

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **CONNECT Most Innovative Product Award Winner ecoATM to testify before the U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Committee on Reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research Program**

*For Immediate Release*  
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San Diego, CA—On Wednesday, March 16 at 1pm (Eastern), CONNECT Most Innovative Product Award winner ecoATM will be testifying to the House of Representatives Committee on Small Business regarding the Small Business Innovation Research Program. The hearing is titled, "Spurring Innovation and Job Creation: the SBIR Program."

Tom Tullie, CEO, President and Chairman of ecoATM will be providing testimony on their experience with the SBIR program as a Phase I award winner and on the Phase II education process. In addition to educating the Committee on ecoATM's services and future, Mr. Tullie will discuss how their SBIR award played an important role in advancing ecoATM's start-up development before their private fundraising efforts produced results. Tullie will be one of four witnesses and the only one involved in the cleantech sector.

Timothy Tardibono, CONNECT's Washington, D.C. Office Director, expressed confidence that ecoATM and Mr. Tullie will represent San Diego well. "We're glad the Committee accepted Mr. Tullie and ecoATM as a witness for this important SBIR hearing. ecoATM represents the kind of San Diego start-up story that Congress needs to hear from and learn about, especially on the House Small Business Committee. As Congress keeps working on job creation and reauthorizing SBIR, we are working to have the tech start-up perspective heard and ecoATM's appearance on the Hill will assist that effort."

To learn more about the hearing, click [here](#).  
To watch live video of the hearing on Wednesday, click [here](#).

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More about CONNECT: Since 1985, CONNECT has assisted in the formation and development of over 2,000 companies and is widely regarded as one of the world's most successful regional programs linking inventors and entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success.

CONNECT is the recipient of the 2010 Innovation in Economic Development Award in the "Innovation in Regional Innovation Clusters" category awarded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.