



## Nikola Labs Wins OSU Business Case Competition

APRIL 7, 2015

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 7, 2015 – A team of OSU engineering students with the help of local entrepreneurs under the name Nikola Labs, took top honors at Ohio State’s annual Business Plan Competition. Their venture to commercialize a revolutionary energy harvesting technology gets a boost with \$17,000 in prize money.

Team Nikola Labs won \$15,000 for its plan to use energy transmitted during Wi-Fi connection and voice and data communications to charge wireless devices. The team also earned the \$2,000 Clean Energy Award, sponsored by Ohio State’s Office of Energy and Environment.

Forming the Nikola Labs team are mechanical engineering student Pareekshith Allu; Assistant Professor-Clinical of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Wladimiro Villarroel; mentor John Bair, executive director of Ohio State’s Center for Design and Manufacturing Excellence; and Will Zell, entrepreneur and co-founder of Nikola Labs LLC.

Nikola Labs will represent Ohio State when the team competes later this month in the Rice Business Plan Competition in Houston, Texas.

### **About Nikola Labs**

Nikola Labs is a collection of OSU engineering students, professors and local entrepreneurs commercializing a revolutionary energy harvesting technology developed by Dr. Chi-Chih Chen at OSU’s Electroscience Laboratory.

### **Ohio State Business Plan Competition**

Conducted by Technology Entrepreneurship and Commercialization (TEC) Institute at The Ohio State University, the Ohio State Business Plan Competition stimulates and nourishes the entrepreneurial spirit in full-time and part-time Ohio State University students. In particular, this competition seeks to:

- Encourage entrepreneurially-oriented graduate and undergraduate students to develop and grow new ventures based on their own ideas and technologies.
- Provide the students with educational workshops to develop their ideas and pitch their ventures to investors. These programs provide constructive feedback for increasing the probability of successfully launching their ventures.
- Provide the best business plans with substantial resources to assist the winning student teams with launching their ventures.