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# PHOENIX Business Journal

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## ASU launches technology entrepreneur program

The Business Journal of Phoenix - by [Ty Young](#) The Business Journal

**Arizona State University** is reaching out again to technology entrepreneurs, launching the Advanced Technology Innovation Collaboratory at its Polytechnic campus in Mesa.

The program is expected to help those with new ideas gain the necessary footing to launch startup businesses.

ATIC is the latest entrepreneurial support venture at the school. Others include the Edson Student Entrepreneur Initiative, the Entrepreneurial Programs Office and the Spirit of Enterprise Center.

There also are programs through **ASU Technopolis**.

"Many innovators and entrepreneurs in the Valley lack the resources to take a genuine product idea from its design concept to a real hands-on prototype model," said Bulent Bicer, ASU's senior officer for corporate relations. "The Advanced Technology Innovation Collaboratory provides engineering, design and product development services to entrepreneurs and small- to medium-sized enterprises who have a solid, innovative product idea."

Participants will benefit from the program's education, coaching and networking offerings from the school.

ATIC signed two local clients, **Kutta Consulting Inc.**, a firm that designs imaging visualization tools for public safety responders; and **Nucleic Solutions**, a company that has designed a DNA/RNA extracting system.

The new program is a collaboration between the College of Science and Technology and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Affairs. It is expected to foster new business for engineering, electronics, software and computer startups, among others.

For more: [atic.asu.edu](http://atic.asu.edu).

### Grainger opens sixth site

Manufacturing supply company **Grainger Inc.** opened a 62,000-square-foot facility in Phoenix's 280-acre Cotton Center near Broadway Road and Interstate 10.

This is the sixth and largest Valley location for the company, based in Lake Forest, Ill.

More than 4,000 products -- from light bulbs to motors -- now are available for contractors, maintenance professionals and manufacturing customers.

"We're committed to helping our Phoenix-area customers meet their unplanned purchasing needs for facilities maintenance supplies," said Branch Manager David Austin. "This new facility further solidifies our commitment."

Grainger plans to invest between \$50 million to \$80 million in nationwide expansion plans, including another branch in Mesa near Baseline Road and Horne expected to open in 2008. In 2006, the company opened a store in Scottsdale.

Grainger posted sales of \$5.9 billion in 2006, serving businesses in Canada, China, Mexico and the United States. The company has nearly 600 branches and 18 distribution centers.

For more: [www.grainger.com](http://www.grainger.com).

### **Jumpbox adds social media**

Tempe-based **JumpBox** released the fourth generation of its virtual appliance, adding a new social media offering to its platform.

The company, which specializes on bringing computer applications to virtualized servers, now offers customers MediaWiki, an open-source software used to collect and edit information online and through intranets.

JumpBox also provides customer relationship management VTiger, blogging software application WordPress and PunBB, a discussion forum application.

"The idea behind JumbBox is that we want to make deployment of open-source systems easy," said Kimbro Staken, chief technology officer. "This creates a single bundle of this application that takes about 30 seconds to configure."

JumpBox's applications sit on virtualized servers that, in turn, can work on any operating system. The system can be downloaded and installed through the company's Web site, [www.jumpbox.com](http://www.jumpbox.com).

### **Device detects bio threats**

Phoenix biotech company **Advnt Biotechnologies** launched a handheld biowarfare device officials say can detect biothreats in less than 5 minutes.

Called Pro Strips Rapid Screen System, the self-contained device detects five known biowarfare threats, including anthrax, ricin and the plague.

Previous Advnt devices are in use at the Tempe and Phoenix fire departments and the Department of Public Safety, said Dan Faubion, Advnt spokesperson.

The device is the product of more than \$3 million of research and investment during the past

two years. Previous Advnt devices have been evaluated by the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Postal Service and numerous other private and government agencies.

"This is the biggest innovation we've had," Faubion said. "The technology has changed so much over the past few years that these devices have become extremely accurate."

The Pro Strips system works in no more than 15 minutes, but test results usually appear within two minutes. Users can check for all five bioagents with one swab.

Results are between 98 percent and 99 percent accurate, Faubion said.

The device is not meant to replace state and federal lab-screening services, but it gives first responders such as police, fire and hazmat personnel a chance to gauge their immediate actions.

The device is in manufacturing stages and will be ready to sell by April. It costs \$70.

For more: [www.baddbox.com](http://www.baddbox.com).

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