

East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA)

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6th Annual "EAST BAY INNOVATION AWARDS"

March 29, 2018

Fox Theater, Oakland



2018 AWARD WINNERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oakland, California- The East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA) is excited to announce the awardees of the 6th Annual "East Bay Innovation Awards."

The best examples of innovation in product development, services and processes were celebrated at the **East Bay Economic Development Alliance's "6th Annual East Bay Innovation Awards" on March 29, 2018** at the historic Fox Theatre in Oakland. Over 100 nominations for the awards were received in August 2017 with 16 Finalists selected by subject matter experts in 8 competitive categories. Finalists represented innovative businesses and organizations from 11 East Bay cities.

Watch a compilation video of the awardees on the East Bay EDA YouTube Channel

<https://youtu.be/CoMD6xgaPmw>

Social Media Information:

@EastBayEDA

#EastBayAwards

#EastBay

<https://iawards.eastbayeda.org/>

2018 East Bay Innovation Legacy Award Winner (non-competitive): Awardee: East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)

Location: Oakland Headquarters

Media Outlets: @ebrpd

<http://www.ebparks.org/>

About: As the largest regional park agency in the nation, EBRPD leaders have been innovating since its founding in 1934. During the time of the Great Depression, visionary leaders in Oakland and Berkeley initiated a campaign to tax themselves to create this public park incubator. Today, EBRPD consists of 73 parks and over 121,000 acres across Alameda and Contra Costa counties, hosting 25 million visits annually. The EBRPD provides a range of benefits to residents, businesses and visitors that total about \$500 million annually. This includes the values of recreation, healthcare, property values and other ecosystem services.

Advanced Manufacturing Award (competitive): Awardee: Therm-x

Location: Hayward

Media Outlets: @Thermx3325 @CityofHayward

<https://www.therm-x.com/>

About: Major chipmakers like Applied Materials, Intel and last year's East Bay Innovation Advanced Manufacturing Awardee, Lam Research, depend on **Therm-x**. Therm-x's custom solutions help manufacturers tackle temperature control issues to build smaller, faster and better chips. Their solutions are also used for alternative energy, aerospace, automotive and food

applications. More than a dozen Therm-x employees come from the nearby Cal State University East Bay. Therm-x provides internships and hands-on experience to college seniors to help them transition them from academics to sustainable jobs.

Clean Tech Award (competitive): Awardee: Smart Wires Inc.

Location: Union City

Media Outlets: @SmartWiresinc @UnionCityCA_Gov

<https://www.smartwires.com/>

About: Smart Wires Inc. empowers utilities to optimize their transmission lines to be both efficient and reliable. They built the first “valve” to physically control the flow of power – to push power away from congested lines and onto underutilized paths to unlock the excess capacity that exists on utilities networks. This is becoming increasingly important as utilities shift towards renewable energy sources. Smart Wires is the 14th company founded by serial entrepreneur Woody Gibson who came across grid-related intellectual property developed at Georgia Tech and licensed it from the school 7 years ago. Smart Wires’ first office was at Oakland City Center, then moved to San Leandro when they opened its R & D facility, and today they occupy their 44,000 square foot facility in Union City.

Education Award (competitive): Winner: PilotCity

Location: San Leandro

Media Outlets: @PilotCity @CitySanLeandro

<http://www.pilotcity.com/>

About: PilotCity’s workforce incubators are cultivating the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators. Tech employees, teachers and students are brought together to create prototypes that lead to pilot projects. PilotCity’s employer-driven fellowships bring scalable industry-based learning to teachers and students. PilotCity is banking on an entirely new generation of forward-looking citizens who will be able to build the future of their own cities, by enabling people across sectors to incubate new ideas to improve lives. This is the future model of learning that results in real change that impacts communities.

Engineering & Design Award (competitive): Awardee: Velodyne LiDAR

Location: Alameda

Media Outlets: @VelodyneLidar @CityofAlameda

<http://velodynelidar.com/index.html>

About: Velodyne LiDAR started as a family-owned speaker manufacturing company, but interest in self-driving vehicles moved their focus to 3D vision systems used for autonomous vehicles. LiDAR – or Light Detection and Ranging – better known as laser scanning, relies on reflected light to calculate distance between objects. 94% of vehicle crashes are caused by human error, which is why LiDAR technology and the use of sensors can impact roadway safety. The demand for Velodyne LiDAR’s technology is high in diverse industries such as security, trucking, agriculture and mining.

Food Award (competitive): Awardee: Impossible Foods

Location: Oakland

Media Outlets: @ImpossibleFoods @Oakland

<https://www.impossiblefoods.com/>

About: It took a scientist to invent the Impossible Burger in 2009 when Pat Brown realized that he needed to create a consumer movement based on delicious and sustainable foods that were just as good, but more responsibly produced than meat-based burgers. The Impossible Burger was born when a soy-based substitute was used to create that “meaty flavor” we love, but it uses 25% of the water and 5% of the land needed to produce a traditional beef burger. **Impossible Foods** in Oakland now employs 250 employees in their new facility and estimates it will produce over one million pounds of burgers a month.

Information and/or Communication Technology Award (competitive): Awardee: Chirp Microsystems

Location: Berkeley

Media Outlets: @ChirpMicro @CityofBerkeley

<http://www.chirpmicro.com/>

About: Chirp Microsystems invented a way to make millimeter-sized ultrasonic sensors in silicon wafers. Chirp joined UC Berkeley's Skydeck accelerator, licensing the technology they developed. Their technology can be applied to traditional things like room occupancy sensors to helping drones and robots navigate. In late February, Tokyo-based electronics giant TDK announced its agreement to acquire Chirp Microsystems. Chirp will become a TDK subsidiary, but all of Chirp's employees will stay on, and the company will remain in Berkeley.

Life Sciences Award (competitive): Awardee: RefleXion Medical

Location: Hayward

Media Outlets: @RefleXionMed @CityofHayward

<https://www.reflexion.com/>

About: RefleXion Medical's innovation combines the gold-standard in cancer imaging - the PET Scan – with radiation therapy. Their technology identifies the most active parts of a tumor and eradicates them immediately with radiation, rather than making the patient wait for a full PET scan image to be formed. Precision and real-time imaging of the disease is important to treating cancerous tumors. Tumors signal their positions directly to their machine, which creates a much higher degree of precision that can lead to better results with fewer side effects.

Catalyst of the Year Award (competitive): Awardee: Contra Costa Transportation Authority/GoMentum Station

Location: Walnut Creek & Concord

Media Outlets: @GoMentum @WalnutCreekGov @CA_Concord

<http://gomentumstation.net/>

About: Contra Costa Transportation Authority's GoMentum Station is the country's largest secure testing facility for autonomous and connected vehicles. The station is managed by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), the local transportation planning agency. It is built on an innovative public-private partnership model which gives businesses the resources they need to innovate while the public benefits from access to new technologies as they are being developed. The space includes a variety of standard and non-standard road conditions for testing, including parking lots, hills, railroad crossings, patterned roads, tunnels and more. Lyft just announced their partnership in using the GoMentum Station site for the testing of their self-driving vehicles.

About the East Bay EDA:

The East Bay Economic Development Alliance is a public-private partnership founded in 1990, and serves the Bay Area's East Bay region (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties). The East Bay EDA's mission is to be the regional voice and networking resource for strengthening the economy, building the workforce and enhancing the quality of life in the East Bay.

For more information on East Bay EDA, please go to: www.EastBayEDA.org

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