



AMPED YBI \$100k Technology Startup Competition

The Youngstown Business Incubator and America Makes (National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute) are announcing the launch of AMPED, a two-stage \$100k technology startup competition with a focus on additive manufacturing (AM) or 3D printing (3DP). The competition is being sponsored by the Burton D. Morgan Foundation and kicks off July 1. Contestants will have until August 14 to submit their ideas using the submission form on the PitchBurner website (link found below).

While the competition has a focus on AM, business ideas related to business-to-business software or other technologies that align with the mission of the Ohio Third Frontier Commission are also eligible.

Unlike traditional business competitions where cash prizes are handed out to the winners, this is an investment opportunity for credible entrepreneurs looking to grow their early-stage start-up. Prizes will only be awarded to the team or teams that display strong business and technical acumen and have a viable business idea that can be taken to market.

Once all submissions have been reviewed, YBI will invite up to seven finalists to advance to the final round in Youngstown on November 2, 2015. Contestants will pitch their ideas, market strategies and management team to a panel of experienced judges. The winning team or teams will then join YBI as a Portfolio Company where they will work toward taking their idea from an early stage start-up to a scalable business. In order for finalists of the competition to be eligible to receive investment prizes, they must live or relocate in northeast Ohio.

To give an idea of the scale of the project, the prize package compares favorably with a similar contest that's held at MIT. Entrepreneurs, students and technology innovators from across the nation will have the opportunity to compete for up to \$100,000 of investment funding and up to a \$50,000 of in-kind professional services offered through the Youngstown Business Incubator.

YBI was spurred to develop the program in response to the findings by the University Business Incubator Index from Stockholm, Sweden (UBII). UBII recognized the Youngstown Business Incubator as the No. 1 University Affiliated Business Incubator in the world in September 2014. One of the recommendations to further enhance YBI's programming was to develop initiatives to generate new ideas and increase the number of portfolio companies.

The UBI index global benchmark of business incubators includes most of the top universities in the world, notably Stanford, UC Berkley, Cornell, etc. In this context, YBI performs much better than their peers at top universities.

For more information about AMPED, please contact Rich Wetzel at rwetzel@ybi.org or visit the YBI's website at www.ybi.org/amped

To submit your business idea for AMPED, please visit <https://app2.pitchburner.com/s1/site/AMPED> between July 1 - August 14, 2015.