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For Immediate Release



Lakely Stapler, age 14

**AEgis Family Connection with Alabama Governor Bentley
Declaring September 18 as Pitt Hopkins Awareness Day**

Huntsville, Alabama (September 8, 2015) – AEGIS Technologies Group, alongside long-time AEGIS employee, Teresa Smith, are eager to spread the news that September 18th has been designated ‘Pitt Hopkins Awareness Day’ by the Alabama Senate and Governor Bentley. Teresa’s daughter, Lakely, was diagnosed with Pitt Hopkins in July of 2014 at the age of 13 with the help of local genomics giant, [HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology](#). There are only about 500 Pitt Hopkins diagnoses worldwide.

“After waiting 13 years, it was a blessing in itself just to know the answer,” said Teresa Smith, AEGIS employee and Lakely’s mother. “Now that we know our daughter has been diagnosed with Pitt Hopkins, I feel it’s our duty to get the word out about this rare syndrome. For once in our journey, we now have hope.”

Pitt Hopkins Syndrome is caused by a spontaneous mutation on the 18th chromosome and is characterized by developmental delays, moderate to severe intellectual disability, breathing problems, epilepsy or recurrent seizures, gastrointestinal issues and distinctive facial features. The 18th day of September was specifically selected as the state’s Pitt Hopkins Awareness Day to represent the 18th chromosomal mutation.

Lakely Stapler has consistently inspired the AEGIS team to get involved and engage with not only Pitt Hopkins families, but all special needs families. Please join us on October 20, 2015, to serve the Huntsville community at the Special Olympics Track and Field Events being held at Frank Milton Stadium from 9:30 am-1 pm. Volunteer opportunities include: directing buses, escorting athletes, track timing, food pack and cheer section. Lakely will again be one of the featured Special Olympics athletes and will also be competing that day.

AEgis also invites you to the Love for Lakely Golf Invitational on September 21, 2015, at Canebrake Club in Athens. Thank you to those companies who have contributed time, money and resources to benefit Pitt Hopkins Research.

(more)

Gold Sponsors: Athens Creekside Drugs, BlueCreek Investment Partners and Dynetics.

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To learn more about Pitt Hopkins, visit www.PittHopkins.org or watch [this video](#) filled with inspiration and courage that includes Teresa, Lakely and their family (minute 2:27).



About The Aegis Technologies Group Inc.

AEgis Technologies is a privately held small business headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama, USA, that provides advanced technology and expert consulting services to industries throughout the world. For more than 25 years, AEgis has specialized in utilizing modeling & simulation (M&S) technology to support weapon systems development and create training solutions so our war fighters make it home. Our M&S products and services include simulation software and training simulators; geospatial databases; 3D models; warfighter exercise support; systems engineering and analysis; verification, validation, and accreditation (VV&A); test and evaluation support; and Hardware-in-the-Loop (HWIL) simulation. Our engineers and scientists excel in advancing cutting edge technologies from concept to deployment with applications ranging from defense to energy to biotechnology. Our expertise includes system development and integration, mechanical and optical development, microelectronics, directed energy sensors and instrumentation, laser eye protection, advanced coatings, metamaterials/plasmonics, and pharmacokinetic modeling.

AEgis was awarded one of the Top 20 Best Places to Work in 2012 by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce and was also awarded the 2012 Small Business of the Year. AEgis' President & CEO, Steve Hill, was awarded the 2012 Russell G. Brown Executive Leadership Award for excellence in leadership and entrepreneurship.

AEgis has enjoyed steady growth with revenues increasing to \$60+ million in sales and employment of 325+ professionals. AEgis has been instrumental in the acceptance of M&S as a profession, as a graduate program of study and in the creation of an M&S standards and professional certification across the international M&S professional community-of-practice. Since its founding in 1989, AEgis is committed to honesty and integrity and has been recognized for its honorable business practices by receiving the Better Business Bureau's Torch Ethics Award. The company's highly skilled work force is dedicated to building lasting relationships and providing superior products and services to our customers.

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