

IEDC News

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21 Fund Awardee Wins Commercialization Award

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (Nov. 5, 2009) - Karthik Ramani, a professor of mechanical engineering at Purdue University and chief scientist with Imaginestics, now called VizSeek, will receive top honors at Purdue Research Foundation's seventh annual Inventors Recognition Dinner tonight.

Ramani will be presented the 2009 Faculty Commercialization Award for his work with VizSeek, a Purdue Research Park-based company that developed a searchable online index of two and three dimensional drawings for businesses with the help of the state's 21st Century Research and Technology Fund.

"Innovations generated by Indiana's distinguished academic community are continually manifesting into commercial successes and providing fuel for Indiana's high-tech economy," said Mitch Roob, Indiana Secretary of Commerce and chief executive officer of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. "Today marks another significant milestone in the illustrious career of Dr. Ramani, an innovator the state has come to know well through his many discoveries and achievements."

VizSeek, which received a \$500,000 grant and several early-stage commercialization funding matches from the state from 2005 to 2007, has since added 12 full-time research and development associates and was recently awarded a patent for its shape search tool.

"The 21st fund is visionary and is continuing to have a lasting and sustainable impact. It not only seeded the research and subsequently the technology that was commercialized, but it also has enabled us to define and tackle challenging future problems ahead of others," said Ramani. "We were able to leapfrog many other universities and come to the forefront. The university and business teaming helped define a new market and transformative research at the same time."

The Commercialization Award is presented annually to a tenure-track faculty member in recognition of outstanding contributions to, and success with, commercialization of Purdue research discoveries. It was established with an endowment gift from the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership Foundation.

"The process of patenting a discovery and moving it into commercialization is labor-intensive

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