

BUSINESS IN THE HUMAN CAPITAL



Patton Surgical Selected as Texas Emerging Technology Fund Recipient

The Austin Chamber and the CenTex RCIC recently announced that the state of Texas chose Patton Surgical as the recipient of an Emerging Technology Fund (ETF) award. This company, which has developed an innovative laparoscopic trocar, will receive a \$3 million award for the commercialization of its revolutionary technology.



Patton Surgical, a Texas-based medical device company, has developed the safest laparoscopic trocar on the market. Laparoscopy is a minimally invasive approach to surgery of the abdomen that delivers less pain, less scarring and allows for faster patient recovery. With the award from ETF, Patton Surgical plans to expand nationally and internationally from its current Texas/Southwest U.S. focus. They will also continue new product development and the necessary testing and optimization of their innovative technology.

Chamber's Air Service Task Force Appoints New Chair



John Menchaca of Winstead has been appointed as the Chair of the Austin Chamber Air Service Task Force. As Chair, Menchaca will lead the task force in their mission to assist Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in their effort to recruit and retain air service to our region.

Menchaca's primary areas of practice are securities and corporate finance, with an emphasis on venture capital and private equity transactions, mergers and acquisitions and general corporate matters. He has extensive experience representing venture capital and other private equity firms, emerging companies and entrepreneurs in connection with equity and debt financings, mergers and acquisitions, public and private securities offerings, joint venture transactions, recapitalizations and general corporate law matters.

AdvaMed Gains Prospects and Exposure

BioAustin and the Central Texas Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization (CenTex RCIC) co-hosted the Board of Directors dinner at AdvaMed 2009. AdvaMed is the national trade association for medical devices, and this event took place during their annual conference in Washington D.C. on October 12-14.



Several Chamber staff attended the conference and dinner, in addition to Kevin Lalande with Sante Ventures and Kathy Lynch with Life Technologies, who participated as guests of BioAustin and the CenTex RCIC at the dinner. Forty prospects were identified during the conference where the group had a booth.

Entrepreneurial Education and Funding Sources in Central Texas

The Austin Technology Incubator, the City of Austin, Central Texas Angel Network (CTAN) and the CenTex RCIC will present an informational session on November 17 at the University of Texas in the WPR Auditorium (formerly MCC Auditorium), located at 3925 West Braker Lane. This session will discuss funding criteria for local entrepreneurs seeking seed stage and early stage funding from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund and CTAN. The Austin Technology Incubator and members of the City of Austin will provide an overview of the many business building entities available both locally and statewide for startup companies and small business.

"A state capital and the site of a big University of Texas campus, Austin has become a gathering place for tech- and arts-conscious young adults. Its SXSW media and arts conference, and its Austin City Limits music festival, draw hundreds of thousands of visitors each year."

-The Wall Street Journal, "The Next Youth-Magnet City" (9/30/09)

Recent Expansions

Bury+Partners
15 jobs - Austin

Silicon Laboratories
30 jobs - Austin

Electronic Arts
12 jobs -15,000 SF - Austin

Volver International
70 jobs - Austin

Advanced Integration Technologies
56 jobs - Pflugerville

EVS Metal
25 jobs - 12,000 SF - Pflugerville

Flare Industries
10 jobs - 36,000 SF - Austin

Standard Renewable Energy
24 jobs - Austin

Recent Relocations

Applied Rigaku Technologies
10 jobs - 19,800 SF - Tokyo, Japan

True Games Interactive
20 jobs - Santa Ana, CA

Astrotech
10 jobs - Houston, TX

Koalaty Products, A Current Solutions Co.
16 jobs - 21,600 SF - Tampa, FL

ParentFinancial Services
30 jobs - Dallas, TX



Green Jobs Task Force Discusses Report with City Leaders



On October 5, the Austin Chamber's Green Jobs Task Force hosted Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Council Member Chris Riley and Council Member Sheryl Cole at a luncheon at the Headliners Club to discuss the Green Jobs report that was released earlier this year. Jack McDonald, Chair of the task force, provided an overview of the report and addressed vital next steps for the community.

In response to the action items and questions posed by attendees, representatives from Austin-area technology, energy and workforce training organizations held a roundtable discussion about the viability, costs and repercussions of not properly training a "green" workforce. At the request of Mayor Leffingwell, the Green Collar Jobs Task Force will reconvene quarterly to assess progress and provide regional guidance for the inevitable growth of this industry.

The full report is available at www.austinchamber.com/greenjobs.

Austin Chamber Researches Venture Capital Opportunities

Jack McDonald, 2009 Chamber Vice Chair of Technology and John Thornton, General Partner of Austin Ventures co-hosted a venture capital dinner on October 7 at the Headliners Club. The dinner was moderated by Bill Stotesbery, CEO of KLRU and attended by ten local venture capital firms representing early to late stage investing. Paul Bury, 2009 Chamber Chair, Isaac Barchas, ATI Director and Randall Crowder, CTAN Executive Director also attended. The goal of the dinner was to explore what the Chamber can do to help increase investment in the area.

Business Retention & Expansion Travels to California

The Austin Chamber led a small delegation of business leaders to LA on August 10-12, and Silicon Valley on September 14-16 to meet with headquarter companies that have a regional presence in Austin and investment and venture capital firms to discuss the Texas Emerging Technology Fund.

While in Los Angeles, BR&E staff and volunteers visited with 15 headquarters and five investment and venture capital firms. During September's visit they visited with 13 headquarters and three investment and venture capital firms.

Austin Chamber Hosts CEO Executive Roundtable

The Austin Chamber hosted more than thirty guests including 15 top regional executives and four national site selectors at the Executive Roundtable meeting on October 2. The meeting was convened by 2009 Chair Tony Befi of IBM and was held at the University of Texas System Bauer House.

The discussion focused on the practices and activities cities and regions across the country are currently engaging to attract businesses that are relocating or expanding. This was the final Austin Executive Roundtable meeting for 2009.



Appreciation Luncheon Held for BR&E SWAT Team

The Austin Chamber's Business Retention & Expansion team hosted an appreciation luncheon for their SWAT team on September 30 at Sullivan's Steakhouse downtown.

This group is made up of representatives of regional organizations that are called upon throughout the year by the Austin Chamber to enlist their expertise with company assistance requests. More than forty representatives attended the luncheon.

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Creating Opportunity.

Austin and Texas in the News

Austin No. 2 Strongest Metro Economy. BusinessWeek.com ranked the nation's top 40 economies based on job growth, employment, economic growth and home prices. Austin, a high-tech center and home to UT-Austin, saw employment peak in late 2008 and home prices grow 2.5% in the second quarter of 2009.

(BusinessWeek.com, 10/26/09)

Texas Leading Nation in Wind Power. Texas is generating a lot of wind energy these days. Texas increased its capacity in third quarter 2009 by 436 megawatts—greater than any other U.S. state. Texas continues to lead the nation in total operating wind capacity, at 8,797 megawatts—nearly triple the capacity of second place Iowa.

(American Wind Energy Association, 10/21/09)

Texas ranks No. 2 in tech exports in 2008. Texas' high-tech exports were \$39.8 billion in 2008, up \$117 million, or 0.3 percent, from 2007, solidifying the state's status as the nation's second-largest cyberstate in terms of total tech exports.

(TechAmerica Foundation, 10/20/09)

Austin Top Job Market. No section of the country has been immune to the recession's ravages. But a few areas are still doing reasonably well, notably Texas, which includes four of America's five hottest labor markets.

(Portfolio.com, 10/2/09)