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Electronic photos available**Four New BC Ventures Win \$135,000 in Cash and Prizes
in New Ventures BC Competition**

A **North Vancouver** company with a new diagnostic test for measuring joint damage caused by arthritis is the 2007 winner of the \$60,000 BC Hydro First Prize package in the New Ventures BC competition.

Augurex Life Sciences Corp.'s test measures a specific protein in the blood that indicates the degree of joint damage caused by arthritis. The test could reduce the need for x-rays and may also indicate which arthritis drugs will work in certain individuals, sparing them the expense and potentially serious side effects of drugs that may not be effective for them.

New Ventures BC is one of North America's largest technology business idea competitions. The four-round competition attracted over 80 BC entrants last April who participated in business education seminars and networking events as they worked to complete a final venture plan. To win, competitors had to convince a jury of venture capitalists, financiers and angel investors that their business idea was commercially viable and that they could execute it in the marketplace. Four winners shared \$135,000 in prizes at an awards ceremony September 26 in Vancouver sponsored by the Certified General Accountants Association of British Columbia.

TeamPages Inc. of **Victoria** won the \$38,000 Enbridge second-prize package for a new online social network for amateur sports teams. League administrators, coaches, parents and athletes can use TeamPages' online tools to post game and event schedules, arrange carpools and volunteer schedules, track game scores and records and email team members.

The \$17,000 third-prize package winner is Bean Services Inc., a **Vancouver** company offering a secure online system for digitizing bills and then managing them online. Using Bean's browser-based technology, businesses simply scan, upload, fax or email their bills to Bean Services, which captures the details and stores them. Staff can then search, report, export, allocate, approve or email them.

Biometals Recovery Systems of **Vancouver** is the winner of the \$20,000 BC Hydro Sustainability Prize. Biometals is developing a biologically-based, energy-efficient technology for treating liquid and solid resource-industry waste streams in the mining and petroleum industries.

New Ventures BC was established in 2000 by SFU Business. It is operated by the non-profit BC Ventures Society and made possible through the generous support of both private and public sponsors as well as more than 150 volunteer mentors, judges, speakers and workshop leaders

For more information, visit www.newventuresbc.com.