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### Innovative Local Leaders Pushing Developments on National Priorities

Orlando has no short supply of innovative local leaders, several of whom are pushing developments on national priorities such as safety, renewable energy, training our military and more.

- **Jason Sayers, President, Xenerga.** *Taking us green.* Ethanol or biofuel production is another leading initiative happening here. Xenerga, a locally based biodiesel plant manufacturer, has opened Orlando's first biodiesel production plant and will expand a network of biodiesel facilities in key markets throughout the U.S. Xenerga's approach is unique to the nation's existing 65 biodiesel plants. Instead of focusing on building huge biodiesel production facilities, Xenerga has created a replicable 5 million gallon per year facility that can be set up wherever the feedstock exists, thereby reducing many of the distribution costs and associated problems. The company has recently partnered with the State Agriculture Commissioner to introduce a patented version of the jatropha plant. Oil pressed from the nut of this newly approved-U.S. – import-Malaysian plant can produce six to eight times the amount of energy extracted from soybeans.
- **Dan Rini, CEO/Founder, Rini Technologies.** *A cool guy who's developed cooling technology- and chemical/biological-protection-suits for military personnel, and cooling tech for missile defense systems.* The company has produced the first viable prototype of an ultra-portable personal air-conditioner. Rini attributes his success to what his alma mater did for him. While in grad school at the University of Central Florida (UCF), Rini applied for and received grants from the military to launch research into thermal management systems. He then set up shop in UCF's Technology Incubator (named one of the top 10 in the country) and has since graduated and grown from there.
- **Harold Mills, CEO, ZeroChaos.** *Winning the talent wars ... staffing companies with knowledge workers.* Harvard MBA Harold Mills led ZeroChaos as a start-up in 2000; took control of it in 2004 in a management buyout and, today, has \$360 million in gross revenue; a working relationship with the likes of AT&T, GlaxoSmithKline, IBM and Bank of America; a spot on Inc.'s fastest-growing company list; and is one of Florida's largest black-owned businesses. Among the company's suite of services: professional payrolling, independent contractor management and private label sourcing (which is fundamentally transforming the staffing industry).
- **Dom Meffe, CEO/Founder, Triad Isotopes.** *A 'serial entrepreneur' who has launched what is now the nation's leading independent nuclear pharmacy chain.* Meffe founded Triad last year; it compounds and distributes radiopharmaceuticals used in imaging procedures for cardiac and cancer diagnosis. With \$100 million in capital raised from investment firms, Meffe acquired three like pharmacies ... and, in doing so, he brought together 25 of the top independent facilities serving the nuclear medicine industry. Prior to this, Meffe led Orlando-based CuraScript Pharmacy, which was acquired by Express Scripts (which also acquired Priority Healthcare Corp.).
- **Dr. Edward Guindi, CEO, CORD:USE.** *Saving lives through cord blood.* CORD: USE uses umbilical cord blood as the source for stem cells. The company's program at the Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies was lauded recently by U.S. Senator Mel Martinez. Cord blood is now being utilized in the treatment of more than 70 diseases. The two-year-old company ties in with the growth/prominence of the

Orlando region's top-ranked hospitals and building biotech industry that now includes The Burnham Institute and a new medical school of the University of Central Florida.

- **Jose Diaz, President, DEI.** *Better arming and training our military.* DEI Services Corp. is an 11-year-old private simulation and training device company that has doubled in size and revenue last year and forecasts growth of 40-50 percent each year for the next five years. The company has multi-million dollar contracts with the Army, Navy and companies such as L3 Communications. Diaz was the 2006 National Minority Small Business Person of the Year. The simulation industry continues to fuel major U.S. economic growth. As a global hub for the industry, Orlando continues to attract companies in this industry and is experiencing strong growth and expansion from existing companies.
- **Dr. Vipul Patel, Medical Director, Global Robotics Institute, Florida Hospital.** *Leading new medical technologies.* Dr. Patel is a 38-year-old robotic surgeon extraordinaire who has personally performed the most robotic prostatectomies in the world, has educated more than 1,000 surgeons in robotic surgical techniques and has started robotic surgery programs or performed surgery worldwide throughout the United States and in countries such as India, Sweden, Belgium, Venezuela, Turkey, Australia, and South Korea. He leads one of the world's most experienced teams which is renowned for providing excellence in patient outcomes with respect to cancer control, [urinary continence](#) and maintenance of [sexual function](#).
- **Steve Chiang and Phillip Holt, heads of Electronic Arts Tiburon Studios.** *Giving us fun and games.* Chiang and Holt are among the most renowned leaders of the interactive games we play today and tomorrow (think Madden NFL series). They lead Orlando-based Electronic Arts' Tiburon Studios, the world's leading independent developer and publisher of interactive entertainment software for personal computers and advanced entertainment systems. In addition to growing the company and its presence in Orlando, both men have demonstrated their commitment to Orlando itself and are key forces behind the uprising of the digital media industry here, including the start up of the Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA) – a unique grad school for the study of interactive entertainment – and the creation of a Downtown Orlando Creative Media Village.
- **Fred Sheldon, CEO North America, Adacel.** *Helping make the skies safer.* Sheldon is the head of the North American operations of Adacel, an aviation simulation company with a new \$48 million contract with the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) to train air traffic controllers in light of the severe shortage of air traffic controllers nationwide. The simulators will be used at 18 airport towers nationwide, including Orlando International Airport, Washington Reagan National Airport, John F. Kennedy International Airport and Los Angeles International Airport. Other products from Adacel include simulators teaching airport personnel to drive safely along the flightline and ICE PILOT, a laptop based teaching tool to help air traffic controllers worldwide learn aviation-specific English since English is the official language of air traffic controllers.