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# BUSINESS

## 3 O.C. entrepreneurs named among Inc.'s Newpreneur semifinalists

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*Professionals will compete for title, \$50,000 to invest in winning business.*

By Kristen SchottPublished: September 23, 2009 11:36 AM

## Newpreneur™

Three Orange County entrepreneurs have been named among Inc. magazine and Alibaba.com's of the Year semifinalists.

Mareya Ibrahim of Aliso Viejo-based Grow Green Industries, which manufactures Eat Cleaner all-natural food wash; Christopher Walworth of Costa Mesa-based SeaRebel Marine Industries, the developer of a rechargeable motorized water sports board; and Jimmy Chiang of Irvine-based Way Basics, a do-it-yourself furniture company, are among the 30 biz-savvy individuals selected as semifinalists. They will compete to be named Newpreneur of the Year and win \$50,000 to invest in the winning business.

"As we look beyond the recession toward ways to stimulate the economy, small business has increasingly been recognized as a key recovery factor," according to Alibaba.com CEO David Wei.

He says Alibaba.com, a business-to-business e-commerce company, and Inc. hope to honor the individuals who do just that, while also offering solutions to succeed in the current economic climate.

Contestants in each semifinalist round will be evaluated by a panel of experts, which includes Inc. President Bob LaPointe and Kirk Aubry and Jim Schelskler of the Inc. CEO Project.

The three local individuals will go head to head with Brent Wagner – who was originally from Coto de Caza, but now splits his time between Marina del Rey and the San Francisco area – of [Day of Games LLC](#) and Jane Angelich of Bright IP Concepts LLC in Novato during the L.A.-area event on Oct. 22 at the SLS Hotel.

Following the semifinalist rounds, 12 finalists will be profiled on [inc.com/alibaba](#), and the public will be able to vote for the businesses they believe will revive the economy. The top five Newpreneurs will then compete in the finale in San Francisco in November.