



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Applications Open for the WTIA's Fast Pitch Forum & Technology Showcase

Annual investment forum connects innovative companies with the investment community

SEATTLE – March 3, 2009 (amended with new information) – The [Washington Technology Industry Association](http://www.washingtontechnology.org) (WTIA) (<http://www.washingtontechnology.org>), North America's largest statewide association of technology companies, IT departments and individual technology professionals, today announced that it has opened applications for its Fast Pitch Forum & Technology Showcase, formerly known as the Investment Forum. The event, which will take place in Seattle on the evening of May 26 and all day on May 27, 2009 at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center, provides a unique opportunity for new, fast-growing and promising technology companies to connect with key venture capitalists, angels and technology buyers. Companies interested in presenting at the event can access the application form at www.washingtontechnology.org/IF.

The 24 companies selected to present at the Fast Pitch Forum will receive direct and immediate feedback on their sales and funding pitches from a panel of industry experts. Additionally, presenting companies will have an opportunity to participate in the Technology Showcase, an informal exhibit intended to facilitate one-on-one conversations between Fast Pitch companies and the nearly 350 expected attendees.

"As an organization, the WTIA is constantly working to make connections between technology companies and the investment community," said Ken Myer, president and CEO of the WTIA. "The Fast Pitch Forum is designed to provide new and innovative technology companies with an opportunity to present their business to a broad range of investors, advisors, technology buyers and the media. We have an exciting new format this year where all participants will 'fast pitch' their presentations to all attendees."

Applications are open through March 31, and both WTIA members (\$40 fee) and non-members (\$80 fee) are encouraged to apply. Presenting companies will be required to pay a presenter fee of \$500 for WTIA members and \$750 for non-members.

New this year, the WTIA is partnering with the Keiretsu Forum to host an educational session on angel investing preceding the Fast Pitch Forum. This free event, which will take place on May 26 at the World Trade Center in Seattle, will be open to those who register for the Fast Pitch Forum.

The WTIA is also partnering with venture capitalists and angel groups in Washington, Oregon and California to ensure that presenting entrepreneurs can reach a broad set of potential investors. Venture capitalists interested in participating in the event should contact sponsorship@washingtontechnology.org for more information.

Sponsors of the Fast Pitch Forum & Technology Showcase include Cairncross & Hempelmann, GrapeCity, Moss Adams LLP, Sun Microsystems, Pacific Real Estate Partners, F5 Networks, Google, Perkins Coie, RealNetworks, Regence BlueShield, Robert Half Technology, SolutionsIQ, Square1 Bank, Summit Law Group and Vertafore.

About the Washington Technology Industry Association

The Washington Technology Industry Association, founded in 1984, is the largest statewide association of technology companies, IT departments and individual technology professionals in North America. With more than 1,000 member companies representing more than 100,000 employees in Washington State, the association is a catalyst for sharing expertise, fostering collaboration, delivering key business services and advancing the value and global impact of technology companies doing business in Washington. The association's global partners are Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Microsoft, Regence BlueShield, Sun Microsystems, Vertafore and Wells Fargo Insurance Services. The association's funding partners are AH&T Insurance, F5 Networks, GrapeCity, Moss Adams and RealNetworks. For more information, go to www.washingtontechnology.org.

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