#### Mario M. Casabona Founder and Principal Casabona Ventures, LLC

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February 15, 2012

#### **SCORE – Northwestern NJ Meeting**

Morris County Library – Whippany, NJ

Early Stage Technology Company Funding

February 15, 2012

# **Industry Experience**

- 25+ Year Career in Defense Electronics Industry
- Electronic Engineer with 12 Patents issued.
- Industry experience at ITT, Raytheon, ERI, Honeywell
- Founder & CEO of Electro-Radiation Inc. (ERI)
- 1998 SBA National Tibbetts Award winner
- 2004 sold ERI to Honeywell
- 2010 NJTC Financier of the Year
- Member IEEE, VANJ, NJTC, NDIA, AOC...
- Chairman, Jumpstart NJ Angel Network
- Board Member of For-Profit and Non-For-Profit Organizations
- Currently Angel Investor and Business Advisor

February 16, 2012

## **Portfolio Companies**





TECHLAUNCH



•) TimeSight Systems







February 16, 2012

## **Typical Company Evolution & Funding**

Development	Launch	Growth	Maturity	Reinvention
Angel Financir		ng	<u></u>	
Friends, Fami & Grants	ly		Ĩ	
		Venture Capital Financing		
Develop Creative idea	Manufacture & Ship Product	Expand distribution channels	Growth flattens	Company seeks new opportunities

#### **Types of Early Stage Investors**

- The 4 F' s:
  - Founders, Friends, Family and Fools
- Angel Investors
  - Passive investors (provide money only)
  - Value-added investors bringing operational and entrepreneurial experience
  - Ideal angel investors (brings BOTH Money and experience)
- Venture Funds (institutional)
  - Much less active than before at early stages

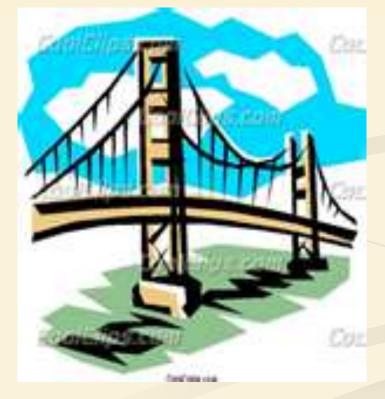
### **Angel Investors**



#### Bridge Gap Between

Founders Financing





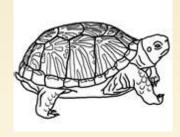


#### Venture Capitalist

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# **Typical Funding Process**

- Introduction to Investor\*
- Investor's Selection Criteria\*
- Term Sheet\*
- Due Diligence Process
- Stock Purchase Agreement or Note
- Funding Begins
- Monitoring, Mentoring, Moaning and Mourning or REJOICING (?)
- Next Round of Financing
- Possible Exit in Sight







### **Introduction To Investors**



#### Entrepreneur



Introduction by Initial Investor, Banker, VC, Professor, Accounting or Law Firm, Internet, etc.

#### ONE Page Executive Summary

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10 – 15 Minute Presentation

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# **Typical Deal Selection Criteria**

- Seed, start-up, and early stage
- Product or Services market need
- Founders commitment
- Sound business plan for building equity
- Strong and Experienced management team
- Proof of concept achieved?
- IP Strategy for sustainable advantage
- Reasonable valuation
- Realistic exit strategy
- Funding needs for initial and subsequent financing
- Geographic location Angels vs VC financing

#### **Typical Angel Investor Term Sheet**

- "The Term Sheet provides a snapshot of and the roadmap to a financing and the issues that the entrepreneurs and financial professionals commit to capture in closing documents for a financing."\*
  - Amount of 'raise'
  - Set the price (pre-money vs post money, valuation)
  - Seat on the board
  - Define equity type (common vs preferred)
  - Outline multiple financing tranches
  - Anti-dilution protection
  - Right of first refusal
  - Liquidation preference

\*Quoted from 'Deal Terms" by Alex Wilmerding, Publisher - Aspatore Books

February 16, 2012

# TECHLAUNCH

#### My New Project

February 14, 2012

# Objective



- Created to Accelerate the Commercialization of Technology.
- Identify and vet most promising idea, technology and team.
- Provide LaunchPad business boot-camp to de-risk early stage obstacles.
- Provide a venue for young entrepreneurs to show case technology and find funding.

#### TECHLAUNCH

# Opportunity

- NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA) has chosen **TechLaunch** to create Technology Accelerator in New Jersey.
- NJ EDA will provide \$150,000 per year (for 3 years) and winner to match with \$300,000 per year.
- TechLaunch is open for additional investors, sponsors, mentors, industry experts and Program applicants.

# Value Proposition



- Efficient access to Deal Flow for Angel investors and early stage institutional funds vetted by domain experts.
- Investor ticket on "Winner" for potential next "home-run" company.
- De-Risk the challenges for early stage enterprises by providing promising entrepreneurs access to "real world" training and network.
- Funding for early stage technology and enterprises to focus in short timeframe on accomplishing meaningful milestones

#### TECHLAUNCH

## Strategy

- Create an environment to leverage the strengths of Entrepreneurs, Investors, Service Providers, Public Resources, Universities, and Industry.
- Deliver acclaimed LaunchPad training program and mentor experience with networking to attract the next generation of entrepreneurs.
- Solicit "cream-of-the-crop" technology proposed by highly qualified teams and select participants by industry experts.
- Provide seed funding to 12-15 new enterprises ("NEW COs").
- Provide legal, financing, marketing, sales, business development, and technical mentors.
- Provide \$18,000 of seed funds per "NEW CO" in exchange for 10% equity, Board Seat, and Investment Preferences.

# Competition (PA, NY, None in NJ)

- TechStars, <u>http://www.techstars.org</u>
- Y-Combinator, <u>http://www.ycombinator.com</u>
- Dream-It Ventures, <u>http://</u> www.dreamitventures.com
- Various national and global accelerators primarily run by Universities and State agencies



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