

University of Rochester Start-up Companies

Vaccinex

Founded 1997

University involvement: license

Status: Raised > \$26 million; 48 employees

RTek

Founded 1999

University involvement: Founder's role including: Business plan, direct financing, employee loan, SBIR, license, loan, purchase of licensed products, board participation, license amendment, sublicensing involvement

Status: Sublicensed technology to Varion; contemplating dissolution; no employees

VirtualScopics

Founded 1999

University involvement: Founder's role including: Business plan, direct financing, employee loan, license, loan, board participation

Status: Listed on NASDAQ

Socratech

Founded 2000

University involvement: Research agreement, space rental, temporary management, SBIR, options, licenses, amendments

Status: Viable; active research; < 5 employees

Koning

Founded 2001

University involvement: Founder's role including: Business plan, direct financing, introduction to financing, SBIR, license, loan, space rental, VDAB, license amendments

Status: viable; active research; < 5 employees

LAGeT

Founded 2001

University involvement: SBIR assistance, license, introduction to financing, VDAB, Excell Partners investment

Status: Viable; active research; < 5 employees

CD Pondview (formerly Cerebral Assessment Systems)

Founded 2002

University involvement: license, introduction to financing, VDAB, consulting support, license amendments, Excell Partners financing

Status: Viable, no employees

Amplivex

Founded 2002

University involvement: Review of business plans

Status: viable, no employees

VDC Gateway

Founded 2003

University involvement: Founder's role including, business plan, HTR, introduction to financing, travel costs, management role

Status: Dissolved

WiseMed

Founded 2003

University involvement: HTR business plan, Simon School intern, introduction to financing, VDAB

Status: Dissolved

Tel-E-Atrics

Founded 3003

University involvement: Entity formation assistance, introduction to financing, consulting assistance, business planning, HTR

Status: viable >5 employees

OyaGen

Founded 2003

University involvement: Introduction to financing, license , VDAB

Status: Viable; active research; < 5 employees

Pathologics

Founded 2003

University involvement: Option, introduction to financing, HTR, business planning, Excell

Status: Viable; active research; < 5 employees

Eva Pharmaceuticals

Founded 2004

University involvement: introduction to financing, negotiating license, VDAB, SBIR, CEO recruitment

Status: Viable; active research; < 5 employees

Millennial MRI Corporation

Founded 2004

University involvement: Pre-seed workshop, entity formation assistance, HTR business planning

Status: Unknown

Physiologic Communications

Founded 2004

University involvement: HTR business assessment and plan, introduction to financing, license, VDAB, Excell Partners financing

Status: Viable; active research; 5 employees

Lighthouse Biosciences

Founded – 2006

University involvement: HTR business assessment and plan, introduction to financing, license, VDAB, Excell Partners financing, license

Status: Viable; active research; < 5 employees

Permedsys

Founded 2005

University involvement: Founder's role including CEO recruiting, introduction to financing, HTR business assessment and planning, inventor agreements executed

Status: Dissolved

EZMed Technologies

Founded 2006

University involvement: Introduction to financing, Simon School advice, RIT Capstone business assessment and planning, VDAB, management role, Excell Partners financing – matching funds offer

Status: Viable; no employees

iCardiac

Founded 2006

University involvement: license, VDAB

Status: Viable; active research; < 5 employees

Start-ups with no University involvement in the start-up process:**Androscience**

License to Chang technology

Status: Viable; active research

Gene Express

License to Willey technology

Status: Viable; active research; sales

PharmaNova

License to Guttuso technology

Prolifia

IIA start-up

Status: Dissolved

River campus- related start-up companies

QED Technologies

QED commercialized equipment for magneto-rheological finishing which is used for high precision optics. The technology was developed within the Center for Optical Manufacturing (COM) associated with the Laboratory of Laser Energetics.

Founded 1996

University involvement: License. Founded by a technology investment firm, Bylecorp Scientific. Don Golini, an optics graduate, was the founding CEO. Considerable research support provided by COM / LLE after the license.

Website: <http://www.qedmrf.com/>

Status: QED is located in Rochester, employs about 50 people, with revenues of \$12 million in 2005. The company was acquired by Cabot Microelectronics Corp in June 2006 for about \$20 million, and is now operating as a division of Cabot. In order to facilitate the sale of the company to Cabot, the UR license was bought out by QED for a one-time payment in 2006.

VirtualScopics (joint University/Medical Center)

VirtualScopics develops image-related biomarkers and provides image analysis service using these biomarkers for drug research and clinical trials. Its proprietary technology enables faster and more reliable detection of disease progression or therapeutic benefit, and accelerates the clinical trial process. It is utilized through service contracts by major pharmaceutical companies.

Founded 1999

University involvement: License, founders role including business plan, financing, loan and board participation. Founders include Kevin Parker (Electrical and Computer Engineering) and Saara Toterman (URMC).

Website: www.virtualscopics.com

Status: VirtualScopics, located in Rochester, had revenues of \$3 million in 2005, with sales in first half of 2006 rising 35% over first half 2005. Listed on NASDAQ in May 2006.

Truth-N-Beauty Software

Truth-N-Beauty was formed to develop applications for an interactive, highly graphical software application for popular astronomy. The company then evolved to deliver interactive learning software for textbook publishers and other clients to teach complex ideas, clearly, succinctly and playfully.

Founded 2002.

University involvement: Software license. Founder Adam Frank (Physics and Astronomy), also involved Prof. Ted Pawlicki (Computer Science) with undergraduate interns who did programming. Office space on campus.

Status: Generated income from contract with NASA and projects for text book companies. The company sold its assets in 2006 and is now out of business.

Pathologics

Pathologics is developing a rapid biological assay platform for the direct analysis of clinical samples. The product includes a chip reader and disposable single-use diagnostic chips, with multiple bio markers.

Founded 2004.

University involvement: Option to license a device patent from Chemistry and a process patent from URMC. Founder Ben Miller was in Chemistry when the device invention was made. Family / friends investment.

Website: www.pathologics.com

Status: Company has delayed licensing, as they have re-considered the target market. Obtained a phase 1 SBIR, but did not win the phase 2. One employee, a UR Electrical Engineering PhD recent graduate, in addition to the founder. They recently received an Excell small grant for an assessment of the business plan by HTR, which led to \$95,000 investment to complete the build of a prototype device. Licensing of the device patent (but not the URMC patent) is now to be completed.

George, Gabel & Conners Imaging Systems

GG&C Imaging Systems develops technology to extend the depth of field in digital imaging devices, such as cameras, telescopes and microscopes. GG&C has a DOD contract to develop a night-vision telescope and is seeking to partner with larger defense contractors and firms in the consumer camera and cell phone camera market.

Founded 2004

University involvement: License. Founder Nicholas George in Optics, along with local business men, Conger Gabel and Gary Conners.

Website: None

Status: Won Phase 1 and 2 SSTR contract from the Army Research Office, for a total of \$850,000, and a subcontract from ITT for a telescope design. They have had extensive discussions of potential contracting with consumer and cell phone camera manufacturers. Three employees in addition to the founders.

Sydor Instruments

Sydor Instruments is commercializing a high speed streak camera for data acquisition, originally designed at the UR Laboratory for Laser Energetics, which is used in high-energy research, molecular imaging, and optical communications. Their instruments enable researchers to get more precise data beyond the capability of current instrumentation.

Founded 2004.

University involvement: License. Founded with investment from Sydor, Inc.
Research support at LLE.

Contact: Mike Pavia

Website: www.sydorinstruments.com

Status: Sydor Instruments was a winner of the UNYTECH 2005 showcase contest. The streak camera is being marketed in the US and Europe.

Velosum

Velosum is a Utah company which has evolved from XactData, which was the startup company to which we licensed our "AuthentImage" software, which assures the integrity of an electronic document from digital tampering. Velosum provides simple, complete mobile data solutions. Its software provides the portability of handheld computing with the simplicity and affordability of pen and paper.

Founded 2004

University involvement: License only.

Contact: Wayne Viehweg

Website: <http://www.velosum.com>

Status: The company does not seem to be implementing the AuthentImage capability in their products, but we continue to have shares in the company, as a result of the licensing for equity in lieu of initial fee. The company is still active in the market space they started in, so they may use the license later.

ADVantage Imaging Systems

ADVantage Imaging Systems (ADVIS) targets becoming a fabless semiconductor manufacturer making CMOS image sensors, camera on chip systems and complete camera modules for applications that span the rapidly growing image sensor market. ADVIS's designs provide an order of magnitude improvement over existing sensors in low power use and broad dynamic range.

Founded 2005

University involvement: license. Founders are faculty in Electrical and Computer Engineering: Mark Bocko and Zeljko Ignajtovic.

Email: bocko@ece.rochester.edu

Website: www.advis-inc.com

Status: After spending a year seeking strategic investments (both venture capital and existing chip manufacturers) for the commercial sensor market, the company is now focusing on delivering integrated analog-digital sensors under contract, of total scope about \$1 million, with the Navy to develop credibility to enable raising the capital (\$10 -50M) required for the commercial chip market.

BetaBatt

BetaBatt is a Houston-based company founded to develop a long-lasting reliable power source. The company has patented a concept for energy conversion from the beta decay of radioactive source, which depends on a porous silicon diode architecture developed at the UR. The company's first commercial product will be a BetaBattery™ with a 13 year lifespan powered by tritium. BetaBatteries™ are expected to be uniquely valuable for medical implant, oil and gas and other remote sensing applications, as well as for military and space uses.

Founded 2005

University involvement: license. Founder is Larry Gadeken from Houston, who brought his idea to Rochester to work with Prof. Philippe Fauchet, who is recognized nationally as an expert in porous silicon.

Email: larrygad@betabatt.com

Website: www.betabatt.com

Status: Now funded by a Phase 2 SBIR to develop the BetaBattery, with support from UR under the SBIR.

Diffinity Genomics

Diffinity Genomics provides rapid, low-cost identification of genetic sequences, which can be used clinically for genetic screening and proteomics testing. The first products are targeted at research kits for animal genotyping to reduce both the cost and time for the analysis of amplified genomic DNA by a factor of 10. At Diffinity's pricing, this market is about \$100 million world wide.

Founded 2005

University involvement: license. Founder Lewis Rothberg, Chemistry, took a year's sabbatical to work on the company. Local investor, Rick Richmond, is CEO.

Website: None

Status: One employee, in addition to the founders. Has an investment from Excell. Won NYSTAR TTIR grant to fund support research in the Chemistry department.

StemCapture

StemCapture is developing a technology for cell separation based on selective adhesion, for application in the capture of adult stem cells from flowing blood. Hematopoietic stem and precursor cells (HSPC) are able to restore the host immune response and show great promise for treatment hematological disorders.

Founded 2006

University involvement: license. Founded by Michael Weiner through the local technology investment company, BioMed, with Prof. Michael King of Bio-Medical Engineering.

Website: <http://www.stemcapture.com/>

Status: One employee, in addition to the founders. Won a NYSTAR TTIR grant to fund support research in the Bio-Medical Engineering department.