

MIT Venture Mentoring Service

Venture Information Form - Introductory Information

The following information must be provided prior to scheduling an initial introductory session. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required. If you wish to fill this out using Word: use Tools >> Options, select the Edit tab, and check "Overtyping mode". Then position the cursor at least one character from the left of the line, and type. To erase what you've typed, overtype with hard spaces (Ctrl-Shift-spacebar).

Date Sept. 24, 2007

Venture Name MIT Crime Club & Assocs. (CC&A)

Industry/Technology* optical & acoustic hardware

Venture principals-check one (✓) primary contact:

David Friend, Partner Primary
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MIT affiliation* Student Faculty Staff Alumnus/a Other _____

James Herms, Partner Primary
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Daniel McAnulty, Partner Primary
Name3 and Title*

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Venture mailing address*

Street P.O. Box 397308

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City, State ZIP Cambridge, MA 02139

Referred by* Richard Shyduroff (Co-Dir., MIT E-Club)

If not already included with your initial inquiry, please provide a brief (less than two pages) description of your business (or idea) and summarize its current status; it is ok to be very early in the process. Describe what it is you plan to do, who you think you will sell to, and why your product or service it useful or important. Tell us if there are any critical immediate issues you need help with. Also discuss the backgrounds and roles of the team members. Finally, it would be helpful if you can tell us what you hope to gain by working with VMS.*

Business Idea:

“Sonic Flashlight.” A small high-intensity disorienting stroboscopic flashlight to which are coupled two miniature high-intensity shrill alarms, front and rear.

By itself, the piercing sound of the pulsed alarms would merely startle or agitate a menacing person (or animal). But when properly coupled to a stroboscopic light at a disorienting flash rate (conventionally about 12 flashes/sec), the sound would sensitize the subject to the disorienting effect.

Current Status:

We have designed and built successive working prototypes of a high-intensity, moderately disorienting stroboscopic flashlight, to which we have coupled a NexxTech 4900428 Mini Personal Alarm. We agree with our security consultants that the addition of the purportedly “ear-piercing 140dB alarm” is not enough “to help deter attackers.” We’re building a more efficacious system.

Who We Would Sell To:

Security guards or their employers. Residents of high-crime areas. Students or their parents (as an alternative to whistles or chemical sprays).

Why Our Product Is Important:

For liability reasons, most security guards are not issued or permitted to carry any device whose use could result in an assault (hostile contact with a person’s body). The Sonic Flashlight may be an effective way to reduce assaults on or by guards.

Some college students would value an effective personal-safety device that is easily mastered and that cannot be used to harm the owner. Neither we nor the MIT Police have been able to find such a product on the market.

Critical Immediate Issues We Need Help With:

N/A

Backgrounds & Roles of Team Members:

David Friend '07. G, Course 6 (EE). Thesis research on LEDs and optics.
Designing and building advanced flashlight-alarm systems.

James Herms. MtE '87, Course 3 (MatE). U.S. Patents: Vena Cava Filter device improvements; Sensodyne dentifrice compositions. Former Police Log Compiler, *The Tech*.

Proposed that addition of auditory and certain other stimuli could sensitize subjects to the disorienting effects of stroboscopic visual stimulation and thereby make a small, relatively foolproof personal-safety device practical.

Daniel McAnulty '05. G, Course 2 (ME). Flashlight designer & hobbyist, MIT Outing Club.

Designed and built our first two flashlight-alarm prototypes.

What We Hope to Gain by Working with the Venture Monitoring Service:

We hope our mentor(s) could help us:

- learn how to operate as a committed team on a part-time basis.
- recruit a managing partner or CEO to lead the venture.
- identify MIT faculty or staff with technical expertise in animal or human responses to auditory stimulation or photic driving.
- locate funding for short-term academic research projects if indicated.