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Melvin Mark and TiE Launch Incubator Project to Nurture Emerging Technology Businesses In Sunset Corridor

HILLSBORO, Ore. — November 3, 2011 — A partnership between TiE Oregon and Melvin Mark Companies has inspired the launch of the first business incubator project in Hillsboro to serve the specialized needs of emerging and start-up technology businesses. As part of a regional effort to foster entrepreneurship, the project will be known as the TiE Westside Incubator, Sponsored by Melvin Mark.

“The City of Hillsboro is excited to have TiE Oregon select Hillsboro as the site for its new incubator,” said Hillsboro Mayor Jerry Willey. “Fostering the growth and prosperity of entrepreneurs here in Hillsboro is a very important component of our economic development efforts. We appreciate the partnership that has been developed between TiE, Melvin Mark Companies and the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce. This is a perfect example of great collaboration that has resulted in the further development of our business community.”

Located inside Sunset Center at Tanasbourne, a Class A office building owned and developed by Melvin Mark at 19075 NW Tanasbourne Drive, the incubator project is the brainchild of TiE Oregon, part of a global nonprofit organization dedicated to helping start-up companies get off the ground. The City of Hillsboro and the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce will provide economic development assistance to the project. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for Thursday, November 10, at 5:00 p.m. to unveil the new space to local officials and prospective users.

“Small businesses are the backbone of Oregon’s economy and key to our ongoing recovery. By supporting these start-up businesses, we’re nurturing their entrepreneurial spirit and lending a hand to future employers and business leaders,” said Jim Mark, CEO, Melvin Mark Companies. “By partnering with TiE, we’re giving businesses access to the flexibility and resources they need to grow their companies.”

For \$200 per month, the TiE Westside Incubator offers the amenities of established office space with an affordable creative environment to help start-up companies get off the ground. Entrepreneurs renting space will have a spacious cubicle, wireless internet, and conference rooms. In addition, they can tap into an array of support services including TiE Oregon events, access to other entrepreneurs and angel investors, and one-on-one mentoring from established TiE charter members. Businesses must apply to join the incubator; TiE will recruit, screen and approve participating start-ups.

“With the synergy of other passionate entrepreneurs and mentoring from our established members, the TiE Westside Incubator is designed to accelerate the successful growth of emerging enterprise,” said Arun Joshi, president, TiE Oregon. TiE Oregon will also use the space to hold workshops, mentor-mentee meetings, and other networking events for other members and guests.

Melvin Mark provided the 3,200 square foot incubator space and all furnishings for 18 workstations. They will provide property management for the space and coordinate leasing activity. Upon application approval, participating businesses will sign a month-to-month license agreement.

Businesses interested in leasing space in the incubator may visit the TiE Oregon website at www.oregon.tie.org for an application and more information.

About TiE Oregon

TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) was founded in 1992 in Silicon Valley by a group of successful entrepreneurs, corporate executives, and senior professionals dedicated to the virtuous cycle of wealth creation and giving back to the community. Their aim was to nurture the next generation of entrepreneurs. With 57 chapters in 14 countries, TiE provides a supportive platform worldwide for mentoring, networking, and education for both entrepreneurs and other professionals interested in economic value creation. Founded in 2007 to bring the benefits of TiE's national and international connections to local entrepreneurs, TiE Oregon is one of more than 23 TiE chapters in the US, many of which have started initiatives to create angel investment networks at local chapter levels. Learn more about TiE Oregon at www.oregon.tie.org.

About Melvin Mark Companies

Melvin Mark Companies has developed, owned and managed property in Portland since 1945. They currently own or manage more than 2.8 million square feet of commercial space in the metro area, and provide a full range of commercial real estate services for landlords and tenants. The companies include Melvin Mark Brokerage Company, Melvin Mark Capital Group, Melvin Mark Construction Company and Melvin Mark Development Company. Learn more about Melvin Mark at www.melvinmark.com.

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