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## **2020 GrowFL Florida Companies to Watch Finalists Announced**

**BOCA RATON, Fla. (September 9, 2020)** – The Research Park at Florida Atlantic University® and GrowFL are pleased to announce that three companies from the Research Park at FAU were among the first round of the 2020 GrowFL Florida Companies to Watch finalists.

The finalist companies from the Research Park at FAU are 4ocean, Aventusoft and MPLT Healthcare. Honorlock, an alumnus company, was also among the first round of finalists.

Now in its 10th year, the awards program honors impressive second-stage companies from throughout the state for developing valuable products and services, creating quality jobs, enriching communities and broadening new industries throughout Florida.

The 2020 GrowFL Florida Companies to Watch awards celebration is presented by Nperspective CFO & Strategic Services, in association with the Edward Lowe Foundation.

Together, the 2020 GrowFL Florida Companies to Watch Finalists represent more than 3,000 jobs and generate \$670 million in revenue. These companies, all of which are “worth watching,” anticipate a growth of 13 percent in revenue and 23 percent in employment by the end of 2020.

“Having our companies recognized for their growth in high tech, in-demand fields while also building a meaningful relationship with Florida Atlantic University is gratifying and demonstrates the value of the Research Park at FAU as a regional asset,” said Andrew Duffell, president of the Research Park at FAU.

The finalists were selected from more than 400 nominations and are now in the running to be named a 2020 GrowFL Florida Companies to Watch Honoree. If selected as an honoree, these exemplary second-stage companies will join the 450 honorees that have been recognized since 2011.

“We applaud these first-round finalists who have proved themselves to be stand out companies in the state,” said Tom O’Neal, Ph.D., founder of GrowFL. “They have, and continue

to, demonstrate the resiliency and tenacity that comes along with being an entrepreneur. We know this year hasn't been easy, so we're excited to recognize our states admirable business owners and their teams. I have a feeling they're just getting started."

The finalists represent a unique group of scalable, high-growth enterprises that are already located within Florida. These high growth enterprises are an important segment of our economy and their numbers have been steadily increasing.

Companies to Watch was developed by the Edward Lowe Foundation as a unique way to recognize and honor second-stage companies that demonstrate high performance in the marketplace with innovative strategies and processes. In addition to evaluating past growth and projected success, applicant companies are judged according to their special strengths and impact in their markets, communities and within the state.

The 2020 honorees will be recognized on Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. during a live broadcast from Orlando. For more information visit [www.growfl.com/flctw20/about-flctw/](http://www.growfl.com/flctw20/about-flctw/).

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***About the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University®***

*The Research Park at Florida Atlantic University® is home to technology companies and research-based organizations working to support the research and development activities of Florida Atlantic University and to foster economic development and broaden the economic base of Broward and Palm Beach counties. The Research Park at FAU hosts FAU Tech Runway, a South Florida public-private partnership that serves as a hub to accelerate technology development and incubate startup companies. The Research Park at FAU is a 70-acre destination for R&D companies to thrive, established in 1985, it is widely regarded as South Florida's laboratory for new entrepreneurial ideas and technologies. The Research Park at FAU is governed by the Florida Atlantic Research and Development Authority, an independent special district created by Palm Beach and Broward counties in partnership with Florida Atlantic University, organized under Chapter 159, Part V, Florida Statutes. ([www.research-park.org](http://www.research-park.org))*

***About GrowFL:***

*GrowFL is dedicated to support and accelerate the growth of second-stage companies throughout Florida, by providing their leaders focused, efficient, and timely access to resources they deem important, such as connections with other second-stage company leaders, and to professional organizations whose expertise, experience, and products lead to the second-stage company's continued growth and prosperity resulting in diversification and growth of Florida's economy. Second-stage growth companies have at least 10 employees and a \$1 million in revenue and possess an intent and desire to grow beyond second stage. Website: <http://www.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. Website: <https://edwardlowe.org/>*