

## Six new companies honored

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Less than a year after leaving Venture Creations, Rochester Institute of Technology's business incubator, Sweetwater Energy is on the verge of generating \$100 million in revenue.

The company, located at 500 Lee Road in Rochester, is developing a process that will use plant fiber to make sugars for fuel and other industrial products.

"I think it's going to take 20, 30 years, but I think biofuels and biochemistry will be a massive industry," said Arunas Chesonis, who became Sweetwater CEO after PAETEC Holding Corp., which he founded, was sold to Windstream Corp. last year.

"Anything that you can make out of oil you can make out of sugar. You can make a tire out of sugar. You can make plastics out of sugar. You can make anything you want to out of sugar, it's just a different chemical process," he said.

Earlier this month, officials at Venture Creations honored Sweetwater and five other companies that have graduated from the facility in the past year. The new companies, which were part of the Clean Energy Incubator part of Venture Creations, created a total of 86 jobs, RIT officials said.

The other companies are: Exiscan, OptiCool Technologies, Tenrehte, ThingWorx and Vnomics.

A \$1.5 million grant from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority in 2008 launched the Clean Energy Incubator.

Vnomics, in Bushnell's Basin, has developed a system to monitor the performance of commercial trucks and light-armored vehicles. The software offers driver training and proactive maintenance so the customer can improve fuel economy and know whether there are issues that are fixable before they lead to bigger problems.

Vnomics has doubled its workforce since leaving Venture Creations and now employs 41 people.