

BIC, LEN help accelerate ideas to market

Bour, Sammoury lead organizations that help innovators attain success

BY **DOUG STORUM**
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Tim Bour and Alex Sammoury have at least one thing in common — their day jobs are helping innovative entrepreneurs take their ideas from the drawing board to the marketplace.

Bour, executive director of the Boulder Innovation Center in Boulder, and Sammoury, executive director of the Longmont Entrepreneurial Network in Longmont, parley the expertise of a network of advisers to help entrepreneurs get a business up and running.

The Boulder Innovation Center is a nonprofit that created two unique processes to help commercialize innovative ideas. One process focuses on technology emerging from the University of Colorado and the Colorado School of Mines, and the other helps early-stage companies overcome their challenges by letting them draw advice from a pool of more than 900 experts in a variety of industries.

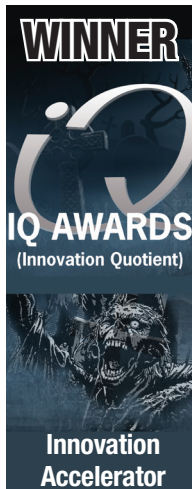
As a nonprofit, the Boulder Innovation Center does not offer physical space to clients, does not take equity in a company nor charge success fees for helping with financing. The Boulder Innovation Center is funded through a combination of the public and private sector as well as some modest client fees.

The BIC's main activities focus on com-



JONATHAN CASTNER,

Alex Sammoury, left, executive director of the Longmont Entrepreneurial Network, and Tim Bour, executive director of the Boulder Innovation Center, help entrepreneurs commercialize their innovative ideas.



mercializing technology emerging from the University of Colorado and the Colorado School of Mines as well as helping established early stage companies overcome their challenges. The commercialization efforts have resulted in the center working with 70-plus research teams with six startups based on university intellectual property being formed.

Its program has helped established almost 400 local startups and draws from a pool of 900 volunteer advisers. Since 2006, these efforts have resulted in the creation of 342 jobs and the center's clients raising close to \$53 million in new capital boosting economic activity in Boulder County.

The Longmont Entrepreneurial Network is a nonprofit that fosters economic growth and vitality through the support of entrepreneurship, innovation and technology.

Launched in 2002, the network provides programs and services for entrepreneurs through its center in Longmont. It maintains a large network of advisers who volunteer their time to help entrepreneurs

BOULDER INNOVATION CENTER

1155 Canyon Blvd.
 Boulder, CO 80302
 303-444-2111
www.boulderinnovationcenter.com
 Tim Bour, executive director
Primary service: business incubator
Founded: 2006

LONGMONT ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORK

2400 Trade Centre Ave.
 Longmont, CO 80503
 303-678-8000
www.leninc.com
 Alex Sammoury, executive director
Primary service: business incubator
Founded: 2002

by providing business expertise ranging from concept development and business planning to operations and management. The network as a growing list of successful graduate companies.