



Ateios, Smart Guided Systems, Menstrual Mates, Atlas Solutions, and Chuqlab Win Top Honors at The Innovation Showcase, Splitting \$24,000 in Prize Money

The 13th Annual Pitch Competition Attracted More Than 200 Attendees Who Mingled and Met 22 of Indiana's Top Startup Companies, Investors and Entrepreneurs

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (September 1, 2021) -- Twelve of Indiana's top startup companies with potentially game-changing technologies took the stage this afternoon to pitch to the judges and a crowd of more than 200 at the [13th Annual Innovation Showcase](#). These five walked away with top honors:

- First Place and a prize of \$10,000: Ateios, Indianapolis
- Second Place and a prize of \$6,000: Smart Guided Systems
- Third Place and a prize of \$4,000: Menstrual Mates, Indianapolis
- Fourth Place (Tie) and a prize of \$2,000: Atlas Solutions, Bloomington
- Fourth Place (Tie) and a prize of \$2,000: Chuqlab, Indianapolis

The pitch companies were judged on the following criteria: the breakthrough nature of their product or service, market size and competitive advantage, team, and go-to-market strategy/traction to date. Ateios and its flexible battery technology was deemed by the judges to be the "best of the best" at the event that took place in-person at the NCAA Hall of Champions Convention Center.

Speaking on behalf of [The Venture Club of Indiana](#), Chairperson Sandy Wilcox said, "This was one of the strongest fields of startup companies in the history of The Innovation Showcase. We began the Road to the Showcase with 22 contenders nominated by members of the Venture Club of Indiana, most of whom are investors themselves or lead investing groups. These individuals truly understand what it takes to be a breakthrough company. We congratulate our winners and every startup that participated. You truly represent the spirit of innovation that is alive and thriving across the great state of Indiana."

Wilcox went on to thank this year's judges: Chris LaMothe, CEO, Elevate Ventures; Samantha Ginther, venture associate, High Alpha; Kelli Jones, managing partner, Sixty8Capital and the Be Nimble Foundation.

Here are the Innovation Showcase pitch competition finalist companies and their presenters:

[Ateios](#), Rajan Kumar, Indianapolis

[Atlas Solutions](#), Ashley Fender, Bloomington

[Chuqlab](#), Cornelius George, Indianapolis

[Civic Champs](#), Geng Wang, Bloomington

[Digital Leader Academy](#), Ellen Joyce, South Bend

[EZ Chow](#), New Albany

[Flourring](#), Joanna Zhang, West Lafayette

[Krishi Diagnostics](#), Aaron Gilbertie, West Lafayette

[Menstrual Mates](#), Cindy Belardo, Indianapolis

[Novilytic](#), Paul Dreier, West Lafayette

[Smart Guided Systems](#), Steve Booher, Indianapolis

[Stamus Networks](#), Mark Durrett, Indianapolis

The Venture Club of Indiana would like to thank this year's Innovation Showcase sponsors [Barnes & Thornburg, LLP](#), [Elevate Ventures](#), [Purdue Foundry](#), [Purdue Ventures](#), [50 South Capital](#), [Inside Indiana Business](#), [Allos Ventures](#), [High Alpha](#), [Katz Sapper & Miller](#), [Signature Bank](#), and [VisionTech](#).

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