



SEARCH NEWS & ARTICLES

## GLOBAL AGTECH INVESTORS NETWORK ESTABLISHED

May 27, 2010

Source: BRDG Park news release

BioResearch & Development Growth (BRDG) Park at the Danforth Plant Science Center, announced the establishment of Global Agtech Investors Network (GAIN). Based at BRDG Park (pronounced "bridge"), GAIN is an innovative non-profit membership-supported resource that facilitates capital formation, fosters entrepreneurship innovation and relationships, collects and distributes key data, and exposes new technologies in the emerging agtech marketplace worldwide.

The new collaboration was announced In May at the second annual Ag Innovation Showcase in St. Louis, a leading global event for ag industry leaders, venture capitalists and entrepreneurs, sponsored by BRDG Park and other partners. The website is [www.aginvestors.com](http://www.aginvestors.com).

According to Dan Broderick, president and founder, GAIN fills a serious void. "Before GAIN, innovative agtech companies found it difficult to find sources of financing to support the growth of their company. In addition, venture capital firms found deal syndication difficult.

"GAIN hopes to create a more efficient capital formation market," said Broderick. "GAIN is building on and expanding St. Louis' leadership position in agriculture to become the 'go to' organization for resources and information on innovation in the plant science and agriculture industry."

Founding sponsors included BRDG Park/Wexford Science+Technology and St. Louis County Economic Council. Broderick also announced initial Charter members, including Novus International, Monsanto, Divergence, Prolog Ventures, MidPoint Ventures, Finistere Ventures, Southwest Michigan First, and Nidus. Several other members will be announced shortly.

Modeled on the Mid America Healthcare Investors Network ([www.mhinonline.com](http://www.mhinonline.com)), also founded by Broderick, GAIN's strategy includes tracking emerging trends in agtech innovation and creating multiple information access points and modes for members to efficiently access information.

GAIN also will expose early and mid-stage companies developing innovative technologies to well-established players in the industry. "In addition to benefiting the larger companies in the sector by providing introductions to potential strategic investments and opportunities to add to their existing product lines, emerging companies will gain visibility as they seek partnerships and additional financing," said Broderick.

Membership is available internationally to agriculture-focused venture capital funds, corporations, institutions, government agencies and service providers. They will meet three times a year to network, review and discuss financing opportunities and track industry trends and regulations, and will receive regular information updates between meetings. Programs for VCs will focus on syndication of financing for startup companies and improving marketplace efficiencies. Initial charter members include Novus International, Prolog Ventures and Nidus.

"As an international membership organization, GAIN promotes an efficient marketplace

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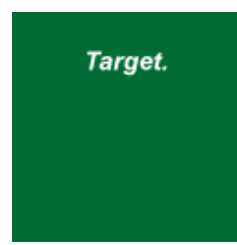
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for financing innovative startup companies in agtech and plant science worldwide," said Broderick. "Members have opportunities to share their expertise and experience, innovative early and mid-stage companies are exposed to established players who can help them grow, and established players get access to opportunities for strategic investments and expanded product lines through early- and mid-stage companies."

"GAIN is another demonstration of the role BRDG Park set out to play -- as a global focal point bringing together people and organizations to connect scientific research with needed resources and relationships to breed successful next-generation scientific commercial success stories," said Sam Fiorello, president of BRDG Park. "In the coming years, GAIN will play a key role in creating the synergies for ag science businesses to develop and grow."

The two-day Ag Innovation Showcase, co-sponsored by BRDG Park, Nidus, Missouri Biotechnology Association (MOBIO), Missouri Technology Corporation and the Larta Institute, spotlights cutting-edge entrepreneurs from around the world who are driving innovation in agricultural technologies in ag-bio, food and nutrition, biofuels, sustainable materials, clean-tech, information technology and animal health. Several hundred ag business leaders from around the world have converged at the Donald Danforth Center for Plant Sciences to share insights and make connections.

About Dan Broderick:

Broderick has over 22 years of experience in the life sciences and venture capital industry. Prior to joining Prolog Ventures in 2007, Broderick spent seven years with Mason Wells Biomedical Fund as a managing director where he was responsible for all aspects of investment activities. While at Mason Wells, Broderick served as a member of the Board of Directors of several portfolio companies including Gala Biotech, Mezzia, OpGen, Deltanoid Pharmaceuticals and ZyStor Therapeutics.

Prior to Mason Wells, Mr. Broderick spent 18 years at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., where for 12 years he served as director of the Office of Technology Commercialization. He has personally evaluated the commercial potential of hundreds of technologies in virtually every medical specialty. He has been directly responsible for negotiating and consummating over 100 medical technology commercialization agreements. He has experience with technology evaluation, market assessment, negotiations, academic institution technology transfer, and intellectual property management.

Broderick played a key role in the launch of Mayo Clinic's \$25 million venture investing program. He co-founded and served on the Board of Directors of IntraTherapeutics, Inc., CNSoftware and Medintell, Inc. In 1994, Broderick was honored with an appointment to the staff of Mayo Clinic.

Broderick is actively involved in the venture capital community on a regional and national level. He served on the Board of Directors of the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA). He has testified before the U.S. Congress on behalf of the NVCA; works on a number of NVCA committees, and Chaired the Research Committee. Broderick is the founder of the Mid-America Healthcare Investor Network (MHIN) and currently serves as president of the organization. He also is the past president of the Wisconsin Biotechnology and Medical Device Association, sat on the Advisory Boards of the University of Minnesota's Office of Business Development and BioGenerator in St. Louis, Mo. He also served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Medical College of Wisconsin Research Foundation and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Research Foundation.

Broderick received a Bachelors Degree in Biology from Iowa State University in 1982. He has completed some graduate course work in Finance, Accounting and Marketing at Winona State University.

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