



# AQUACULTURE TALENT HATCHERY

## CALLING ALL BUDDING RESEARCH ENTREPRENEURS

**– are you ready for a challenge?**

### **Background:**

The Aquaculture Entrepreneurship Mentorship program (under the Vocational Aqualabs project [www.aqualabs.eu](http://www.aqualabs.eu)) seeks to provide early career researchers with the knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage the development of an entrepreneurial mindset. The idea is to set up knowledge partnerships between industry and academia and create a network of talented students and graduates who will participate in an Aquaculture Talent Hatchery (ATH) challenge. The programme will provide one-on-one mentorship opportunities with successful entrepreneurs and industry partners, insights into the elements necessary to take research from the labs and develop it into successful commercial products or services, and the necessary skill set for budding entrepreneurs. The programme is based on problem based learning and is open to students and early-stage researchers with a desire for innovation and entrepreneurship. There are only three places available per participating partner country, so it is anticipated that acceptance into the programme will be highly competitive.

### **The Challenge:**

The program will kick-off with one day of training via web conferencing and subsequent learning through Internet-based resources. Participants will then be expected to review existing outputs from identified EU funded projects and relevant technology platforms with potential for commercial application. With support from their assigned mentor, participants will work in teams (mini-companies), competing against other international teams, to develop a plan of action for their chosen output which they have identified as having the most potential for commercialisation. During the following six week challenge the teams will develop a business plan and will have opportunities to liaise with their mentor for coaching and guidance. The ATH web platform will be used as the main means of communication.

The challenge will conclude with a presentation to a panel of ATH mentors and industry representatives at Aquaculture Europe (AE 2011) in Rhodes in October where the teams will have the opportunity to showcase their final business plan. An ATH award will be presented to the most innovative and professional team.

### **Criteria:**

- Preference is for students of PhD level (MSc level or early post-docs will be considered).
- A background in aquaculture is preferred (a Marine background will be considered).
- Students must be available for the two day training which will begin at the start of September 2011 and be able to attend the launch at AE 2011 in Rhodes in October.
- All travel and subsistence costs for travel to AE 2011 in Rhodes will be covered by the Aquaculture Entrepreneurship Mentorship program under the Vocational Aqualabs project.
- There will be a lot of work involved so prospective candidates need to be really interested and dedicated to carry out the challenge.