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UBC student and technology finishes among top 10 in TELUS New Ventures BC Competition

A technology developed at UBC for transforming liquid waste into slow release fertilizer pellets was among 10 finalists in the TELUS New Ventures BC competition, which announced three winners September 24 in Vancouver.

UBC fourth-year engineering student Ryan Tung entered the competition to learn how to commercialize technology developed by UBC civil engineering research associate Fred Koch.

Koch's technology transforms the phosphorous and other nutrients found in liquid waste at municipal treatment plants into slow-release fertilizer pellets. The long-lasting fertilizer is particularly good for salmon stream restoration programs, forestry silviculture and home gardens. The technology also reduces municipal maintenance costs and meets environmental legislation for phosphorus discharge.

TELUS New Ventures BC is one of North America's largest technology business idea competitions. It attracted 83 BC participants last April who competed through up to four rounds of competition over six months. Participants attended business education seminars and networking events as they worked to complete a final venture plan. To win, competitors must convince a jury of venture capitalists, financiers and angel investors that their business idea is commercially viable and that they can execute the idea in the marketplace. Three winners shared $120,000 in prizes at an awards ceremony September 24.

Established by SFU Business, TELUS New Ventures BC is supported by the public and private sectors. UBC has been a sponsor and supporter since the competition's inception four years ago. The competition is operated by the non-profit BC Venture Society.

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