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Press Release

INVENTIVELABS ANNOUNCES PITCH COMPETITION SPONSORED BY MICROSOFT FOR ENTREPRENEURS WITH DYSLEXIA, ADHD OR AUTISM

Amesbury, Ma –InventiveLabs announces a new business accelerator and pitch competition sponsored by Microsoft with over \$200K in prizes committed and growing every month, for entrepreneurs with dyslexia, ADHD, autism and other learning differences.

Eight cognitively-diverse teams will be selected from applicants that have at least one primary member that self identifies as being ADHD, dyslexic, autistic or having some form of learning difference. Teams will be selected based on their business idea, team member's skills, background, ability to execute and the likelihood that InventiveLabs can have a positive impact on their success and growth. Teams will preferably have some initial revenue but have no more than \$500K in annual revenue. Accepted teams will attend InventiveLabs' intensive 3-month, mentor-driven, business accelerator program prior to the competition. The Accelerator Program leverages its unique expertise to assist those who think and learn differently achieve business success.

"Microsoft is thrilled to support InventiveLabs as they highlight the incredible strengths of dyslexic, autistic, and ADHD minds. At Microsoft, we are helping to empower ALL individuals to achieve more and it was a perfect alignment with InventiveLabs to help fulfil this mission" states Josh Drew, Microsoft DX Start up Team. Tim Hopper from Microsoft Responsible Sourcing states that *"this pitch competition will help increase the awareness and opportunities for companies to engage individuals who offer unique perspectives with a value prop."* Joining the founding sponsor Microsoft for the InventiveLabs' Pitch Competition, is Dassault Systèmes, Ascentage Law, Pierce Atwood, Vision Framework, Pen Dragon and S2 Tax, LLC. Potential sponsors are encouraged to contact InventiveLabs.

The Accelerator Program begins February 13, 2017 and runs through May 12, 2017. The Pitch Competition will be held May 5, 2017 in the Boston Massachusetts area where teams will present in front of judges and a live audience with angel investors present! The application deadline is December 30, 2016; visit the InventiveLabs website to learn more and apply for the competition. www.inventivelabs.org/pitchcompetition2

Rick Fiery, co-founder of InventiveLabs, stated *“We are delighted to offer this exciting opportunity to these talented candidates who have chosen to demonstrate their necessary brilliance and start a new business.”* Tom Bergeron, also co-founder of InventiveLabs, said, *“We have a creative environment and structured approach that can help some of our most brilliant and creative thinkers, many of whom possess special skills such as memory recall, hyper-focus and spatial thinking, thrive in the start-up community.”*

About InventiveLabs:

InventiveLabs is a multi-track research center and business incubator, in Amesbury MA, that assists people that think and learn differently: some have ADHD, dyslexia, autism or other learning differences; some do not and simply just see the world in a different light. The Lab has 3 primary programs: the Pitch Competition, the Signature Program and the Gap Year Experience. The Labs’ mission is to help people create and develop their ideas, and then transition to the next phase: possibly to start-up a business, start a new career or go back to college. When appropriate, the Lab connects successful attendees from its programs with angel investors. The ultimate goal is to help people reach their full potential. Learn more at www.inventivelabs.org.

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