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BUSINESS

4 companies linked to UTA win technology startup grants from state

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BY JOHN AUSTIN

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Four area high-tech companies with links to the University of Texas at Arlington are receiving a total of \$3.5 million from the state to help move their projects to the marketplace.

The grants are part of \$10.4 million in funding announced Wednesday by the Texas Emerging Technology Fund. Nine North Texas recipients were named.

"These nine new companies join 21 previous recipients of ETF startup investments in our North Texas Region," said Mike Lockerd, executive director of the North Texas Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization, an arm of the Emerging Technology Fund. "To date, the ETF and the NTXRCIC have collaborated to invest nearly \$41 million in 30 companies. The ETF has also granted an additional \$31 million to enhance applied research activities in North Texas higher education institutions and research consortia."

Hyun Kim, president of Irving-based Bynari, said her privately owned company will use much of a \$1.5 million grant to hire employees to work on new software. The software enables users to share calendars and contacts without being dependent on Microsoft Exchange Server, the dominant e-mail software.

Mike Ostell, a UT-Arlington computer science faculty member, said several of his students worked on the two-semester project.

"They got a long way on it," Ostell said. "They were pretty happy with it."

Kim just hired two UT-Arlington graduates for full-time jobs and a third part time in software development and quality assurance. She said Bynari has about 12 employees and just signed a deal with a big client.

Kim said Bynari has about \$1 million in revenue.

"Next year it probably going to double or triple that," Kim said. "Having this opportunity really allowed us to stay here."

The other companies with UT-Arlington ties and their grants are: Vaharra Systems, \$1.5 million to commercialize its uMobility software; iLearning Gateway, \$250,000 for a patent-pending artificial intelligence system; and On Track Imaging, \$250,000 to commercialize a high-definition ultrasound imaging system for use on horses.

The Emerging Technology Fund was established in 2005 and has \$203.5 million for fiscal 2010-11. Its goal is to speed development and commercialization of new technologies and boost research at state

universities.

The North Texas Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization is the region抯 center for finding, vetting and mentoring companies seeking funding.

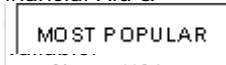
The center says it has counseled over 575 potential clients and evaluated 246 applications since 2005.

Online: ntxrcic.org

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