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USA Technology and Research Park Enters Partnership with Microsoft's BizSpark

Goal to Support Local Software Developers

The University of South Alabama Technology and Research Park has entered a partnership with BizSpark, a program to support local software developers. The program allows entrepreneurial software developers to gain access to Microsoft's full array of development tools for their Internet-based ideas.

There is no fee to enter the program, but there is a \$100 fee when a developer leaves the program.

BizSpark is designed to accelerate success by providing fast, affordable access to current, full-featured Microsoft tools and technologies, plus production licensing for hosted solutions. For support, BizSpark unites a global community of technology and entrepreneurial experts. BizSpark is a global program designed to help accelerate the success of early stage start-ups by providing key resources when they need it the most:

- **Software.** Receive fast, easy access to current full-featured Microsoft development tools, platform technologies, and production licenses of server products for immediate use in developing and bringing to market innovative and interoperable solutions.
- **Support.** Get connected to Network Partners around the world — incubators, investors, advisors, government agencies and hosters — that are equally involved and vested in software-fueled innovation and entrepreneurship who will provide a wide range of support resources.
- **Visibility.** Achieve global visibility to an audience of potential investors, clients and partners. BizSpark members can tap into a rich, vibrant ecosystem of peers, partners and support resources around the globe.

To qualify, a developer must have been in business for less than three years; active in the development of a software-based product/service; and the company must be privately held with no more than \$1 million in annual revenue.

For more information, please go to the website, <http://www.microsoft.com/BizSpark>, or call Gail Hassing at the USA Technology and Research Park at (251) 460-7932 or e-mail gassing@usouthal.edu