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News Release

Innovation Growing in the East Bay Region: Surge in Contra Costa County

Oakland, CA November 17, 2014: Diverse and creative companies are driving the economic renaissance and innovative spirit of the East Bay. The East Bay is home to a wide variety of innovators in activities ranging from clean fuels to local cuisine, digital animation to medical devices, and much more. Many companies have spun off from, or are working with, the three National Laboratories, UC Berkeley, the business incubator hubs or the industry cluster networks unique to the East Bay.

To celebrate the region's culture of innovation, the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA) will host its annual *East Bay Innovation Awards* on February 19, 2015 at the Fox Theatre in Oakland. Over 175 nominations for the awards were received in October, with 16 organizations selected as finalists in 8 competitive categories. Nominees represented businesses and organizations from 23 East Bay cities. Although many past nominees have historically come from Alameda County cities with tech clusters, there was a sharp increase in the number of Contra Costa County nominees for the 2015 awards, representing a 157% increase, including a finalist based in Richmond.

The highly popular awards ceremony highlights East Bay EDA's marketing of the competitive advantages and assets that attract innovative businesses to locate and grow in the East Bay, and outstanding companies who embrace innovation in their manufacturing, services, design and information. The 2015 master of ceremonies will be Scott McGrew, host of NBC's *Press: Here*, a reporter for KNBR radio, and an anchor for NBC's "Today in the Bay" morning news.

Awards are given out in the categories of Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Tech, Education, Engineering & Design, Food, Information and/or Communication Technology, and Life Sciences. A Catalyst of the Year award is presented to an individual, organization, or company that is currently transcending organizational boundaries to pull East Bay assets together in new ways and/or to catalyze new thinking or processes.

An annual Legacy award is also presented for a company with a history of innovation that has impacted the quality of life and/or business development. The 2015 Legacy awardee is The Clorox Company.

The 2015 East Bay Innovation Award awardees will be revealed at the annual event in February 2015.

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Finalists, in alphabetical order, include:

Catalyst of the Year Award

SfunCube
TopLine

Advanced Manufacturing

Bayer HealthCare
FATHOM

Clean Tech

Natel Energy
SfunCube

Education

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory & Sandia National Labs
Oakland Digital Arts & Literacy Center

Engineering & Design

Applied Spectra
Deep Ocean Exploration & Research

Food

Blue Bottle Coffee
Community Grains

Information and/or Communications Technology

OSIsoft
PhaseSpace, Inc.

About the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (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 establish the region as a world-recognized location to grow businesses, attract capital and create quality jobs.

For more information on East Bay EDA, the 2015 East Bay Innovation Awards, and a complete list of assessed nominees, please go to: www.eastbayeda.org