



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs' Small Business Series Features Ascend Manufacturing and ORNL's Innovation Crossroads Program

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviews Dan Miller, the program lead for Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Innovation Crossroads program, and Justin Nussbaum of Ascend Manufacturing, which is a beneficiary of the initiative, as part of his small business series.

Each week, the Mayor conducts interviews with small business owners, offering them the opportunity to talk about what they do; highlight their work; and share any future plans. This month, the series focuses on technology-related businesses and operations. A new vignette runs each Wednesday on the county and Mayor's various social media platforms.

Innovation Crossroads is a two-year entrepreneurial fellowship program designed to recruit the "best and brightest entrepreneurs" who are focused on energy and advanced manufacturing technologies, said Miller.

"We're really becoming part of the innovation ecosystem here and an economic engine for Knox County and the surrounding region," Miller added. "That's what we're driving for – to bring in world class talent to work with our world class assets to create world changing companies."

And Ascend Manufacturing is one of those companies.

"Innovation Crossroads is the whole reason that we came here," said Nussbaum. "We're a 3D printing company and we've developed a new type of 3D printing technology that allows us to make industrial-relevant 3D printing parts. (This allows for) very fast turn-around. Essentially, what we do is we can enable small businesses and large businesses alike to 3D print very economically and very rapidly and bring their products to market very quickly."

To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

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