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San Jose Innovation Center Offers Unique Office Space, and World Class Business Assistance to Silicon Valley Start-ups and Entrepreneurs

*A perfect location for local and international businesses to
expand their operations and commercialize innovative
technologies*

SAN JOSE, CALIF. – A historic office building in Downtown San Jose at Third and Santa Clara Streets is the new home to entrepreneurs and startups affiliated with the Environmental Business Cluster (EBC), the US Market Access Center (USMAC), and the Entrepreneur Center (eCenter). The incubators and eCenter have recently been co-located under one roof to achieve operational efficiencies and to create the synergy that entrepreneurs thrive in.

“Capital of Silicon Valley, public commitment and investment is setting the stage and providing the environment in which small firms become big businesses and participate in creating a vital economy that influences and changes the world!” said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed.

Space is available for environmental and international start-ups looking for unique office space, and business and financial services and assistance. This program of space and services is offered under a 15-year long partnership between the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, the San Jose State University Research Foundation, and the Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation. The return on this joint partnership and public investment in attracting and growing San Jose’s business base has been significant over the past many years by generating thousands of jobs.

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“Small business has long been the engine that drives our economy,” noted Rep. Zoe Lofgren. “Anything that helps foster small business growth and development is a welcome and encouraging addition to Silicon Valley.”

Founded in 1994, the EBC is an award-winning clean technology business incubator that provides office space and consulting services to start-up companies, including California Energy Commission (CEC) grant recipients and Clean Tech Open winners. The EBC is one of 10 incubators that participates in the National Alliance of Clean Energy Business Incubators.

To date, the EBC has facilitated the growth of over 70 companies that have employed 300 people. It has received over \$1 million in grants from the CEC to provide services to client companies. The EBC is operated by the San Jose State University Research Foundation and managed by Prescience International.

“We welcome entrepreneurs who want to partner with us to grow the economy and create employment opportunities,” said Councilmember Sam Liccardo, who represents the Downtown San Jose area. “The San Jose Innovation Center has great potential, not only to create quality jobs, but to provide a real jump start to our local economy.”

The USMAC, created in 1995, has the distinction of being the first international incubator to be founded in the world and offers services to international businesses that desire to advance their operations in the United States. More than 400 companies have benefitted from the programs and services offered by the USMAC which is operated and managed by the San Jose State University Research Foundation.

“This collaboration over the last 15 years between the San José State University Research Foundation, the City of San Jose and its Redevelopment Agency is another exciting example of how major institutions in our region work together to foster economic growth and entrepreneurial opportunities that serve so many,” said SJSU president, Jon Whitmore. “We are particularly pleased with the unique opportunities for faculty consulting and student internships that contribute to the success of these emerging companies. We look forward to building on this successful partnership in the years ahead.”

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The Entrepreneur Center has six business service providers: the Silicon Valley Small Business Development Center, US Small Business Administration, TMC Development Corporation, anewamerica, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley and the Greater San Jose Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The providers offer consulting services, financing programs and business training. Established in 2000 as a partnership between the San Jose Redevelopment Agency and the U.S. Small Business Administration, the eCenter serves more than 10,000 entrepreneurs and small business owners annually. The eCenter's administrative host is the Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation.

"We have been able to create an environment where entrepreneurs and small businesses can find resources and financing to help jump start or expand their ideas," said Harry Mavrogenes, Executive Director, San Jose Redevelopment Agency. "Our investments have always served a critical need, but especially during these difficult economic times, we are providing our innovators with opportunities."

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency has invested more than \$20 million in these programs to support the growth of new software, clean tech and emerging technology companies, as well as international businesses looking to expand in the U.S. Along with the incubator and business service programs at the San Jose Innovation Center, the Agency's investment also includes the San Jose BioCenter, which is located in the Edenvale Technology Park, South San Jose. These programs have been very effective in helping small businesses grow by generating over 2,600 jobs and enabling companies affiliated with the programs to raise \$1.6 billion in capital equity financing.

About the San Jose Redevelopment Agency

The Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San Jose. Governed by the City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency Board, the Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize and strengthen quality of life and competitiveness for San Jose's downtown, neighborhoods and industrial areas. For more information, visit www.sjredevelopment.org.

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