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The Ion Smart and Resilient Cities Accelerator Announces Second Cohort and Starts Programming

Selected startups are tackling Houston's air quality, water purification, and clean technology needs

April 22, 2020 -- HOUSTON -- The Ion Smart and Resilient Cities Accelerator commences programming for its second cohort today. The six newly selected startups in Cohort 2 will focus on solutions for Houston's air quality, water purification, and cleantech needs. The launch of Cohort 2 is in conjunction with Earth Day - a very purposeful decision to further anchor the Accelerator's work in its mission.

The startups selected for Cohort 2 are:

- Eigen Control, which has developed state-of-the-art machine learning and chemical engineering models to enable efficient real-time control of distillation columns. These models significantly increase stability and product quality, as well as decrease emissions, and are an order of magnitude better than the current state of the art equivalents.
- Annapurna Solutions, a Houston-based software startup committed to advancing solid waste management, builds scalable cloud-based solutions ranging from solid waste collection and transfer, public collection inventory, hazardous waste tagging and routing, and fleet management. These solutions help smart cities achieve energy management and sustainability goals.
- S2G Energy, which builds and leverages insights to optimize enterprise energy consumption, cost, and sourcing, delivers tangible short-term results and sustained value to businesses and municipalities. This helps businesses and cities increase their energy efficiency, as well as align with sustainability goals.
- re:3D, which is a social enterprise committed to decimating the cost and scale barriers to 3D-printing in order to create jobs and enable problem-solvers worldwide to independently address local needs with 3D printing. The industrial 3D printer it manufactures, Gigabot, can print from shredded reclaimed plastic waste to help cities provide more affordable, sustainable, and locally-driven manufacturing. It consistently donates one 3D printer to someone trying to make a difference in their community for every 100 units delivered.
- LifePod Corps, a non-profit organization, which provides immediate disaster relief using innovative technologies, built and delivered by US veterans. LifePod Corps helps cities and local communities solve disaster relief problems with renewable and sustainable technologies. It has created off-grid water and electricity solutions and reusable/mobile housing for local communities and facilitates all logistics from point A to B.
- Water Lens, an innovative, oilfield technology company, which has developed a differentiated, scalable water data analytics platform to bring the quality of traditional analytical instruments to the field and lab. Its technology helps organizations, and their local communities, achieve their water purification goals by providing consistent, reliable results in minutes, rather than in days or weeks.

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“Through leveraging the power of our local Ion community, The Ion Smart and Resilient Cities Accelerator is committed to solving challenges Houstonians face every day,” said Dr. Christine Galib, Senior Director of Accelerator Programs and Director of The Ion Smart and Resilient Cities Accelerator. “We connect participating startups with mentors, partners, and stakeholders, so they gain access to the resources they need to build, validate, and scale their technologies. Together, we are building a safer, smarter, and more accessible city for all Houstonians.”

Backed by Microsoft and Intel, and supported by the City of Houston and TX/RX, a local, non-profit makerspace, the Accelerator is able to develop and deploy smart and resilient city technologies in Houston. The Accelerator’s first cohort, launched in September 2019, focused on Houston’s resiliency, mobility, and transportation-related needs. With its second cohort, the Accelerator broadens how it collaborates with partners and stakeholders in Houston and beyond to integrate technological solutions into civic and municipal structures. The Accelerator’s focus on air quality, water purification, and cleantech complement the City of Houston’s Resilient Houston Strategy and Climate Action Plan.

“We are thrilled to collaborate with these startups to further develop Houston as one of America’s smartest and most resilient cities,” says Gaby Rowe, Executive Director of The Ion. “By leveraging our resources and networks, the Accelerator and Cohort 2 improve living conditions for all Houstonians. In this way, we stimulate our local economy with new jobs and economic opportunities.”

About The Ion: The Ion will anchor the 16-acre South Main Innovation District and is destined to become the epicenter for Houston’s innovation ecosystem as an inclusive, dynamic, vibrant and dense hub focusing on quality collaborations between entrepreneurs, incubators, accelerators, corporations and the academic community when it opens in early 2021. The 300,000 square-foot building will accommodate multiple uses, including shared workspace, prototyping and maker resources, event space, classrooms, food and beverage offerings as well as indoor/outdoor communal areas with shared amenities. For more information, please visit https://ionhouston.com/.

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