LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES CLEANTECH INCUBATOR (LACI)

Cleantech innovation is thriving in Los Angeles with the opening of the new 60,000 sq.ft. La Kretz Innovation Campus, home to the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) and an ecosystem of entrepreneurs, engineers, environmental organizations, and policymakers helping to grow a green economy and sustainable future. LACI is also currently the only cleantech incubator housed with an R&D department from the city's utility, the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP), right on the premises. The Campus itself provides a working model of innovation and a sustainably built environment, featuring state-of-the-art green technology including a 175 kilowatt photovoltaic solar canopy, fast charger EV stations, bioswales, and the nation's first combined public greywater filtration and microgrid systems. Built exclusively for cleantech development and commercialization, the Campus also houses an Advanced Prototyping Center featuring electronics, chemistry and cell labs, a CNC center, waterjet center, welding lab, 3D printing shop, and use of premium CAD software, laser cutters, assembly space and training centers.

We are a private, non-profit organization helping to accelerate the commercialization of clean technologies by offering flexible office space, CEO coaching, mentoring, and access to a robust network of partnerships and capital. Recognized as one of the most innovative business incubators in the world by UBI, LACI identifies local entrepreneurs across multiple cleantech business sectors and guides them to market, creating jobs that advance LA's green economy. In just five years, LACI has helped 60 companies raise $78M in funding, created 1,150 jobs, and delivered more than $230M in long term economic value for the City of Los Angeles. In addition to delegations from numerous countries coming to Los Angeles to learn best practices for entrepreneurs, from genesis to growth, many of the world's top sustainability leaders have presented in LACI's amphitheater, including members of the C40 Group. The Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden, visited the campus in 2015, stating, "This incubator brings together innovative minds with the courage to take a chance on a new idea. There's power in an incubator using science and technology to take an idea from paper to product to the marketplace."

LACI is expanding locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. We recently received a $5 million, 6-year grant from the California Energy Commission to establish a Los Angeles Regional Energy Innovation Cluster (REIC) that will support clean energy entrepreneurship and networking opportunities in the Southern California coastal region. Internationally, LACI formed and manages the Network for Global Innovation (NGIN). NGIN is a global mechanism creating a commercialization ecosystem comprised of world class incubators in 20+ countries. The organization seeks to provide the best practices and software necessary to scale this ecosystem; access to a vetted global pipeline of early stage cleantech investment opportunities; global corporate partners to provide commercial pilot projects; and scientific leaders from each participating country to provide strategic direction.

LACI PORTFOLIO COMPANIES-

LACI is actively helping forty portfolio companies to successfully launch their clean technologies. Nevados Engineering, a pioneer in the solar energy field, received close to a million in grants from the U.S. Department of Energy just this year. The company's proprietary All-Terrain Tracker System, helps solar developers build projects on lands that are raised and uneven, increasing location site options, eliminating major costs of grading and construction and maximizing power generation.

Another LACI portfolio company, Hive Lighting, recently launched the first product developed and prototyped at the Advanced Prototyping Center on our Campus, surpassing its crowd-funding goal by 500% and raising more than $200,000 the first week of the campaign. The newly introduced Wasp 100-C energy efficient lighting fixture represents the next generation of lighting for all levels of production, from professional gaffers on Hollywood feature films to aspiring indie filmmakers, video bloggers and fashion photographers. Known for premium quality energy efficient plasma bulbs for film, television, live events, sports and architecture, this is Hive Lighting's first LED light and offers convenient controls and limitless color options. It provides a cost-effective solution for quick adaptation in lighting situations with superior quality, energy efficiency and reduced heat generation. Hive Lighting was also the recipient of the Tesla Award and is the only lighting company being considered for a 2017 Academy Award for Scientific and Technical Achievement.

BK LITEC, focused on IoT proliferation through energy efficient lighting, is using its LED technology to develop a residential smart bulb for the Asian market. Dubbed the "Vitamin Bulb," the light incorporates features designed to enhance health and wellness, and is slated for launch in Japan and Korea in 2017.

Entrade, is a global company founded in Germany with its Engineering headquarters in Pfaffenhofen, Germany and its U.S. headquarters now in Los Angeles, California as an LACI portfolio company. Entrade operates as a clean energy service company, using technology that recycles biomass waste into carbon neutral energy with the world's smallest CHP (combined heat and power) unit. The turn-key biomass units provide base-load power, are fully automated with 24/7 online monitoring of 50kW Electric and 120kW thermal output, and come ready to fit two in a 20 foot shipping container. The company recently opened an office in Fukushima's Renewable Energy Center to test generate power from timber irradiated by the Dai-Ichi nuclear meltdowns. Entrade plans to set up 60MW in Japan, including Fukushima where their pilot machine is currently being shipping to them for waste remediation and energy creation. Entrade units are currently located in areas around the world including the UK, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and California, in addition to units currently shipping to Japan and Puerto Rico.

Author: Fred Walti, II, President & CEO of the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) and Network for Global Innovation (NGIN)

As Co-Founder of LACI, Fred combines experience as an entrepreneur with his passion for clean technology. Fred has forged LACI into a regional commercialization ecosystem with an international footprint. LACI is now ranked as the #3 Global Incubator by the UBI Index of 1200 incubators and is one of three national incubators supported by the DOE. Fred was named to the Techweek100 as one of the most impactful technology leaders in 2014.

Fred received his BA from New York University.