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News Release

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**50 FLORIDA COMPANIES YOU WILL WANT TO PAY ATTENTION TO
— Entrepreneurial styles, corporate cultures give these second-stage
companies competitive advantages—**

Orlando, Fla. (July 19, 2017) — GrowFL is pleased to announce the 50 statewide companies expected to see significant growth over the next several years. These 50 companies were selected from more than 500 nominees for Florida Companies to WatchSM, a statewide program managed by economic development group GrowFL, in association with the Edward Lowe Foundation.

The winning company's management team, competitive market position and strong community involvement were among several factors that put them in contention for the award.

"These stand-out companies are all led by entrepreneurs, and have demonstrated their capacity and intent to grow," said Dr. Tom O'Neal, executive director of the Florida Economic Gardening Institute and associate vice president for the University of Central Florida's Office of Research and Commercialization. "They also all have critical intellectual property or a niche position that gives them a competitive edge in their markets," he said.

Below is the list of the 2017 Florida Companies to Watch honorees:

- 3D Digital
- A1A Solar Contracting, Inc
- AdRizer
- Amazing Explorers Academy
- Azure Water Company
- Big Top Brewing Company LLC
- Boys Electrical Contractors
- Captozyme Inc
- Clickbooth.com, LLC
- Cribb Philbeck Weaver Group
- Dixie Belle Paint Co

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Florida Companies on Growth Watch 2/3

- Dougherty Manufacturing
- GenCare Resources
- Global ETS, LLC
- Global Safety Management
- Grimaldi Candy Company
- Human Potential Healthcare Workforce Solutions, LLC
- Hydra Engineering & Construction, LLC
- Hydro-Dyne Engineering
- Inspired Technologies
- iProcedures
- JAX Refrigeration, Inc.
- Jaycon Systems
- Just Ryt Foods, Inc
- K. Parks Consulting, Inc. (KPC)
- Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice
- Lightspeed Voice
- LiveTrends Design Group
- Lukos
- Madrid Engineering Group, Inc.
- Marion Precision Tool, Inc
- MICROJIG
- Mini Doughnut Factory
- MzeroA.com
- Natural Vitamins Laboratory LLC
- PropLogix
- Raneys Inc
- REDCON Solutions Group, LLC.
- RedTeam Software
- SawStreet LLC
- Society+
- Sorensen Moving and Storage
- Spoleto My Italian Kitchen
- Stickboy Creative
- Up-Rev
- Verdex Construction
- Winco Mfg., LLC
- Xplor Inc
- Yachtico Inc.
- Zennergy LLC

“This is a strong group of companies that deserve this special recognition given annually to the state's top second stage companies,” said Dr. Chris Morton, GrowFL Chairman of the GrowFL Advisory Board, CEO of NanoPhotonica and a 2015 Florida Companies to Watch honoree. Second-stage companies are defined as those with 6 to 150 full-time employees and between \$750,000 and \$100 million in annual revenue. There are many programs and incubators promoting start-up businesses; GrowFL is the only Florida program that focuses exclusively on second-stage companies.

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The 50 companies named the 2017 Florida Companies to Watch generated a total of more than \$1 billion in revenue and added more than 1,300 employees between 2012 and 2015.

Together, the companies project a 53 percent increase in revenue and 36 percent increase in job growth compared to 2016.

Companies named to the list will be officially recognized October 14, 2017 at the Straz Performing Arts Center in Tampa, FL.

For more information, visit <http://www.growfl.com/flctw17/about-flctw/>

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More About GrowFL:

GrowFL provides strategies, resources and support, including strategic research and peer-to-peer CEO mentoring and leadership development, to second-stage Florida companies. Created by the Florida legislature in 2009 and grounded in the philosophy of Economic Gardening® — growing existing businesses in a community, region or state — GrowFL is a critical component of the state's economic development strategy and Florida's entrepreneurial ecosystem. GrowFL is certified by the National Center for Economic Gardening through the Edward Lowe Foundation. Website: growfl.com

About the Edward Lowe Foundation:

Established in 1985, the Edward Lowe Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization that supports entrepreneurship through research, recognition and educational programs, which are delivered through entrepreneur support organizations (ESOs). The foundation focuses on second-stage companies — those that have moved beyond the startup phase and seek significant, steady growth. In addition, the foundation has a second mission of land stewardship and is committed to preserving the natural resources and historically significant structures at Big Rock Valley, its 2,000-acre home in southwest Michigan.