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City celebrates Global Entrepreneurship Week

LEXINGTON, Ky. (Nov. 18, 2013) — Lexington's fast-growing high tech sector saw the addition of nine companies in 2013, adding 190 new jobs and investing \$7.5 million.

"Creating the environment in Lexington to attract and grow good jobs is my top priority," said Mayor Jim Gray. "We've found a combination of incentives that gives us a competitive advantage over other cities, especially with high tech companies. And now we're improving our odds with the Jobs Fund, a unique program that will make Lexington even more attractive to industries with high wages."

Gray and Congressman Andy Barr kicked off Global Entrepreneurship Week with a look back over the past year's successes in attracting the high tech firms through a unique combination of federal, state and local incentives.

"Today's announcement further underscores the vital role that innovative small businesses play in job creation and economic growth. I will continue to support efforts like these that give small businesses the tools they need to hire new workers, expand operations, and lead an economic revival," Barr said. "I welcome these small businesses to the commonwealth and applaud the collaborative effort that continues to attract world-class companies to Kentucky."

 Jim Stice, president and CEO of Twin Star TDS, explains how his high-tech company came to Lexington. Twin Star technology is local infusion directly to tissue that is a growing modality for treatment of infection, pain management and chemotherapeutic or other agents.

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Teamwork has been a successful strategy for Lexington. The Bluegrass Business Development Partnership, a collaboration among the city, [Commerce Lexington Inc.](#), and the University of Kentucky,




by the state's match program, as well as the partnership's rent subsidy program for companies that have received a state SBIR matching grant.

"Utilizing the award-winning rent subsidy program provided by the city, leveraging the state's great matching program, and the intellectual assets of UK's faculty and researchers, as well as, its labs and research facilities, the partnership has truly hit a home run with the addition of these companies to the growing entrepreneurial landscape of Lexington and Kentucky," said David Blackwell, Dean of University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics and a Commerce Lexington Inc. board member.

The nine companies, moving to Kentucky from nine different states include Bauer Labs, Directed Energy Inc., Hitron Technologies, Inc., Mercury Data Systems, New Global Systems for Intelligent Transportation Management, Nicolalde R&D, NOHMs Technologies, Inc., Science Tomorrow, and Twin Star TDS, LLC. NOHMs Technologies, Inc., which was announced in September, comprises 160 of the new jobs announced. The companies are focused on software and IT, renewable energies, communications, life science solutions and advanced manufacturing.

Lexington is fast becoming a leading location for high-tech information jobs, a key factor in economic growth. In a recent job index report by the Atlantic Cities, Lexington was ranked 17th in America's Top 25 High-Tech Hotspots. Lexington grew 14.2 percent in high-tech information jobs from 2007 to 2012.

Global Entrepreneurship Week, Nov. 18-24, is the world's largest celebration of the innovators and job creators who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare. The partnership organizes the celebration in Lexington. A schedule of events can be found [here](#).

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Nine high-tech companies moved to Kentucky from other states in 2013. Representatives from some of those companies posed for a photo Monday with Congressman Andy Barr, center, and some of the local officials who helped them get started in Central Kentucky.