit the website www.ott.uncc.edu/five.

1. Bioptigen (contact: Eric Buckland, 828-495-5101 - Duke University)

Bioptigen provides a new class of in-vivo, real-time, two or three dimensional imaging of living subjects with near histological resolution without surgical excision. The Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) microscope uses a technology requiring no contact with the specimen and provides resolution much finer than ultrasound.

2. CORE AUDIO (contact: Citron Arbel, 704-996-6222 - UNC Charlotte)

Core Audio is a management company that oversees the design, manufacture and installation of high-end audio systems, at a level of customization unattainable elsewhere in the audio industry. Core Audio's excellent results are based on a patent-protected revolutionary advance in bass technology which increases bass output by a factor of three without increasing size and power requirements.

3. Witty Bit World, Inc. (contact: Jennifer Hudson, M.D., and Deborah Morefield, 704-213-4481 - UNC Charlotte's SBTDC)

Witty Bit World's mission is to produce and market children's educational products, including books, music, CDs, television and home video/DVD programming. Their products teach basic educational skills, encourage physical wellness, and introduce social and moral skills

4. ROI Executive Consulting Group, Inc. (contact: David Stephens, 704-331-3955 - Queens University)

ROI places a team of Six Sigma blackbelt consultants on the job

and aligns its clients with the ROI consulting team. Clients pay ROI based on ROI's ability to measure and sustain improvements for their business.

5. Ometric Corp. (contact: Jason Williamson, 803 233-4683 - University of South Carolina)

Ometric uses patented technology to analyze substances with instruments that are smaller and less expensive, while ensuring quality standards are maintained. Applications include chemical and pharma applications.



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