OUR LIFESTYLE IS SUSTAINED BY ENERGY

Next generation energy technologies developed at Carnegie Mellon University have the ability to enhance energy generation and the consumption of that energy in our buildings, transportation, industry and homes. Some of these technologies are just emerging from the minds of Carnegie Mellon University undergraduates, graduate students, researchers, faculty and alumni while others have already entered, or are on the cusp of entering, the marketplace. However, to reap the benefits of these technologies in our everyday lives, it is critical that industry, policymakers and the public support their development from ideas generated in the laboratory to the commercial marketplace.

CMU is uniquely positioned to support entrepreneurs and innovators. We never know where the next breakthrough in energy will come from, but the Scott Institute helps us find it.

— Reed McManigle, CMU Center for Technology Transfer and Enterprise Creation
Mentor-in-Residence and Senior Manager of Licensing and Business Development

Contents

02 Energy Generation, Conversion, Storage and the Environment
05 Industry Device Manufacturing and Energy Efficiency
09 Commercial Facility and Residential Energy Management
12 Transit Energy Management
14 Index of Companies and Innovations
Ecotone Renewables
Creating Energy through Food Waste
Ecotone’s “Seahorse” system takes in food waste from local grocers, college dorms, restaurants, and more. Through anaerobic digestion principles, Ecotone Renewables reuses food waste to create electricity, fertilizer and fresh produce. Key researcher is Dylan Lew.
More information at: ecotonerenewables.com

Edible Electronics
Organic Sensors that Prevent Health Complications
Edible electronics are biosafe, ingestible sensors powered by stomach acid that could provide information on early signs of bacterial infection, look for symptoms of gastrointestinal disorders, and even study the microbiome living inside people. Key researchers are Christopher Bettinger and Jay Whitacre.

Electrochemical Synthesis of Cement
Rethinking Cement Generation
The production of cement is the largest industrial source of greenhouse emissions in the world. CMU researchers are developing an electrochemical method that would enable the synthesis of cementitious calcium silicate compounds at temperatures at or close to room temperature. This way, one could harness a source of renewable, carbon neutral electricity to produce the exact same product that any cement kiln is producing, but without the greenhouse gas pollution. Key researcher is Venkat Viswanathan.

Aquion Energy
Storing Electricity in Water-Powered Batteries
Aquion Energy has developed the aqueous hybrid ion battery, a low-cost, long-lasting, large-scale aqueous electrolyte sodium ion battery that uses salt water to store electricity. The company was acquired June 2017. Key researcher is Jay Whitacre.
More information at: aquionenergy.com

Farm to Flame Energy
Providing a Universal Solution for Converting Biomass into Electricity
Farm to Flame Energy converts agricultural waste to electricity in a unique smokeless process at half the cost of diesel fuel. Their revolutionary combustion process burns various forms of biowaste (reduced to fine powder) in place of fossil fuels. This fuel burns as intensely as traditional fuel sources, while being safe for the environment. Key researcher is Kwaku Jyamfi.
More information at: farmtoflameenergy.com

GeckoRobotics
Power Plant Inspections Using Robotics
GeckoRobotics has developed robotic systems to facilitate the inspection of boiler tubes in power plants. Their system is faster, more accurate and safer than current techniques. The company was assisted in its launch by Y Combinator. Key researcher is Troy Demmer.
More information at: geckorobotics.com

High-Capacity Lightweight Batteries
Increasing Battery Capacity through 3D Printing
CMU researchers are using 3D printing methods to create controlled, hierarchically three dimensional porous electrodes for lithium-ion batteries that will increase the battery capacity by at least 50 percent. Key researcher is Rahul Panat.

Microfluidic Microbial Fuel Cells
Creating Power from Organic Compounds
The Microfluidic Microbial Fuel Cell, which includes the world’s smallest low-cost fuel cell, uses microbial electricity generation enabled by microfluidic flow control to produce power from natural organic compounds like bacteria. Key researchers are Kelvin Gregory and Philip LeDuc.
**SensSevere**

**Sensing Danger in Severe Environments**

SensSevere provides semiconductor-based sensors for severe environments that detect hydrogen, hydrocarbons, ammonia and bromide. These have the power to improve environmental compliance and safety for the power generation, environmental and chemical industries. SensSevere was acquired in July 2018 by Sensit Technologies. **Key researcher** is Jason Gu.


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**SolePower**

**Increasing Industry Efficiency through Smart Work Boots**

SolePower has created self-powering smart work boots that can be embedded with electronics including GPS, motion sensors, Wi-Fi, RFID and lighting. All are charged by the power of walking and can help provide data, signal unsafe conditions, and simplify monitoring of industry and company standards. **Key researchers** are Hahna Alexander and Matthew Stanton.

More information at: [solepowertech.com](http://solepowertech.com)

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**Solar Selective Absorbers**

**Impacting Solar Thermal System’s Design and Performance**

Solar Selective Absorbers utilize solar thermal energy conversion and a mold stripping method that drastically increase throughput and decrease fabrication cost. These absorbers can significantly impact transformative advancements in solar thermal systems’ design and performance. **Key researcher** is Sheng Shen.


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**Mine Vision Systems**

**Mapping Mines with Accuracy**

Mine Vision Systems has created a visual system that can be used for the mapping of underground mines with a high degree of accuracy. This accuracy enables monitoring from different perspectives for production, safety and equipment operators. **Key researcher** is Brett Browning.

More information at: minevisionsystems.com

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**Platypus Technologies, LLC**

**Environmental Monitoring Through Autonomous Robot Boats**

Platypus Technologies, LLC manufactures small, low-cost autonomous robotic boats that can quickly and efficiently sense environmental contaminants, along with other critical data, such as water depth, dissolved oxygen and pH. **Key researcher** is Paul Scerri.

More information at: senseplatypus.com

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**Tartan Battery Network**

**Developing a System for Recycling and Reusing EV Batteries**

CMU researchers are developing a platform of services to support the reuse and recycling of electric vehicle (EV) lithium-ion batteries. They will assess and adaptively reuse batteries that have reached the end of their life for their initial application. **Key researchers** are Jay Whitacre and Wei Wu.


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**Teratonix**

**Replacing Batteries with Radio Waves**

Teratonix develops a maintenance-free power source to replace batteries by converting ambient radio waves into electricity to combat challenges of expensive installation and high lifetime maintenance costs. **Key researcher** is Yi Luo.

More information at: teratonix.com

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**Watt-Learn**

**Creating a Reliable and Profitable Grid, One Battery at a Time**

Watt-Learn is developing a cloud-based artificial intelligence software designed to maximize the longevity and value generation of grid-connected energy storage systems. The company’s software maximizes the return on investment of battery projects at different scale, technology and use case while minimizing their degradation — enabling companies to reduce operating costs. **Key researcher** is Matineh Eybpoosh.

More information at: wattlearn.com

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More information at: minevisionsystems.com

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More information at: senseplatypus.com

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**Sun Selective Absorbers**

**Impacting Solar Thermal System’s Design and Performance**

Solar Selective Absorbers utilize solar thermal energy conversion and a mold stripping method that drastically increase throughput and decrease fabrication cost. These absorbers can significantly impact transformative advancements in solar thermal systems’ design and performance. **Key researcher** is Sheng Shen.

Arieca
Developing Soft, Stretchable Metal Alternatives
CMU researchers have developed soft and stretchable materials that have the elastic properties of rubber and the electrical and thermal properties of metal. These materials can be used as stretchable circuit wiring, insulators and heat dissipating substrates. **Key researcher** is Carmel Majidi.

More information at: arieca.com

Anactisis
Retrieving and Reusing Rare Earth Elements
Anactisis economically recovers rare earth elements, used in many electronic technologies, from coal combustion fly ash to water used for hydraulic fracturing, geothermal energy and mine tailing settlement. **Key researcher** is Athanasios Karamalidis.

More information at: anactisis.com

ATRP Solutions
Creating Polymeric Materials for Commercial and Industrial Use
ATRP creates well-defined polymeric materials that are utilized in various commercial products and applications like custom materials for oil field chemicals, used for hydraulic fracturing cleanout and drilling. ATRP Solutions was acquired by Pilot Chemicals Co. in July 2017. **Key researcher** is Krzysztof Matyjaszewski.

More information at: atrpsolutions.com

Blade Diagnostics Corporation
Extending Lifecycles of Integ- rally-Bladed Rotors
Blade Diagnostics Corporation develops tools and methods for evaluating and controlling how mistuning affects the vibratory response of critical, expensive integrally bladed rotors. **Key researcher** is Jerry Griffin.

More information at: bladediagnostics.com

Carbon Nanotube Aerogels
High Strength, Light-Weight Materials Without the Cost
CMU researchers are developing methods to link carbon nanotubules (CNT) in aerogel constructs to provide materials that are lightweight and high strength. Aerogel constructs enhance material qualities with very low concentrations of CNTs. **Key researcher** is Mohammad Islam.


Carnegie Robotics
Improving Productivity, Reliability, and Safety with Robotics
Carnegie Robotics is the industry leader in building highly reliable robotics products to improve productivity, reliability and safety. The company's products have applications in the agriculture, mining, defense and oil and gas production markets. **Key researcher** is John Bares.

More information at: carnegierobotics.com

CorePower Magnetics
Increasing the Power and Efficiency of Magnetic Materials
The magnetic materials developed at CMU and NETL will increase power density, lower losses, increase efficiency and reduce size and cost in power electronics. The materials are essential elements of a variety of power electronics equipment for electric vehicles and other applications, such as transformers, inverters and motors. R&D 100 Award recipient in 2019. **Key researchers** are Paul Ohodnicki and Michael E. McHenry.

More information at: https://bit.ly/2x7RbhY

Fifth Season
Vertical Farming with Automated Robotics
Fifth Season develops automated robotics and software analytics to make indoor agriculture more efficient and environmentally friendly. The company grows produce using smart, indoor vertical farms that utilize 95 percent less water and increase labor efficiency by over 50 percent. **Key researcher** is Austin Webb.

More information at: fifthseasonfresh.com
Integrated Silicon Technologies
Cutting Costs on Continuous Casting
CMU researchers are developing an improved continuous casting process for making solar silicon wafers that will have dramatically lower cost by simplifying a formerly complex, expensive and wasteful process. Key researcher is Erik Ydstie.


Liquid X Printed Metals
Pushing the Boundaries of Functional Electronics Fabrication
Liquid X Printed Metals are functional metallic inks with wide ranging applications within the printed electronics and additive manufacturing markets. These inks operate at the atomic level, allowing for processing advantages and better film properties than other metallic links. Key researcher is Richard McCullough.

More information at: liquid-x.com

Plextronics
Energy-Efficient Electronic Ink Manufacturing
Plextronics, an international technology company, specializes in electronic inks for OLED displays, and lighting and electronic polymers. Electronic “inks” enable cheaper, more energy-efficient electronics, such as TVs and lighting applications. Plextronics was acquired by Solvay in March 2014. Key researcher is Richard McCullough.

More information at: bit.ly/2IfawWk

Grid Fruit
Bringing Data-Driven Intelligence to Food Retail Operations
CMU researchers are developing software for dynamic, distributed, parallel management of load balancing in electric power distribution networks. The initial application is dynamic control of commercial refrigeration, to reduce energy costs and provide better control over maintenance costs. Key researchers are Soummya Kar, Javad Mohammadi and Jesse Thornburg.

More information at: gridfruit.com

The Optimization Firm
Using Mathematical Models for Decision Making and Saving Costs
The Optimization Firm offers high-performance computing solutions for complex numerical optimization problems that help companies make complex decisions based on mathematical models. These slight improvements in operations yields savings of millions of dollars. Key researcher is Nick Sahinidis.

More information at: theoptimizationfirm.com

Vortxx Semiconductor
Current Generation Fabrication Equipment with Next-Gen Impact
This CMU spin-off is designing products that will reduce the density of electronics, therefore lowering power consumption. This approach achieves “next-generation” Moore’s Law levels of performance while being able to utilize current generation fabrication equipment. Key researcher is Wojciech Maly.

More information at: bit.ly/2d7Hn3

Building Ideas Group (BIG)
Energy Management for your Building Portfolio
BIG is a CMU spin-off developing data collection systems using energy usage analytics and visualizations to reveal actionable information for building occupants, managers and owners. BIG’s review of energy savings opportunities helps facility managers target projects with the best return on investment. Key researcher is Azizan Aziz.


Building Model Data Extraction Software
Building Model Simulation Made Easy
Lam’s software automatically pulls data from digital building design models and populates data into the correct fields of compliance documents, saving days to weeks of time spent with the LEED application process. This software was licensed by Design Builder for state of the art building performance analysis. Key researcher is Khee Poh Lam.

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More information at: designbuilder.com
Conservation Labs
Affordable Smart Water Technology to Manage Water Consumption
Conservation Labs is commercializing an easy-to-install water usage monitoring system, H2know. This system takes measurements from water pipes every second using patent-pending technology and a machine learning approach to translate those signals into accurate water flow estimates, leak alerts, and water insights. Key researcher is Mark Kovscek.

More information at: conservationlabs.com

EEme, LLC
Converting Big Data into Actionable Energy Insight
This CMU spin-off processes data to predict the technical and behavioral energy efficiency (EE) potential and provide personalized EE recommendations for every residential user in a given service territory. Managers can also analyze their customers using the utility heat map dashboard. EEme, LLC was acquired by Tendril, January 2019. Key researcher is Enes Hoşgör.


Encapsulated Phase Change Material Containers
Reducing Heating and Cooling Costs through Phase Change Containers
CMU researchers are designing a range of “containers” that are configured as decorative or functional architectural tiles, window shade louvers, furniture and other devices that are optimized to enable air flow and heat exchange, potentially reducing the cost of heating and cooling by 25 percent. Key researchers are Dale Clifford and S.C. Yao.


Heat Dissipating Architectural Panels
Reducing Energy Cost and Consumption Using Custom Architectural Panels
CMU researchers are developing a CAD platform for creating custom architectural panels that incorporate thermodynamic principals of air flow to dissipate heat and reduce building energy usage. They are also developing 3D printing fabrication methods for these concrete architectural panels to provide a cost-effective system to enable creative, energy-efficient design. Key researchers are Dana Cupkova and Josh Bard.


LeanFM Technologies
Saving Energy in Commercial Building Systems Using AI
LeanFM Technologies is a lifecycle software solution for economic, proactive and intelligent facilities management that leverages building information modeling and cloud computing technology to integrate heterogenous building information recorded in disparate media. Key researchers are Burcu Akinci and Xuesong Liu.

More information at: leanfmtech.com

MellonHead Labs
Monitoring Residential and Environmental Water Quality
MellonHead Labs is a CMU spin-off developing water sensors that can be used to monitor changes in water quality inside the home or outside in streams, rivers and ponds, with a simple graphic representation of the interpreted data collection. Research facilitated by the CMU CREATE Lab.


Module
Housing Designed to Grow alongside the User
Module’s end-to-end platform, construction technology, and pay-as-you-go housing solution creates a sustainable, energy-efficient starter home that provides an affordable, flexible entry point for homeownership. Key researcher is Hallie Dumont.

More information at: modulehousing.com

Operetta
Changing the Way Mobile Users Connect to the Internet
OPERETTA is an energy-efficient optimal deployable bandwidth aggregation system that allows users to concurrently connect mobile displays to the internet in different ways, such as 3G, 4G, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth without changes in existing infrastructure. The system allows users to choose between interfaces based on factors such as speed, energy consumption and cost. Key researcher is Khaled A. Harras.

SparkMeter
Offering Comprehensive Low-Cost Metering Solutions for Grids
SparkMeter electricity meters enable grid operators to implement pre-payment as well as real-time monitoring and control. By improving cost recovery, these grids become more reliable for lower-income households worldwide who currently rely on expensive, inefficient and dangerous fuels. **Key researchers** are Anthony Rowe and Dan Schnitzer.

More information at: [sparkmeter.io](http://sparkmeter.io)

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**Speck**
An Indoor Air Quality Monitor Enabling Users to Breathe Easier
The Speck airborne particle counting device monitors fine particle concentration levels in homes and displays the data in an understandable way. This empowers people affected by allergies or asthma to reduce particulate exposure by taking action to alter their environment. **Key researcher** is Illah Nourbakhsh.

More information at: [specksensor.com](http://specksensor.com)

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BioHybrid Solutions
Polymer-Based Protein Engineering
BioHybrid Solutions commercializes polymer-based protein engineering technology based on controlled radical polymerization for applications in such areas as pharmaceuticals, biocatalysis and energy. It allows for targeted and predicted modification of proteins, resulting in high-efficacy protein-polymer conjugates. **Key researchers** are Kris Matyjaszewski, Alan Russell and Antonina Simakova.

More information at: [biohybridsolutions.com](http://biohybridsolutions.com)

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Carbon Freight
Reducing Freight Transportation Energy Consumption
Carbon Freight builds durable, light-weight shipping pallets that reduce the amount of energy consumed for freight transportation. **Key researchers** are John Dieser and Glen Philen.

More information at: [carbonfreight.com](http://carbonfreight.com)

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**Hyliion**
A Trucking Revolution that Reduces CO2 Emissions and Fuel Consumption
Hyliion is engineering a revolution in the trucking industry by enabling immediate electric hybridization of Class 8 trucks. The Hyliion system is the only Class 8 hybrid solution on the market and delivers a positive cash flow the first month it is deployed. **Key researcher** is Thomas Healy.

More information at: [hyliion.com](http://hyliion.com)

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**Ottomatika**
Autonomous Car Software and System Development
Ottomatika provides software and systems development for autonomous cars. It focuses on automating driving functions of automobiles and other transportation to increase the safety, efficiency and affordability of vehicles in the transportation sector. Ottomatika was acquired by Delphi Automotive in July 2015, and later became Aptiv. **Key researcher** is Raj Rajkumar.


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**Non-Sensor Based Parking Management System for Reservation, Dynamic Pricing**
Proposal for a Non-Sensor Based Parking Management System
CMU researchers are developing a non-sensor based method of determining parking spot availability, which incorporates an ability for drivers to reserve a parking spot while enabling the parking operators to implement dynamic pricing schemes to optimize the use of limited spaces. It also enables low-cost, efficient and crowd-sourced enforcement. **Key researcher** is Sean Qian.


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Rapid Flow Technologies
Optimizing Traffic Signals Using AI to Help Drivers
Rapid Flow Technologies combines research from artificial intelligence and traffic theory to optimize traffic signals for the traffic that is actually on the road. This leads to less waiting, reduced congestion, shorter trips, less pollution and happier drivers. **Key researchers** are Greg Barlow and Stephen Smith.

More information at: [rapidflowtech.com](http://rapidflowtech.com)
**Regionally-Aware Traffic Incident Response Management System**

*Understanding and Predicting Travel Time*

Traffic management centers attempt to dynamically manage roadway traffic to respond to real-time incidents, such as disasters, crashes, events, flooding, etc. CMU researchers are developing a machine-learning based system that incorporates incident, weather and other real-time data, with a predictive assessment of how incidents in one sector will impact traffic flow throughout a regional traffic system, and provides proactive mitigation solutions in real time. **Key researcher** is Sean Qian.


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**RoadBotics**

*Enabling Data Driven Decisions through AI and Smartphones*

RoadBotics uses computer vision and machine learning to analyze and map road conditions and irregularities. The technology can detect pothole severity, snow conditions on roads, signage visibility and much more. **Key researcher** is Christoph Mertz.

More information at: [roadbotics.com](http://roadbotics.com)

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**Virtual Traffic Lights**

*Eliminating Physical Traffic Lights with Autonomous Vehicle Communication*

With this technology, cars and trains autonomously communicate with each other to determine right of way at intersections without traffic lights. Computer simulations indicate a potential 60 percent improvement in traffic flow in a full-city simulation. **Key researcher** is Ozan Tonguz.

More information at: [virtualtrafficlights.com](http://virtualtrafficlights.com)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company/Innovation</th>
<th>Key Researcher(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 - Anactisis</td>
<td>Athanasios Karamalidis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - Aquion Energy</td>
<td>Jay Whitacre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - Arieca</td>
<td>Carmel Majidi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - BioHybrid Solutions</td>
<td>Krzysztof Matyjaszewski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - Blade Diagnostics Corporation</td>
<td>Jerry Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - Building Ideas Group</td>
<td>Azizan Aziz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - Building Model Data Extraction Software</td>
<td>Khee Poh Lam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - Carbon Freight</td>
<td>John Dieser, Glen Philen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - Carbon Nanotube Aerogels</td>
<td>Mohammed Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - Carnegie Robotics</td>
<td>John Bares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - Conservation Labs</td>
<td>Mark Kowciak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - CorePower Magnetics</td>
<td>Paul Ohodnicki, Michael E. McHenry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - Ecotone Renewables</td>
<td>Dylan Lew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - Edible Electronics</td>
<td>Christopher Betingger, Jay Whitacre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - EEne, LLC</td>
<td>Enes Hirghir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - Electrochemical Synthesis of Cement</td>
<td>Venkat Viswanathan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - FarmtoFlame Energy</td>
<td>Dana Cupkova, Josh Bard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - Fifth Season</td>
<td>Kwaku Jayam i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - GeckoRobotics</td>
<td>Austin Webb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - Grid Fruit</td>
<td>Troy Demmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - Heat Dissipating Architectural Panels</td>
<td>Soumya Kar, Javad Mohammadi, Jesse Thornburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - High-Capacity Lightweight Batteries</td>
<td>Dana Cupkova, Josh Bard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - Hiyliion</td>
<td>Rahul Panat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - Integrated Silicon Technologies</td>
<td>Thomas Healy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - LeanFM Technologies</td>
<td>Erik Ydstie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - Liquid X Printed Metals</td>
<td>Burcu Akinci, Xuesong Liu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - MellonHead Labs</td>
<td>Richard McCullough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - Microfluidic Microbial Fuel Cells</td>
<td>CMU Create Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - Mine Vision Systems</td>
<td>Kelvin Gregory, Philip LeDuc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - Module</td>
<td>Brett Browning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - Non-Sensor Based Parking Management System for Reservation, Dynamic Pricing and Enforcement</td>
<td>Hallie Dumont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - OPERETTA</td>
<td>Sean Qian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - The Optimization Firm</td>
<td>Khaled A. Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - Ottomatika</td>
<td>Nick Sahinidis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - Platypus Technologies, LLC</td>
<td>Raj Rajkumar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - Plextronics</td>
<td>Paul Scerri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - Rapid Flow Technologies</td>
<td>Richard McCullough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - Regionally-Aware Traffic Incident Response Management System</td>
<td>Greg Barlow, Stephen Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - RoadBotics</td>
<td>Sean Qian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - SenSevere</td>
<td>Christoph Mertz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - Solar Selective Absorbers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - SparkMeter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>12 - Speck</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 - Tartan Battery Network</td>
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<td>5 - Teratorix</td>
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<td>5 - Watt-Learn</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 - Virtual Traffic Lights</td>
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<td>9 - Vortex Semiconductor</td>
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**Key**

- Energy Generation, Conversion, Storage and the Environment
- Industry Device Manufacturing and Energy Efficiency
- Commercial Facility and Residential Energy Management
- Transit Energy Management