



Queen's University Team Wins Top Prize at Global Competition

Published on: 2017/09/15 - in Science & Tech — by Dick Mathison



The Queen's University Spectra Plasmonics team is celebrating this week's first prize win at the Lee Kuan Yew Global Business Plan Competition.

Spectra Plasmonics beat five other finalist teams from the United States, China, the United Kingdom, Italy, and Sweden to take top spot at the Singapore event, winning \$125,000 (CDN) and \$100,000 in venture capitalist funding.

The Queen's members submitted a silicon chip design capable of detecting trace amounts of melamine in milk powder. This technology's value is apparent in light of the 2008 "Chinese milk scandal" that resulted after melamine was added to milk powder to give it the appearance of higher protein content. China estimated 300,000 were affected by the tainted milk powder that year, including 54,000 babies hospitalized and six kidney related deaths.

According to Singapore's *The Straits Times*, the Queen's University project "involves the use of a metal-coated silicon chip to aid ultra-sensitive chemical detection. Lab samples are placed on the chip, which is implanted on a specimen slide and examined through a spectrometer. The chip is able to enhance detection signals by at least a million times, thus producing more comprehensive test results and reducing the need for complex lab tests that are both costly and time-consuming."

Queen's University's chemical engineering department is credited for **inventing the chip**, with Team Spectra Plasmonics tasked with developing and marketing it.

The winning **Spectra Plasmonics** members include Malcolm Eade, Tyler Whitney, Ryan Picard, Christian Baldwin, and Mr Yusuf Ahmed. Mr. Whitney was quoted by *The Strait Times* as saying this prize money will enable the team to put more focus on product development and eventually bring their technology to market.

Queen's University Principal Daniel Wolf tweeted out kudos to the team, saying "Congrats to Spectra Plasmonics, one of the DDQUIC grads, who have just won the international pitch competition in Singapore grand prize!"

Daniel Woolf @woolf_atthedoor
Congrats to Spectra Plasmonics, one of the DDQUIC grads, who have just won the international pitch competition in Singapore grand prize!
1:25 AM · Sep 15, 2017
19 likes

UPDATE: The Mayor of Kingston, Bryan Paterson, posted a photo of himself with the Spectra Plasmonics team and Principal Woolf to congratulate the students on their win.

Bryan Paterson @MayorPaterson
Congrats to Spectra Plasmonics, a new tech company started at Queen's this summer, winner of the Lee Kuan Yew global innovation competition!
4:46 AM · Sep 26, 2017
33 likes, 1 reply

According to its **website**: the Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre (DDQUIC) supports student innovation and entrepreneurship at Queen's University. DDQUIC brings people together across all disciplines and provides resources to support innovation and the creation of products and services that make a difference in our region and internationally.

The Lee Kuan Yew Global Business Plan Competition (**LKYGBPC**) is named after Singapore's founding prime minister "who developed the country's defining business plan bringing the Asian city onto the global stage."

Read a full report of the competition at **The Straits Times** and this **DDQUIC news article**.

Photo: John Marino (cc)

OANDA
Lower your FX trading cost with Core Pricing
Get tight FX spreads as low as 0.1 + US\$ 50 per mil commission
TRADE NOW
This advertisement has not been reviewed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Leverage trading is high risk. Losses can exceed investments.

TAGS: QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

One Stock For The Cybersecurity Gold Rush
The Motley Fool Canada [Open >](#)

KINGSTON HERALD ON TWITTER

Tweets by @KingstonHerald

Hugh Dillon @realhughdillon
EXCLUSIVE: deadline.com/2021/04/mayor-...
Co-created by Sheridan and Hugh Dillon, Mayor of Kingstown follows the McLusky family, power brokers in Kingstown, Michigan, where the business of incarceration is the only thriving industry.

Kingston Herald @KingstonHerald
.@SachaBaronCohen is up for an Oscar for the role of activist Abbie Hoffman (who lived in the nearby 1000 Islands) that he'd pursued since 2007.
DYK: @BoratSagdiyev also channeled Hoffman, author of "Steal this Book", while promoting his own book that same year! (at the end) :)

YGK News @NewsYgk
NEW: Outbreak involving variants of concern declared at Queen's University Residences ygknews.ca/2021/04/25/out-...

Meet Author Pegi Eyers at Chapters Kingston Book Signing

Kingston Road Closures & Delays: September 17 to 22

LATEST FROM SCIENCE & TECH

Over 40% of New KFL&A COVID-19 Cases are Variants of Concern
Variants of concern spread more easily from person to person and may...

Alexa Can Play the Queen's Christmas Day Message for You
Amazon announced that Her Majesty The Queen's Christmas Day Message will be...

\$721M Deal for SkyTrain Cars to be Designed and Assembled in Kingston
Bombardier Transport entered into an agreement with Translink to build 205 new...

Get the Snowplow Tracker App Online Now
Residents can keep tabs on which Kingston roads have been cleared by...

Virtual Information Session Discusses Asian Carp Threat to Great Lakes
A panel of experts to discuss the threat of Asian carps, and...

PAGES

- About
- Advertising
- Contact
- Privacy
- Writers

RECENT POSTS

Providence Care and YMCA Teaming Up to Bring Seniors and Children Together

City Workshop Offers Help to Plan Construction of a Pool Fence or Deck

Kingston Road Closures & Delays: April 25 to 30

Search...

All rights reserved. Designed by **WiThemes**