



volume Bragg gratings from OptiGrate

NEWS RELEASE

OptiGrate Named Finalist for International Award

ATHENS, Ohio – OptiGrate Corp, a graduate of the UCF Business Incubation Program of Orlando, has been named a finalist for the National Business Incubation Association’s 2014 Outstanding Incubator Graduate award in the *technology* category. The winner of the prestigious award will be announced May 20 at NBIA’s 28th International Conference on Business Incubation in New Orleans.

OptiGrate pioneered and successfully brought to market a breakthrough method to produce unique volume Bragg grating based optical filters. Starting with the raw material of sand (silica), OptiGrate’s proprietary method produces a piece of glass in which the molecules are aligned to create a volume Bragg grating filter for a laser beam. The silica, with a mixture of additives formed in a special process, creates an image in the glass like a hologram which filters the laser light. The result is better optical filters, better beam direction and better lasers that perform with complete stability, pure frequency or color at any temperature and in any environment with absolute diffraction efficiency exceeding 99 percent.

Established in 1999, OptiGrate entered the UCF Business Incubator in 2000. Incubator staff guided the founder - Dr. Leonid Glebov, a UCF faculty member and Russian émigré, through the technology transfer and licensing process with the University and provided assistance with market analysis, identification and pursuit of funding opportunities, contract negotiation guidance and introduction to key industry experts. Resolution of ownership and management team issues, as well as other legal issues, were addressed through introductions to highly qualified intellectual property and corporate attorneys. Very importantly, the incubator provided non-university, dedicated space for R&D and early manufacturing that enabled OptiGrate staff to carry out their groundbreaking research and critical production.

Business incubation programs like the UCF Business Incubation Program catalyze the process of starting and growing companies by providing entrepreneurs with the expertise, networks and tools they need to make their ventures successful. NBIA estimates that in 2011 alone, North American incubators assisted about 49,000 start-

up companies that provided full-time employment for nearly 200,000 workers and generated annual revenue of almost \$15 billion. Approximately 7,000 business incubators operate worldwide.

The National Business Incubation Association is the world's leading organization advancing business incubation and entrepreneurship. Each year, the NBIA Incubation Awards honor the business incubation programs, graduates and client companies that exemplify the best of the industry.

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About OptiGrate Corp

OptiGrate Corp, founded in 1999, pioneered and successfully brought to market the innovative technology of volume Bragg grating based optical filters. The unique micro-optic components made by OptiGrate enable dramatic performance improvement of laser systems, vast miniaturization and cost reduction of analytical instruments and ultrafast lasers for medical, pharmaceutical, defense, nanotech, and other applications. Today, OptiGrate with a team of 35 employees supplies holographic optical components to more than 400 customers on 6 continents. Additional information about the company can be obtained at www.OptiGrate.com.

About the UCF Business Incubation Program

The University of Central Florida Business Incubation Program is a non-profit community resource, which provides early-stage companies with the tools, training and infrastructure to become financially stable, high growth/impact enterprises. Since 1999, this award-winning program has helped hundreds of local startup companies (including nearly 150 current clients and 100 graduates) reach their potential faster by providing vital business development resources.

With eight facilities throughout the region, the UCF Business Incubation Program is an economic development partnership between the University of Central Florida, the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia Counties, and the cities of Apopka, Kissimmee, Orlando, St. Cloud and Winter Springs. From October 2011 to June 2013, the UCF network of current and graduated clients has helped create a total regional output of over \$620 million resulting in a \$6.16 return for every \$1.00 invested in the program while sustaining (directly and indirectly) over 3,300 jobs in the Central Florida region. For more information, visit www.incubator.ucf.edu.