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LWBJ selected as preferred accounting firm by the Ag Startup Engine

AMES, March 13, 2017 – Joel Harris, co-director of the Ag Startup Engine (ASE), has announced the selection of LWBJ as the initiative’s preferred accounting firm. The ASE, which is located in the Iowa State University Research Park, provides ISU agricultural entrepreneurs with a structured process for building their startup concepts into investment-ready businesses. They benefit from organized mentoring by successful Iowans, as well as help in securing early seed stage investments. The goal is to create a vibrant ecosystem for supporting agricultural entrepreneurs.

While ISU’s Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative assisted in the creation and development of the ASE, it is a private-sector entity governed by its investors, which include Next Level Ventures, Peoples Company, Ag Ventures Alliance, Summit Agricultural Group and Ag Leader Technologies. Beyond mentoring, the ASE will work in tandem with ISU’s Startup Factory to facilitate rapid prototyping, product development, financing and customer acquisition.

“There is great excitement in the business community around Iowa startups and entrepreneurs, particularly in the agricultural sector,” noted LWBJ Managing Partner Paul Juffer. “And we’re looking forward to helping ISU, the Ag Startup Engine and their participating startups achieve success.”

In addition to the selection of LWBJ, Davis Brown and LS2 Group were named the ASE’s preferred legal and public relations firms.

“Speaking from my own startup experience, I cannot stress enough how important it is to have the guidance of seasoned legal, accounting and public relations partners to help grow your business,” said Mr. Harris. “The ASE will provide critical elements that are often lacking for entrepreneurs in Iowa – a truly systematized pathway for financing and growing a business. The firms announced today can add tremendous value not only to the Ag Startup Engine, but also the ASE’s portfolio companies.”

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About LWBJ

LWBJ is one of the Midwest's leading CPA, business advisory and M&A firms. We deliver a broad range of tax, accounting, consulting and investment banking capabilities to serve businesses and individuals.