

THINK BIG KANSAS CITY 2011

PITCH BIG CONTEST RULES

The Think Big Kansas City Conference brings together hundreds of entrepreneurs and investors for a one-day conference to help business owners of all sizes and experience become better entrepreneurs. Pitch Big competitors may submit pitches for review by approved investors, entrepreneurs, Think Big staff and invited judges.

Pitches are designed to introduce entrepreneurs, lenders, investors and others who share complementary interests. A pitch shall never be considered a prospectus, business plan or formal business offer.

Pitch Big applications may contain a video, business description, photos and other relevant documents. Live pitches may contain a business description, visual aids and photos. There will not be electronic audio/visual equipment available. Applicants are encouraged to create professional content and pitches.

Who Is Eligible

Pitch Big is open to groups and individuals who are 18 years or older at the time of entry and are legal residents of the United States. The principal business operation of the business must be located in the United States. Contestants in the competition may submit either individually or as part of a team and may include businesses that are currently operating. However, the competition is open to current businesses that have been in operation for three (3) years or less. Contestants may use any reference materials or consult with any other person(s), but the concept must be the individual's or team's own work. Should you use any secondary materials please include the source. Failure to do that may disqualify you from the competition or the prize may be withdrawn if discovered after the competition is closed. *[At least one representative from each team must be able to present at the live Pitch Big on May 24, 2011 at the Kansas City Convention Center from 2:30-6:00pm.]*

How to enter

Please label your work with your name(s). Submit the following in PDF or word either by email or mail:

1. Pitch Big Application Packet (Applicant, Business Details, Intellectual Property Questionnaires)
2. Executive summary of six pages or less (containing, but not limited to business idea, product/service, market, management, sales, and finances) and should contain a cover page with the business name, main contact person's name, business address, e-mail and telephone number
3. Publicity & Liability Release
4. Optional: Video

If you are applying as part of a team of collaborators, only one Application Packet is needed.

You must appear at Pitch Big on May 24, 2011 at the Kansas City Convention Center, Room 2103, 2:30-6:00pm.

Download the Application Packet and Contest Rules Online: www.thinkbigkansascity.com/pitchbig

Email to: pitchbig@thinkbigpartners.com
Subject: Pitch Big Application

Paper copies to: Think Big Kansas City
RE: Pitch Big
1800 Baltimore, 4th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64108

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that Think Big Kansas City receives the registration form and the business concept before May 17, 2011 at 5:30pm CST. Think Big Kansas City will send a confirmation e-mail once the registration form and business concept are received.

All audition tapes and application materials become property of Think Big Partners, LLC. and will not be returned. If you would like to retain a copy, please make one prior to sending in your materials. Good luck!

Networking

During the competition, all applicants registered are invited to networking events with sponsors, mentors, speakers and other small business owners. The primary networking event is scheduled for:

Think Big Kansas City, May 24, 2011 from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm at the Kansas City Convention Center. Tickets are available at www.thinkbigkansascity.com.

Judging

Submitted pitches will be evaluated prior to the conference by the Think Big team and selected investors on clarity, viability, consumer need, growth potential, marketing strategy, team capability, scalability and competitive advantages. Each judge will also have personal preferences and other criteria for determining the best pitch. All final decisions are at the sole discretion of Think Big Kansas City. Applicants who submit pitches may be asked to provide more information to help judges determine the Top 3. The judging panel will consist of judges selected by Think Big Kansas City. Judges reserve the right to alter prize awards.

Process:

- Pitch Big Applications are due May 17 at 5:30pm CST.
- The finalists will be notified on May 20 that they will present live at Think Big Kansas City.
- The live pitch is from 3:15-6:00 on May 24 at the Kansas City Convention Center. The pitch may include a business description, visual aids and photos. Each pitch must only be 5 minutes long.
- The finalists will remain on stage after the pitch for Q&A with the judges and then live feedback.
- After discernment, the grand prize winner will be announced and prizes will be awarded.

Individuals and teams must certify in the Intellectual Property Questionnaire that all work on the pitch is original. The business idea does not need to be original. All contestants must own the rights to their ideas. Contestants must properly acknowledge any trademarks or copyrighted materials of others that are incorporated into their materials. The contestants are responsible for obtaining any necessary permission before incorporating such materials into their submissions. Failure to do that may disqualify the contestants during the competition or the prize may be withdrawn if discovered after the competition is closed.

Miscellaneous

- A Pitch MAY NOT offer any shares of stock or a percentage of equity.
- Think Big Kansas City is not a registered lender, broker, attorney or accountant. Seek professional advice before making any business transactions.
- Think Big Kansas City does not offer financial guidance or investment advice of any kind. Pitches are only recommended or rated on professionalism, writing skill and creativity.
- Think Big Kansas City does not charge commissions or finder fees for any introductions.
- You are entirely responsible for any information that you post on Think Big Kansas City's website or other sites.
- Think Big Kansas City is unable to review all user-generated content and cannot guarantee, nor be responsible for, the accuracy or legitimacy of any content.
- Think Big Kansas City does not verify the capability or legitimacy of members who claim to be investors. While Think Big Kansas City uses best efforts to authorize only accredited investors and professional lenders to review Pitches seeking funds, it is the responsibility of members to perform their own due diligence.
- You must adhere to all local, state and federal laws.

Release and Waiver

By entering, participants, without limitation, release and hold harmless Sponsors, and their respective directors, officers, employees, and agents from any and all liability for any injuries, loss, or damage of any kind in connection with the competition. By entering this competition, you agree to waive any right to claim ambiguity or error in these Official Rules or in the Pitch Big competition itself. If you have any questions about these Official Rules or the Pitch Big competition, please contact Think Big Kansas City.

THINK BIG KANSAS CITY

Pitch Big Competition

2011 Publicity & Liability Release

I, being at least eighteen (18) years of age, hereby authorize and irrevocably grant the representatives of the Think Big Kansas City Pitch Big Competition, its successors and assigns, the following rights: to record my likeness, image, name, voice, performance, biographical information, or otherwise on film, video, audio, CD, DVD, or other media; to edit such media at its discretion; to incorporate that material into a recorded program print publications, electronic publications, software, movie and sound films or tapes, broadcasts (radio and television), programs, or otherwise, and to use and license others to use such publications, recordings, software, movie and sound films and tapes and broadcast programs in any manner of media whatsoever, including unrestricted use for purposes of publicity, advertising and sale promotion, and to use my name, likeness, voice, and biographic or other information in connection therewith. I understand that the representatives of the Think Big Kansas City Pitch Big Competition exclusively own all rights to these recordings irrespective of the form in which they are produced or used, and I am authorizing the use of the aforementioned items, at any time or times, throughout the world in perpetuity, without further compensation or permission. I represent that I have the right to enter into this Agreement, and that my performance and the rights I have granted in this Agreement will not conflict with or violate any commitment or understanding I have with any other person or entity.

I further agree to indemnify and save harmless the representatives of the Think Big Kansas City Pitch Big Competition, its licensees, agents, successors and assigns from any and all claims and liability for damages, losses, or expenses of any sort arising from the making of such recordings and their use, including, without limitation, claims with respect to my right to privacy or publicity, and including reasonable attorney's fees, rising out of the inaccuracy or breach of any provisions of this Agreement.

I have read and understood the contents hereof, and have the right and authority to execute this release and indemnification. I understand that this Liability/Publicity Release is to be interpreted under the laws of the State of Missouri without resort to its conflict of laws rules, and I hereby submit to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of Missouri. This agreement represents the entire understanding of the parties and may not be amended unless mutually agreed to by both parties in writing.

Signature of Company Officer

By:_____

Title:_____

Date:_____