



-- For Immediate Release --

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**GOP S Group, in partnership with Proterra Energy,
make it to Finals of Five-Ventures New Business Competition**

GOP S Group has been named a Finalist in the Five-Ventures New Business Competition taking place in Charlotte, NC. GOP S Group entered the AlgaMax system into the competition back in late February. After a successful presentation and Q&A session in the semi-finals, GOP S Group received word that the AlgaMax system was one of the top three Biotechnology groups and has made it to the final round of competition.

The AlgaMax system is a revolutionary energy platform that takes algae matter and converts it into either Biodiesel Fuel or Electricity. The AlgaMax system was developed through the partnership with Proterra Energy, a company providing advanced energy systems with near-zero emissions. Proterra Energy (www.proterraenergy.com), founded by Mark Hodges, is located in Saint Paul, MN.

Five-Ventures (www.five-ventures.com) is in its seventh year of competition. Five-Ventures is hosted by UNC Charlotte and the Charlotte Research Institute. Five Ventures® focus is on high-growth businesses. Finalists will be selected in 5 different business sectors: Biotechnology, Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Green Technology, and Retail/Service.

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If you would like to receive more information about this press release, please contact Brett Fritz at 828-290-8961 or email Brett at BFritz@GOP Sgroup.com