

The Ion Smart and Resilient Cities Accelerator Doubles Down on Empowering Sustainability-Focused Technologies

Five Startups Commence Programming Next Week As Members of “Cohort 3”

HOUSTON, March 24, 2021 – [The Ion](#), Houston’s new innovation hub, today announced its Smart and Resilient Cities Accelerator (ISRCA) has selected its third cohort and will kick off programming next week. The five selected startups tackle sustainability solutions, ranging from a compost selection service, to a smart meter provider, to a waste emissions and pollutants-reduction lab.

Launched in September of 2019, The ISRCA addresses the needs of Houston, and cities across America, by deploying technology into existing civic infrastructure. Benefiting from guidance of City of Houston leadership and the team behind the [Climate Action Plan](#) and [Resilient Houston Strategy](#), as well as mentorship from prominent business leaders, The ISRCA enables startups to create and deploy solutions to help Houstonians thrive not only in their everyday lives, but also in situations that require urgency. The goal of Cohort 3 remains the same as Cohorts 1 and 2’s goal—to help startups secure the opportunity to earn pilots with corporations and the City of Houston.

“We’re thrilled to kick-off Cohort 3,” said Dr. Christine Galib, Senior Director of Programs at The Ion. “The ISRCA remains a core asset in The Ion’s Programs portfolio, since it enables recurring collisions, connections, and collaborations among startups, stakeholders, and subject-matter experts.”

Throughout the 12-week program, the Cohort’s participants will have the chance to build relationships with a broad range of individual mentors, corporate networks, municipalities decision makers and stakeholder partners, as well as gain exposure in the Houston and the Greater Houston-Galveston region.

“As the world-at-large expands their mobility with social distancing restrictions lifted, it’s important cities and businesses review their sustainability practices and carbon footprint and continue to improve upon the progress that’s been made,” explains Jan E. Odegard, Interim Executive Director of The Ion. “The Ion is excited to empower entrepreneurs who will play a critical role in improving sustainability. With Houston and our diverse and innovative industries as a backdrop, The Ion is prepared to address the challenges sustainability will face in a post COVID-19 world.”

The Cohort will also have a presence in The Ion’s Accelerator Hub when the 266,000-square-foot mixed-use structure opens later this year. The space is designed to be the epicenter of Houston's innovation ecosystem, focusing on quality collaborations between entrepreneurs, incubators, accelerators, corporations, academics, and the Houston community. The ISRCA is a perfect example of The Ion’s mission, enabled by the generous support of The Ion Founding Partners, Baker Botts, Chevron and Microsoft.

“The ISRCA Cohort 3 will highlight companies that focus on making sure Houston is here for generations to come,” said Courtney Cogdill, Program Manager for The Accelerator Hub at The Ion. “By activating the

Houston innovation ecosystem and showcasing Houston's talent, Cohort 3 will spotlight Houston as a city committed to sustainability."

The ISRCA was the first accelerator program launched by The Ion and is part of The Ion's Accelerator Hub. The Hub unites three complementary accelerator programs, amplifying these programs' strengths and enabling more effective and inclusive development of entrepreneurial talent. The Accelerator Hub brings The ISRCA, The Rice Alliance Clean Energy Accelerator, and DivInc's Accelerator together under one roof at The Ion. Made possible by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, The Ion's Accelerator Hub is also supported by The Ion's Founding Partners, Vision Galveston, and Intel.

Program Participants

The startups selected for Cohort 3 are as follows:

[Phase Filter/Kinetic Synergies](#), led by [Kenny Castaneda](#), produces an automatically changing air filter so consumers can breathe with ease. Changing an HVAC filter is a commonly neglected home maintenance task but installing a \$15 dollar replacement, such as Phase Filter's, every few months can save up to 15% off an electrical bill, increase air quality and comfort, and prevent thousands of dollars in premature HVAC failure.

[Frakktal](#), led by [Jhana Porter](#), makes cities sustainable by developing circular solutions for discarded polymer materials. This reduces waste emissions and harmful pollutants. Its proprietary biopolymers are crafted from materials recovered from the greater Gulf Coast region, for use in the greater Gulf Coast region.

[Moonshot Compost](#), led by [Chris Wood](#) and [Joe Villa](#), collects and consolidates food waste for composting from Houston-area businesses and residents. It provides curbside pick-up and drop-off options for its subscribers, collects data on each pickup and reports it back, and delivers earned compost to its subscribers, who can also donate it to a community garden.

[Teratonix](#), led by [Yi Luo](#), [Johnny Huang](#), and [Forest Lin](#), commercializes high efficiency and broadband radio frequency (RF) energy harvesting solutions to generate electricity from ambient RF signals (cellular/Wi-Fi/TV), and local RF power sources for over-the-air powering battery free IoT sensors, wearables and medical devices.

[Smart Watts](#), led by [Tommy Hooks](#) and [Martin Sherman](#), taps into a home's smart meter sensor to enable a personalized energy monitoring dashboard. This dashboard provides homeowners with actionable insights and alerts to make smarter decisions about their energy use. It also provides a personalized Energy Rate Inspection to recommend the lowest-cost plan based on individual usage among the 1900+ rate plans offered by more than 55 electric companies across Texas.

About The Ion: The Ion will anchor a 16-acre 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, academics, and the

Houston community when it opens in 2021. The 266,000 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/>.

To learn more about The Ion Smart & Resilient Cities Accelerator, visit <https://ionhouston.com/ion-accelerator/>. For questions, please contact Dr. Christine Galib at cgalib@ionhouston.com.