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## **Ohio Third Frontier Approves More Than \$21 Million to Support Innovation**

**COLUMBUS** – The Ohio Third Frontier Commission is making investments to support innovation activities in the state. Today, more than \$21 million in funding was recommended through the Ohio Third Frontier Open Innovation Incentive and the Ohio Third Frontier Innovation Platform Program.

“Innovation is the foundation of Ohio Third Frontier and the new program grants awarded today will go a long way in moving valuable technologies to the marketplace,” said Christiane Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development and Chair of the Ohio Third Frontier Commission. “By fostering collaboration, these investments will create jobs and keep Ohio on the forefront of discovery.”

### ***Fiscal Year 2012 Ohio Third Frontier Open Innovation Incentive***

The **Ohio Third Frontier Open Innovation Incentive** supports Ohio middle market companies in capitalizing on the proven advantages of open innovation. The goal of Open Innovation is to incentivize and assist these middle market companies (Seekers) with in-sourcing external innovations needed to overcome obstacles in the development of a next-generation technologies or new Ohio products, service, or process, accelerating the time to market and resulting in positive economic activity in Ohio. In order to achieve this goal and overcome the potential barriers to open innovation, the program assists Seekers with a portion of the transactional costs of utilizing the services of one or more Open Innovation Intermediaries that connect Seekers with solution providers (Solvers) and provide a range of open innovation services.

**NineSigma, Inc.**, located in the City of Cleveland (Cuyahoga County), was awarded \$2,097,563.

**yet2.com, Inc.**, based in Needham, Mass., was awarded \$1,767,100. As a contingency of the award, yet2.com has committed to establishing a principal place of business in Ohio (location TBD).

### ***Fiscal Year 2012 Ohio Third Frontier Innovation Platform Program***

The goal of the **Ohio Third Frontier Innovation Platform Program** is to support commercial partnerships involving an Innovation Platform at an Ohio college, university, or other not-for-profit research institution, that will benefit Ohio for-profit companies. An Innovation Platform is defined as an already existing capacity that incorporates unique technology capabilities and strengths, talent, equipment, facilities, engaged industry partners, a track record of research commercialization and innovation, intellectual property, and other resources in a particular technology area that have a long-

term beneficial economic impacts for the Ohio. The Innovation Platform Program links the development and innovation occurring at Ohio colleges, universities, or not-for-profit research institutions to specific late-stage development and innovation needs of Ohio companies. This connection must support job creation and business opportunities within Ohio.

**University of Dayton**, located in the City of Dayton (Montgomery County), in collaboration with RP+M, PolyOne Corporation, GE Aviation, and Stratasys, was awarded \$2,999,050 for its *Advanced Material for Additive Manufacturing Maturation* project. The project focuses on the development of new materials to be used in additive manufacturing processes that will meet the needs of the aerospace industry in Ohio.

**Kent State University**, located in the City of Kent (Portage County), in collaboration with AlphaMicron, Akron Polymer Systems, Crystal Diagnostics, and Kent Displays, was awarded \$3 million for its *New Concept Devices based on Nanoscale Engineering of Polymer Liquid Crystal Interface* project. The project focuses on solving problems with polymer, liquid crystal interfaces which will improve performance and allow the collaborating companies to push their products to the next level of commercial success.

**Cleveland Clinic**, located in the City of Cleveland (Cuyahoga County), in collaboration with Custom Orthopaedic Solutions, Astro Manufacturing, and ImagenIQ, was awarded \$2,763,444 for its *Products to Improve Orthopaedic Patient Outcomes* project. The project focuses on the development and commercialization of software and other tools to improve surgical accuracy and patient outcomes in shoulder and hip replacements.

**The Ohio State University**, located in the City of Columbus (Franklin County), in collaboration with Philips Healthcare and Cardinal Health, was awarded \$3 million for its *PET/MRI, a Next Generation Multi-Modal Molecular Imaging Technology Platform* project. The project focuses on the development of new radiopharmaceuticals and imaging technology to improve detection and diagnosis of diseases in cancer, neurology, and cardiovascular patients.

**Cleveland Clinic**, located in the City of Cleveland (Cuyahoga County), in collaboration with OptoQuest Corporation, ImagenIQ, Avedro, Bioptigen, and Peregrine Surgical, was awarded \$2,999,709 for its *Ophthalmic Imaging Center* project. The project focuses on developing and commercializing new ophthalmologic diagnostic and surgical instrumentation including new technology for imaging during surgical procedures on the eye.

**Case Western Reserve University**, located in the City of Cleveland (Cuyahoga County), in collaboration with Cleveland Clinic, Athersys, BioEnterprise, TECAN, BioSpherix, Renovo Neural, and NanoFiber Solutions, was awarded \$2,403,875 for its *The OH-Alive Innovator Platform: A Process and Manufacturing Platform for Cell Therapy* project. The project focuses on providing necessary equipment and services to cell therapy companies to accelerate the development of new cellular therapies through manufacturing scale-up, clinical trials, and commercialization.

**Ohio Third Frontier**, an unprecedented and bipartisan commitment to create new technology-based products, companies, industries, and jobs, has attracted more than \$7.3 billion in other investments to Ohio, and has a nearly 9:1 return on investment since its inception. The Ohio Third Frontier has also assisted in the creation and retention of more than 88,000 direct and indirect jobs for Ohioans. For more information, visit [ohiothirdfrontier.com](http://ohiothirdfrontier.com). For more information on Ohio's entrepreneurship activities, visit [www.hivelocitymedia.com](http://www.hivelocitymedia.com).

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to support business attraction and retention efforts by providing targeted investments that assist in job creation, as well as provides assistance and services to Ohio's communities and individuals. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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