

For Immediate Release

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**Abbotsford Entrepreneur a Finalist in
TELUS New Ventures BC Competition**

A robotic feed system and software concept is fueling Abbotsford entrepreneur David Vaags' chances in the second annual TELUS New Ventures BC technology business idea competition. Six winners will be chosen October 10 at a gala celebration in Vancouver.

A former hog farmer with a bent for computer software programming, Vaags has designed a computerized, robotic feed system that can custom mix and deliver a precise amount of feed to each pen of confined livestock. The system improves the farmer's control and management of the animals' diets and provides real-time feed intake data. It also reduces feed costs and waste.

Last April, 148 BC entrepreneurs entered the TELUS New Ventures BC competition. This is Vaags' second attempt to win the competition. He entered last year's competition and made it into the third round. This year, he made it into the fourth round and is hoping for a spot in the winners' circle October 10th.

Over the past six months, competitors strove to advance through four rounds of competition as they participated in business education seminars, networking events, one-on-one mentoring and presentations before jury panels. Their goal? To build a business case capable of convincing each round of jury panelists that their business idea is good enough to attract capital and succeed in the marketplace.

On October 10th, six winners will share in \$120,000 in cash and prizes, including the BMO Bank of Montreal grand prize of \$25,000 in cash and \$25,000 in services.

Initiated by SFU Business and operated by the non-profit BC Ventures Society, the competition is sponsored by both the public and private sectors.

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