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## Four companies picked as business innovation tenants

BY DONNA BALANCIA  
 FLORIDA TODAY

Four high-tech companies emerged as winners in the competition to become the initial tenants of the Technological Research and Development Authority Business Innovation Center in Melbourne.

The selection process included candidates completing the authority's six-week "Roadmap to Success" workshop series.

Company leaders then made business presentations and provided supporting documentation to authority. All materials were reviewed and judged by a panel of local business leaders, including attorneys, bankers, financiers and entrepreneurs.

These are the companies the judges selected:

### Adapt4

Adapt4 developed a cognitive radio technology that operates within Federal Communications Commission rules to channel radio signals to unused radio frequencies. The technology can be used by the military, homeland security, public safety, utilities and transportation industries.

The company aims to have 22 employees within a year.

### Audigence

Audigence has created a software that enables manufacturers of cochlear implants and hearing aids to better tune their devices for clearer speech recognition for hearing-impaired people. The company has been testing the product in clinical trials since 2003.

"People don't want to be able to hear paper rustle more clearly," Audigence President and Chief Executive Officer Lee Krause said. "They want to be able to understand what someone is saying, especially on the phone. The TRDA is assisting us in our noble struggle to help people hear more clearly."

### ColorSculpt

ColorSculpt has created a process to manufacture full-color sculptures of people. The technology uses images captured by a series of high-definition 3-D cameras, and transforms them into dimensional portraits in sizes up to 14 inches tall. The product has a full-color matte finish, and is made of composite material.

Being selected as a tenant "is a tremendously valuable opportunity for our company," said Jeff Baloun, founder and chief operating officer. "The success rate of TRDA-affiliated companies is outstanding."

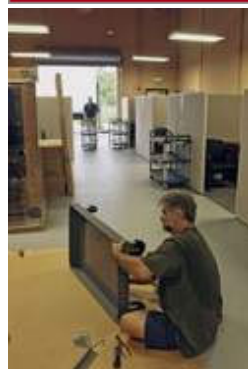
### Sea-Watch

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**Moving.** Alan Waddell, foreground, an employee of Till Office Equipment of Winter Haven, assembles a cart as Adapt4 President Ed Gerhardt moves into his firm's space in the business innovation center Rik Jesse, FLORIDA TODAY

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"This is very exciting, and I think the opportunity will help me with resources and venture funding," said Loretta Kish, president of Sea-Watch Technologies Inc.

Sea-Watch will provide electronic monitoring technology for the marine industry, providing online monitoring and control to owners of marine vessels that are 30 feet in length and longer. The company has developed and tested the hardware and software for its integrated system.

Kish wanted to do something for someone else, and decided to use her talents.

"I was at a midpoint in my life, wondering about what was the purpose in my life," Kish recalled. "It came to me about helping widows and orphans off a Bible verse. Well, I had worked in electronics, and I had seen a void in the marine industry. I have a fear of going into the ocean myself and being stranded. I was thinking, if someone could monitor us like they do with the airplanes, it would be great. I knew what I wanted to do and pooled together some other technologies via the Internet."

Kish expects to donate 25 percent of the profits to widows and orphans.

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