The Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

**The Guide**

**Are you a faculty member who invented a new technology?**

Go to: Ohio University Technology Transfer Office for patent protection, evaluation of the market for your discovery, and to license to a company.

**Need feedback on your business idea/want to start your own company?**

Go to: TechGROWTH Ohio, a public/private entrepreneurial support program housed at the university’s Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs. It also offers growth grants and pre-seed investment capital for start-up companies, plus business coaches and staffing assistance.

**Need advanced funding?**

Go to: Start-up Weekend, a 48-hour business pitch competition for university and regional entrepreneurs hosted by the Innovation Center, Ohio University’s small business incubator.

**Need further investment? Business coaches? Help finding staff?**

Go to: The Center for Entrepreneurship if you’re an Ohio University student. The center offers an “Idea Pitch” competition, hosts a guest lecture series of successful executives, and supports student entrepreneur clubs and networking activities. As of fall 2012, it began offering a major in entrepreneurship to business students and a certificate to non-business students.

**Need office or laboratory space?**

Go to: The Innovation Center, a 56,000-square-foot facility that offers flexible space, equipment, networking events, and business coaching. The program is led by Jennifer Simon, a seasoned regional economic development professional.

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**Need seed money?**

Go to: East Central Ohio Tech Angel Fund (ECOTAF) with 27 investors, it’s one of the largest rural focused investment funds in the country.

**Need feedback on your business idea/want to start your own company?**

Go to: Athenian Venture Partners, a venture capital firm headquartered in Athens, Ohio, started with an investment from the Ohio University Foundation. It focuses on investments in information technology and healthcare firms. Its Ohio VP fund, launched in 2003, was recently ranked tops in the nation for high returns on investment.