



Press Release

Wednesday, October 4, 2006
For Immediate Release
www.sura.org

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SURA to Connect University Spin-offs with Investment Capital

Washington, DC – The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) today announced the first solicitation of SURAFund, an initiative to provide seed-stage investment capital for university spin-offs. The university consortium will seek companies working in the fields of nanotechnology, energy and biomedical technologies.

“Through this initiative, we’re tackling one of the toughest challenges faced by our universities for commercializing their inventions: seed stage funding to bridge the valley of death,” said Matt Thomas, SURA’s Director of Business Development. “Our VC partners are world-class investors representing over \$1.5 billion in funds under management, and they are specifically looking to SURA and its members for cutting-edge technology companies in which to put their capital to work.”

SURAFund is an opportunity to connect early-stage startup companies across the Southeast US with private sector investors. This unique, organized network enables efficient deal flow of seed stage (\$100,000-500,000) capital into university spinouts. After a successful pilot phase this summer, the first full SURAFund solicitation opens today and will close in three weeks. SURA is currently working with six leading venture capital partners on this initiative: DFJ Mercury, Harris and Harris Group, H.I.G. Ventures, Intersouth Partners, RCT BioVentures, and Tall Oaks Capital.

“Through SURAFund, we hope to change the landscape of early-stage investment by eliminating so many of the inefficiencies that prohibit startups from obtaining that seed stage money,” concluded Thomas.

For further information or to submit a plan online, visit www.sura.org/surafund.

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The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) is a consortium of over 60 leading research institutions in the southern United States and the District of Columbia established in 1980 as a non-stock, nonprofit corporation. SURA serves as an entity through which colleges, universities, and other organizations may cooperate with one another, and with government and industry in acquiring, developing, and using laboratories and other research facilities and in furthering knowledge and the application of that knowledge in the physical, biological, and other natural sciences and engineering. For more information, visit www.sura.org.