Louis Albanese
Investment Manager

Louis Albanese is an investment manager at Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures (SAEV), the corporate venturing subsidiary of Saudi Aramco. SAEV is responsible for identifying technology investments of strategic importance in the areas of upstream oil and gas, downstream oil and gas and value-added products, renewable energy, energy efficiency and water. Before joining SAEV, Louis was in charge of operations and finance at Exec Inc., an on-demand services start-up based out of San Francisco. Previously, he worked in corporate development and strategy at First Solar, where he was responsible for strategic acquisitions and internal consulting projects for the solar panel manufacturer. He started his career in industrials investment banking at Merrill Lynch based out of New York and Hong Kong. He graduated cum laude from Claremont McKenna College with a B.A. in Financial Economics.

Kemal Anbarci
Vice President & Managing Executive

Kemal Anbarci is the vice president and managing executive for Chevron Technology Ventures. He is responsible for oversight of all venture capital activities in Chevron and using venture capital as a conduit to integrate new technology solutions into company operations. During his more than 22 years with Chevron, Kemal has held a variety of upstream responsibilities in field development, reservoir engineering, corporate and strategic planning, non-operated joint venture management, business development and technology management. He earned a master’s degree in operations research and holds a doctorate and master’s in petroleum and natural gas engineering from Pennsylvania State University. He also holds an MBA from the University of California, Irvine, and a bachelor’s in petroleum engineering from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.
Ross Baird
Executive Director

Ross Baird developed the Village Capital concept in 2009, and has led the development of programs worldwide. Before launching Village Capital, he worked with First Light Ventures, a seed fund focused on impact investments. Prior to First Light, Ross worked on the development of four education-related start-up ventures: the Indian School Finance Company in Hyderabad, India, the National College Advising Corps in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and two ventures using technology to promote civic participation. He has a MPhil from the University of Oxford, where he was a Marshall Scholar, and a BA from the University of Virginia, where he was a Truman Scholar and a Jefferson Scholar.

Village Capital
vilcap.com

Village Capital uses the power of peer support to build investment ready companies that can change the world. Through our unique peer-driven business acceleration program—in which entrepreneurs themselves decide which innovations receive funding—we have served over 300 ventures worldwide, building disruptive solutions in energy, environmental sustainability, agriculture, health, financial services, and education. To date, Village Capital has launched 22 programs with partners, invested over $2 million in 32 enterprises, and leveraged $40 million in follow on capital post-program. The ventures Village Capital has supported have created 5,000 jobs and served 4 million customers around the world.

Russ Capper
Co-Founder

Russ Capper has led multiple companies from concept formation to execution, expansion and exit. After a 12-year stint with IBM in the ‘80s and equity stakes and leadership positions at Techtron Inc. and Document Services Inc., both of which he sold, Russ founded eRealty.com, which became the country’s first online brokerage displaying full MLS data online. Prudential acquired eRealty in 2004. In 2005, Russ launched The BusinessMakers, a radio show and web-based magazine that showcases entrepreneurs, and in 2011 he also launched The EnergyMakers Show.

The BusinessMakers Radio Show
thebusinessmakers.com

Founded on June 6, 2005, The BusinessMakers radio show and web site feature the very personal business stories of entrepreneurs, from early stage start-ups, to billionaire octogenarians and all the way to big company intrapreneurs. Their stories are incredible, amazing and inspiring. Show hosts Russ Capper and John Beddow, along with Kelsey Ruger, Erica O’Grady, Katie Laird and Kenn Stearns, interview guests who discuss the challenges, the obstacles, and the thrill of starting and growing a business. If you would like more information on The BusinessMakers, want to nominate a guest or make comments, you can reach us at thebusinessmakers.com
Dan Carter
Investment Director

Daniel Carter is Investment Director at Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures, serving Saudi Aramco’s corporate venturing activities. He has financed energy companies --venture and mature-- since the 1990's with a proven track record of exits and IPOs. Previously, Daniel was Principal at Conduit Ventures and prior to that Vice President at Salomon Smith Barney/Citigroup. Daniel is on the Investor Advisory Board of DOE’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), a Council Member of NASA & Nike’s Launch.org and Board member of London Business School Energy Club and holds degrees from Columbia University, London Business School, Georgetown University and University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures US
aramcoventures.com

Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures is the corporate venturing subsidiary of Saudi Aramco, the Saudi Arabian national oil company. We seek to invest in great entrepreneurs commercializing breakthrough technologies which are applicable in Saudi Aramco’s operations. Our investments are focused in the following industry sectors: upstream oil & gas; downstream oil & gas and value-added products; renewable energy; energy efficiency and water. Via our global investment teams in Dhahran, the USA, and Europe, we invest worldwide in companies from seed stage to growth venture capital. Our target investment size ranges from $1-$30 million per company, depending on the stage of development, scale of the opportunity, strategic relevance, and capital intensity.
Kirk Coburn
Founder & Managing Director

Kirk Coburn is an entrepreneur and active investor who founded three successful companies before starting SURGE, the world's leading energy seed fund and mentor-driven accelerator. Under Kirk's leadership and direction, SURGE has recruited over 150 industry leaders, scientists, investors, policymakers, customers, and entrepreneurs. SURGE has raised three funds and invested in 34 energy technology companies in its first three years. Since inception, SURGE Alumni have raised more than $30 million in funding and landed critical pilots and customers with many of the largest energy companies. Coburn is also personally the most active, early-stage energy investor. Prior to leading SURGE, Coburn created and was CEO of Chief Outsiders (acq. 2010), a Houston-based company with offices in Texas, Florida, Georgia, and New York. Additionally, Coburn launched The PGA TOUR Network on Sirius XM (acq. by SIRI) and founded Pure Golf, a leading provider of golf, tennis, and outdoor programming to the satellite radio industry. Coburn received his MBA and BBA in finance and accounting from the University of Texas at Austin. Outside of work, Coburn serves as an ambassador to the Texas Children's Hospital and is a supporter of the Rice Alliance. Coburn is an ultra-endurance runner (whom has completed the Leadville Trail 100), open-water swimmer, active standup paddle boarder in both Galveston and Nantucket, competitive golfer, and seventh-generation Texan. He spends his free time indulging in these activities with his wife and children.

SURGE Accelerator
surgeaccelerator.com

SURGE Accelerator is the leading seed fund and mentor-driven accelerator that identifies, invests in, and enables entrepreneurs who are solving the world's energy problems using technology. SURGE now ranks amongst the top 10 accelerators in the United States. SURGE participants have raised $30M in funding, landed more than 75 enterprise customers, and created more than 200 jobs. Based in Houston, Texas, "The Energy Capital of the World," SURGE hosts an intensive 4-month boot camp to identify leaders, validate business models, raise capital, and connect its companies to the global energy ecosystems. SURGE has recruited more than 150 of the world's top scientists, engineers, executives, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and angel investors in the energy industry to serve as mentors. For more information, visit surgeaccelerator.com and follow SURGE on Twitter, Like us on Facebook, and follow us on LinkedIn. Media Contact: 832.214.0959 ext. 212, inSURGEnts@surgeaccelerator.com
George Coyle leads ConocoPhillips Technology Ventures' venture capital and Energy Technology Ventures JV investing activities. He is focused on accelerating the commercialization of technologies that improve the performance of ConocoPhillips. George is a director or observer on the boards of Blue Spark Energy, Ciris Energy, Foro Energy, Lance Energy Services, Oxane Materials, Skyonic, Ziebel, and Zilift. Other portfolio companies include BiSN, drillMap, Lux Assure, Modumetal and Saltworks Technologies. He has over 25 years of experience in E&P and technology commercialization, including being President and CEO of a venture capital-backed company developing and manufacturing composite pipe for the offshore and deepwater O&G markets. George worked 19 years with Chevron, starting as a geophysicist and holding positions of increasing responsibility in business and strategic planning, information technology, asset management, new ventures and corporate venture capital. George has a BS in Earth Sciences from the University of New Orleans, an MS in Geology (Geophysics option) from the University of Kansas and an MBA from Tulane University.
Sean Ebert
Principal

Sean Ebert is a Partner with Altira Group, LLC, which is focused on upstream oil & gas technology and advantaged service company investments. Prior to Altira, Sean was a Principal in Booz Allen's energy practice, where he advised energy companies and private equity firms on a broad set of ‘frontier energy’ strategic issues, including portfolio strategy, technology, new business model development and capital investment decisions. Prior to Booz Allen, he was the CEO of the energy technology related start-up company, Foresight. Sean is currently a member of the Board of Directors for three Altira portfolio companies – Infrastructure Networks, Accelergy, and Austin Geomodeling, and previously was a board member of Syntex Solutions which was sold to IHS in 2010 and TransZap which was sold to Accel-KKR in 2014.

Altira Group
altiragroup.com

Investor of Choice in Oil and Gas Technologies and Services.  • Legacy of Successful Investing in Oil & Gas Technology for Two Decades – Six funds, invested over $1 billion with partners in over 50 portfolio companies.  • Exclusive Industry Partnerships – Fund investors include a select group of US super independent oil and gas companies – enabling collaboration with our companies and accelerating their success.  • Industry Insiders, Value-Add Investor – Deep background in oil and gas, 60 years of combined experience building businesses and investing in energy technology, broad industry networks. Altira makes $5-30 million investments in advantaged oil and gas service & technology companies. Typical investments are in venture / growth equity stage companies with revenue, offering a clear sight to profitability. Altira prefers to be the lead investor, taking impactful investment positions to help management drive company success. Our investment team’s straightforward, collaborative style makes Altira a valued partner for entrepreneurs and portfolio companies alike. This, together with our industry partners, domain expertise, global network of subject matter experts and connections with major players in the energy sector adds up to a very different experience than you'll have with other venture capital firms. Altira has earned a reputation for doing more – going further to do what it takes in order to successfully grow companies. Once our rigorous due-diligence requirements have been satisfied, we're right there with you, rolling up our sleeves, leveraging our expertise and resources to translate your innovative ideas into reality.
Victor Elgohary
Co-Founder

Victor Elgohary is one of the founding members of the Texas Halo Fund which invests alongside strong angel groups and venture partners from across the country. The fund focuses on industry sectors in which our members have deep expertise and experience. The fund invests in companies that that in three to seven years can attain enterprise values between $30 million and $100 million on a minimal capital investment. In addition to running the fund, Victor maintains a full CPA and legal practice representing clients in the energy, manufacturing, retail, health care, and service industries. For more than 25 years, he has provided his small-business and Fortune 500 clients with advice on various legal matters, financial analysis and valuation, business process optimization and corporate strategy development. Victor holds a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Rice University, an MBA from the University of Houston, and a law degree from the South Texas College of Law.

Texas Halo Fund
texashalofund.com

The Texas Halo Fund is a Texas Angel sidecar fund powered by the Houston Angel Network. It is interested in early-stage companies, with principal operations in Texas. A company must be organized as a corporation, and must raise at least $150,000 in committed capital from Angels from an organized group, in order to be eligible for consideration by the Fund. The Fund seeks deals which will achieve an internal rate of return for the Fund of 25 per cent or more, and will provide full liquidity for the Fund within eight years.

Kraettli Epperson
Managing Director

Kraettli has 20 years of experience leading information technology companies. He co-founded and currently serves as CEO of R7 Solutions, which provides software-as-a-service data analysis and management solutions for oil and gas E&P, telecommunications, and rail and pipeline right-of-way. Houston METRO’s land assets and rail development are managed in the company’s GeoIntelig product. Previously, he co-founded Questia Media, the world’s largest digital academic library, acquired by Cengage Learning in 2010. Kraettli has served on the board of the Houston Angel Network and is the managing director of JumpPhase Ventures, which operates the LaunchOklahoma accelerator in Oklahoma City. He also co-founded the VentureSpur accelerator, now based in Dallas. Kraettli is a graduate of Rice University and created the university’s first undergraduate entrepreneurship class as an adjunct lecturer in 2001.

JumpPhase
jumpphase.com

JumpPhase Ventures is a full-stack venture development lab that takes a hands-on approach to product design, strategy and growth. Whether transforming an existing business or starting a new one, JumpPhase provides strategy, business development, MVP and full product development, channel navigation, growth hacking and capital formation services.
Martha Goodell  
Investor

Martha Goodell is a member of Hyde Park Angels and has a background in new venture investing, clean-tech innovation, and management consulting. Hyde Park Angels is one of the most active angel investment groups in the Mid-West. Martha is based in Chicago and is a specialist in investment and innovation in energy and the environment. She also has an M.S. in Energy Analysis and Policy from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin and an M.B.A. in finance from the University of Illinois.

Hyde Park Angels  
hydeparkangels.com

Hyde Park Angels (HPA) is a Chicago-based angel investor network that makes seed and early-stage investments in businesses, primarily in the Midwest, in a wide variety of industry sectors. These include technology, health care, business and financial services, and consumer and industrial products. HPA’s members include current and former corporate executives, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists who offer domain expertise, strategic advice and coaching to HPA’s portfolio companies. It is affiliated with the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Bill Griesinger  
Senior Vice President, Venture Banking

Bill Griesinger has over 23 of years’ diversified Commercial Finance and Commercial Banking experience, including 15 years in Technology Lending. Experienced business development and credit professional currently engaged in a senior business development role providing growth capital financing and bank services to development and growth stage venture capital backed technology companies. Technology sectors served include, software/IT, semiconductor, and energy services technologies, among others. Proven business development professional with strong credit analysis, risk assessment and underwriting skills across multiple industries; Loan structuring, restructuring and portfolio management. Loan Workout experience including loan restructuring, Chp. 7/Chp 11 bankruptcy workouts, and facilitating liquidations and M&A activity; Extensive experience negotiating terms of lender legal agreements.

Square 1 Bank  
square1financial.com

Square 1 Bank specializes in providing financial services to entrepreneurs and venture capitalists. We help growing companies and their investors navigate financial obstacles by providing access to funds and expertise. Our customized product offerings and unrivaled team of banking specialists provide a banking experience designed exclusively for you. As entrepreneurs ourselves, we have experienced what it takes to make a dream reality.
Laurence Hayward
Investment Partner
Laurence K. Hayward is a partner at Independence Equity, an early-stage venture fund that invests in technologies that promote the efficient use of resources. The fund launched in 2011 and has invested in 7 companies to date. Hayward is co-founder of Cornerstone Angels, a network of accredited investors that has invested in 40 companies since 2006. He is also founder/CEO of VentureLab (started 2003), an organization that helps incubates new ventures. Previously, he was President of Vcapital.com, an internet start-up that matched entrepreneurs with investors, acquired in 2002. Hayward has been forming, investing in and advising start-ups since 1999 following 8 years at Arthur Andersen in the Emerging Company Services practice. Hayward volunteers as Board Member of the Ecomyths Alliance, a mentor for the Chicagoland Entrepreneur Center, and regularly supports regional Universities as speaker, judge and mentor. He also serves of the Boards and Advisory Boards of several portfolio companies. He is a graduate of the Joint MBA/BS program at the University of Illinois in Champaign Urbana and hold Series 7 and 63 licenses.

Independence Equity
independence-equity.com
Independence Equity is an early-stage venture capital fund focused on technologies that improve resource efficiency. These include technologies that reduce input costs such as raw materials, energy and labor. They improve yield in production processes or decrease waste or scrap. The fund’s interests comprise sectors such as material science, industrial innovation (e.g. additive manufacturing), and clean technologies (“cleantech”). The Fund invests in early-stage, commercial-ready technologies. We invest anywhere within the U.S., but prefer regions that are currently underserved by venture capital. We initially invest between $500K and $1MM with the objective of holding capital in reserve for follow-on investments.

Hayden Hill
Member & Investor
The Houston Angel Network (HAN) is the oldest and most active angel network in Texas and the 3rd most active in the USA: Its members have invested more than $45.8M in 135 deals since its inception in 2001. In 2013, HAN members invested $8.7M in 33 deals and $11M in 51 companies in the first half of 2014. The typical HAN member is an SEC-accredited investor seriously interested in providing capital to early stage companies.

Houston Angel Network
houstonangelnetwork.org
Kelly Hill
Director

Kelly Hill has founded several for-profits and several non-profits in Austin. Her most recent projects are Hill Country Angel Network and a new, private life science incubator. Her goal is to connect savvy entrepreneurs with smart Hill Country investors that are seeking deals in innovative tech companies as well as traditional investment opportunities. She judges for Global Business Plan Competitions at U.T., Baylor and Rice University in areas of renewable energy, clean energy, high tech, life science/biotech/medical devices, computer hardware, software, oil and gas, real estate, gaming, entertainment and consumer goods. Member of Austin Technology Council, TeXchange, ACA, Gust, AngelList, Women of Visionary Influence, Lean Start Up. She lives in Austin with her daughter and enjoys bike riding, paddle boarding, scouting out new food and live music venues and volunteering at the Animal Shelter and Lake Hills Church.

Hill Country Angel Network
hillcountryangelnetwork.com

Hill Country Angel Network & Venture Management Partners and we are connecting the Hill Country’s smart money with promising new start-up companies. We are seeking innovative fledgling companies with high-growth potential in the areas of Biotechnology, Business Products, Clean Energy, Computers and Peripherals, Consumer Products, Education, Electronics / Instrumentation, Fashion, Financial Services, Food and Beverage, Gaming, Healthcare Services, Industrial/Energy, Internet / Web Services, IT Services, Lifestyle, Marketing / Advertising, Media and Entertainment, Medical Devices and Equipment, Mobile, Networking and Equipment, Retailing / Distribution, Software, Sports, and Travel.
Mitch Jacobson  
Co-Director  

2014-08: Mitch has been a leader in bringing together government, industry, academia, utility and community interests to organize and shape a Clean Technology and Clean Energy Cluster in Central Texas. He is the Co-Director of the Clean Energy Incubator at the University of Texas at Austin. Since 2009 he has served as the lead advisor to Austin Technology Incubator (ATI)’s clean energy companies. Mitch serves as Chairman of the Board of the CleanTX Foundation our cluster development organization for clean technology in Central Texas. He is also the Regional Director for The Clean Tech Open South Central Region, Board member for SXSW Eco, Clean Energy Alliance, The Environmental Sciences Institute at UT Austin, Nature Conservatory, The Texas Renewable Energy Industry Association, The Austin Young Chamber and the Texas Foundation of Innovation & Commercialization. Prior to diving into the Clean Energy World, Mitch was in the Computer / IT industry for 25 years. He founded of Eyes of Texas Partners angel investment group, a network of angel investors in Texas that invested in companies developing innovative products and services in the region. He was the VP of Sales for Tech Data Corporation and Director of Sales, European expansion and ROW expansion for Dell for many years. He lives in Austin, TX with his wife Janna, daughters Sheila and Hailey and son Jarrod.

ATI Clean Energy Incubator  
ati.utexas.edu

Founded in 2001, our Clean Energy Incubator (CEI) is one of the longest-established energy and clean tech incubators in the United States. This is appropriate: our parent institution, the University of Texas, does more energy research than any other university in the world.
John Egil Johannessen
Investment Manager, Houston

John Johannessen has been with Statoil Technology Invest since 2007, working with strategic technologies across the value chain, focusing primarily on exploration and reservoir and drilling and well technologies. In 2013 he relocated from Norway to Texas to set up Statoil Technology Invest in Houston. Previously, he held various positions in Statoil, and he started his career as a management consultant in Accenture in 2001. He has a bachelor’s degree in marketing from the University of Strathclyde.

Akira Kirton
Commercialization Director

Akira Kirton is Commercialisation Director for BP Ventures. BP Ventures makes strategic investments in companies with distinctive technology that aligns with BP core businesses. Akira brings experience in global technology and business development having worked across Europe, US, and Asia. Akira sits on the board of a number of companies in the BP Ventures Portfolio, with a particular focus on the carbon utilization arena and aligned to BP’s gas value chain development. Akira holds a Masters in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College London and a BSc in Law with Management from the University of London International Programme. Akira is an IChemE Innovation Award Winner 2008, and a European-US Marshall Fellow.

Statoil Technology Invest

Statoil is an international energy company with approx. 23,000 employees and operations in 36 countries. Building on 40 years of experience from oil and gas production on the Norwegian continental shelf, we are committed to accommodating the world’s energy needs in a responsible manner, applying technology and creating innovative business solutions. Statoil’s main North American assets are Deepwater GoM, US Onshore (Marcellus, Bakken, Eagle Ford), East Coast Canada and Canadian Oil Sands.

BP Ventures

With BP’s need to identify, accelerate the development of and access to new technologies and new markets, BP Ventures seeks and finds technology entrepreneurs who are working at the frontiers of their fields – across the entire energy spectrum. With investments spanning the BP Group in oil and gas, biotech and bioenergy, energy efficiency and storage as well as carbon management, BP Ventures has invested over $220 million since 2007 collaborating and partnering with more than 70 VC and CVC groups. CASTROL INNOVENTURES: Castrol InnoVentures, part of BP’s Castrol lubricants division, is building new businesses to shape Castrol’s future beyond lubricants. We do this through a combination of venture investments, partnerships and projects. Our focus is on: smart mobility, next-generation engineering, intelligent operations and Responsible Castrol, which includes hybrid and EVs, waste oil and industrial waste treatment and bio-lubricants.
Tim Klitch
Managing Director -- Technology and Life Sciences -- Texas; Austin Market President

As the Managing Director of the Texas Region of Comerica Bank’s Technology and Life Sciences Division, Tim Klitch manages an experienced group of senior lenders and support staff serving Central / Southwest U.S. markets from offices in Austin, Dallas and Houston. This group originates and manages credit and depository relationships with over 200 technology companies, ranging from early-stage, venture-backed, pre-revenue start-ups to late stage public companies with borrowing needs in excess of $200 million. Lending activities include working capital, recapitalizations, leveraged buyout, equipment financing, and growth capital financing. The group also handles corporate retirement plans, securities investments and ancillary financial services for its customers. Before joining Comerica Bank’s predecessor Imperial Bank in 2000, Tim was the Finance Manager for the Texas Region and manager of technology training for Merrill Lynch Business Financial Services, Inc. His 30 years of industry experience includes serving as vice president of commercial real estate commercial / technology lending for JPMorgan Chase Bank. A former world-ranked and distinguished collegiate Division I tennis player, Tim holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Comerica

Comerica Incorporated (NYSE: CMA) is a financial services company headquartered in Dallas, Texas, and strategically aligned by three business segments: The Business Bank, The Retail Bank, and Wealth Management. Comerica focuses on relationships, and helping people and businesses be successful. In addition to Texas, Comerica Bank locations can be found in Arizona, California, Florida and Michigan, with select businesses operating in several other states, as well as in Canada and Mexico. Comerica reported total assets of $65.7 billion at March 31, 2014.
Victor Liu is president of Hunt Energy Enterprises where he leads Hunt’s energy technology venture development and investment business. Prior to leading HEE, Liu was a vice president for Hunt Power where he helped develop Hunt’s InfraREIT business. Before joining Hunt Power in 2006, Liu was active in high tech venture capital as a general partner with Vortex Partners from 2000 to 2005, and Sevin Rosen Funds from 1999 to 2000. As a venture capitalist, he was active in internet infrastructure and wireless investment decisions that included Cyneta Networks (acquired by Tektronix), Navarro Networks (acquired by Cisco Systems), ipMobile (acquired by Cisco Systems), RealManage and GlobeRanger. Before his venture capital career, Liu worked in new product and new business commercialization as director of business development for Cyrix Corporation (acquired by National Semiconductor), and as a product manager at Texas Instruments in the digital light processing business. Liu earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BA from Southern Methodist University.

Hunt Energy Enterprises continues the legacy of Hunt’s entrepreneurship in energy and recognizes both the opportunities and challenges of today’s energy environment. As such, Hunt Energy Enterprises looks to leverage its operations and knowledge to invest in and create new energy companies and partnerships with entrepreneurs in both the conventional petroleum business and cleantech power, as together we build great energy enterprises.
MaryAnne Maldonado, B.B.M., M.B.A.
Vice President & Managing Director, Energy

Maryanne Maldonado is Vice President, Managing Director of HTC Energy, and Director of Client Services at the Houston Technology Center (HTC), a Houston based technology business accelerator and the largest technology business incubator in Texas. In this capacity, Mrs. Maldonado guides the strategic direction and a team of energy executives and professionals to provide strategic, tactical, and operational guidance, as well as investment-related advice to early stage companies developing innovative technologies with applications in the energy industry. She also oversees the Client Acceleration Team. Under Mrs. Maldonado’s leadership, HTC Energy has grown to over 25 energy technology clients, and she has brought to the organization nearly half a million dollars in annual support by integrated energy and service companies. A native of North Carolina, Maldonado holds a Masters of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science degree from LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. She is married with two adult children and three beautiful grandgirls. She enjoys marathon running, long distance cycling, and looking for the next big challenge!
Kala Marathi

Kala Marathi is the Executive Director of Innovation at the C.T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston, as well as Managing Director of the Cougar Venture Fund. She is also COO of Terrapin Stone, an investment firm that focuses on income producing assets. In her role as Managing Director of the Houston Angel Network, Kala has facilitated over $30M in investments in 85 deals. She has more than 20 years of operating and financial experience. Kala was formerly with Reliant Energy where she was a founding member of the corporate venture group, Reliant Energy Net Ventures. At Reliant, she led several smart grid pilots and technology initiatives, and launched a subsidiary called Texas Star Energy. She also has extensive experience in strategy and corporate finance with such firms as the Continental Airlines and Chase. Kala is a Director in the Texas Lyceum. She has also served on the Board of Directors of Texchange and the National Association of Women MBAs (Houston Chapter), as well as on the Advisory Board of the National Angel Education Foundation. Kala has B.A. in Japanese and Economics from Wellesley College, and an MBA from the Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

UH Cougar Venture Fund
bauer.uh.edu/cvf

The Cougar Venture Fund is the early stage venture capital fund of the University of Houston’s Bauer College of Business. Through this fund, students enrolled on Bauer’s Venture Capital Investment course gain knowledge and experience in how to analyze and invest in early stage technology companies. During this process, the students work with an advisory board of entrepreneurs, angel investors, and venture capitalists.
Chuck McCoy
Founder & Executive Director

Chuck began 25 years in the software business in Arthur Andersen’s Tulsa office in 1978. Between 1992 and 2006 Chuck has worked as an independent product developer for large companies such as AT&T, E-Systems, and MCI. His accounting background, combined with years of face-to-face selling, resulted in being engaged to help grow businesses by M&A transactions or rolling-out new products. The end of his technical career marked the beginning of his focus on new venture development. Chuck spent a year as Director of Commercialization Programs at the North Texas RCIC. In 2008, he founded the North Texas Angel Network (NTAN) which is comprised of a group of 60 disciplined entrepreneurs investing in mostly Texas deals. Chuck holds a BBA from Oklahoma City University, an MS (Economics) from Oklahoma State University, and is a veteran of the US Army (A Battery, 6th Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery, 1968).

Ed Mello
Co-Founder & Managing Director

Ed has thirty years of leadership and executive experience in successful start-ups, major corporations and venture investing. Prior to co-founding Cypress Growth Capital in 2010, he served as Chief Operating Officer and Managing Partner of CSC Consulting, a $700M, 3000-employee division of Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC). Ed was also an early employee and senior executive of Viant, a pioneering Internet services company that had a successful IPO. Ed was also President of nGenera (now Moxie Software), an Austin-based, venture-backed software and services company. Ed began his business career at EDS after serving as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and is an active member of the Irish Angels, Notre Dame’s angel investing and entrepreneur mentoring organization.

North Texas Angel Network
northtexasangels.org

The North Texas Angel Network is a member-led group of disciplined entrepreneurs. The members are entrepreneurs or other business leaders who have made good money by taking smart risks. Membership is by invitation to accredited investors. Individual members make individual decisions about which entrepreneurs to trust with their hard earned dollars. We seek very high potential and may accept very high risk. We help build good companies, one at a time. The goal of these investments is a cash exit that delivers wealth to the entrepreneur and appropriate returns to the early investors. Our opportunity evaluation process is formal, transparent and rigorous.

Cypress Growth Capital
cypressgrowthcapital.com

Cypress Growth Capital, LLC is an investment firm providing growth capital to emerging and expansion stage companies in the Southwest United States. Our firm makes investments using an innovative royalty-based financing approach pioneered by our Senior Advisor, Arthur Fox. Royalty-based growth capital provides entrepreneurs and business owners with an attractive alternative to traditional equity and debt instruments. Our firm invests primarily in technology-enabled business services, software and information-based companies. We are one of the first and largest royalty based growth capital firms in the country.
Henk Mooiweer
GameChanger

Henk has 24 years of Shell experience, with a robust R&D and innovation background and strong commercial skills in business development and strategy of alternative energy businesses. He successfully managed the development of multiple complex business opportunities and many, often unconventional, external partnerships. Henk thrives in a hectic environment where passionate people, unusual ideas, innovation challenges and uncertainty benefit from creative and pragmatic approaches.

Shell GameChanger
shell.com

Shell GameChanger connects with any innovator and creative community to identify and nurture unproven ideas that have the potential to drastically impact the future of energy. The programme was founded in 1996 and has been designed to prove the technical and commercial viability of an idea quickly and affordably. To date, GameChanger has worked with over 1500 innovators and turned more than 100 ideas into reality. We seek unproven ideas that have the potential to drastically impact the future of energy. We listen to any innovator, especially if they have ideas that are unproven and unusual. We cooperate with innovators to prove the viability of their ideas quickly and affordable. Our team of professionals are ready to listen to your unproven and unusual ideas. We review proposals and make a decision within days. If your proposal meets our criteria, we will contact you straight away to discuss working together for success.
Jim Pendleton
President & Chairman

Jim Pendleton has been an entrepreneur for most of his life and knows starting a business takes “long hard work and hours with limited capital.” He believes entrepreneurs are the “backbone of our nation,” so he and a small group of local business owners have joined forces to help others. Pendleton is president and chairman of the Tyler Texas Angel Network, a group of seasoned entrepreneurs looking to invest in start-up companies that are struggling for funding. Pendleton, 73, has owned a natural gas equipment company for 40 years, following in the entrepreneurial footsteps of his father, an electrical contractor. He grew up in Dallas and studied engineering at Southern Methodist University before moving to Tyler about 30 years ago. Pendleton said he has done four or five start-up companies, and they are an “absolute nightmare struggle.” Now after decades of owning a business, he wants to help others starting a company.

Alex Rozenfeld
Venture Principal

Alex Rozenfeld is a venture principal at Shell Technology Ventures LLC and was one of the founding team members. He is responsible for Shell Technology Ventures’ investments globally in several of Shell’s key focus areas, developing technology companies that create strategic value and significant leverage for Shell’s energy assets. Alex has worked extensively internationally for Shell, including in The Netherlands and Russia. Highlights include GameChanger (Shell’s “angel capital” group) and business development of gas monetization technologies. Prior to Shell, Alex worked with several energy VCs, and managed power business development at Texaco. He is an active member of the Houston Angels Network, Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship and HTC. Alex received his bachelor’s from Princeton University. Alex also has an MBA from the MIT Sloan School.

Tyler Texas Angel Network
tyler.texas.angelnetwork.com

Tyler Texas Angel Network (TTAN) is a group of accredited investors, based in the Tyler, Texas area, that are looking for early stage companies with great products and bright futures. We are interested in companies with innovative products or businesses with a potential for rapid growth within a sizable market. We are looking for companies that need to expand to the next level and need investors to help grow your company and achieve the success you deserve. In general we do not invest in real estate, oil and gas or restaurant deals. The company should have a credible growth pathway to an eventual exit for the investors, such as IPO or acquisition. Our group includes successful entrepreneurs and business professionals who love to invest in innovative products, as well as offer their considerable experience and expertise in growing companies.

Shell Technology Ventures
shell.com

Shell Technology Ventures (STV) is the corporate venturing arm of Shell. STV is focused on accelerating deployment of new technologies for Shell by acting both as an investor and development partner in technology companies that are developing promising technologies in the field of oil & gas and renewable energy. STV invests start-up or growth capital in specific technologies that support and improve Shell’s global operations. Over the next six to eight years, STV plans to invest several hundred million dollars in promising technology solutions that have a strategic fit with technology demands in our businesses.
Art Schroeder
President

Art Schroeder is CEO of Energy Valley Inc., providing money, marketing and management to advance energy-related technologies. Art has more than 30 years’ experience in operations, engineering, construction, corporate strategy and crisis management, and technology development and commercialization. During the last 15 years Energy Valley has executed on more than 100 projects ranging in size from $250k - $5M+ and assisted clients ranging from global integrated oil companies to numerous small start-ups. Art sits on a number of corporate, professional, and civic boards and has published and / or presented over 100 technical papers. Art graduated from Georgia Tech with bachelor’s and master’s in chemical engineering and from the University of Houston with an MBA.

Energy Valley, Inc.
energyvalley.net

Our primary business is to identify and develop market opportunities within the upstream energy segment and commercialize / grow technologies by providing: Strategic advice and business planning / management support; Market analysis and entry strategies & techno-economic evaluations; Assistance with commercialization strategies, alliances, partnerships and acquisitions; and Project management. Our core competencies include: Techno-economic evaluations of new technical concepts and adaptation of existing technologies for re-deployment to oil & gas sector; Project management; and Systems engineering and analysis with emphasis on sub-sea processing and integrity management and system reliability.
Chris Scotti  
Operations

Chris Scotti runs the day to day operations of the Aggie Angel Network. His duties include screening and coaching companies prior to pitching to the Network's investor members. Chris has a history as both an elected official and entrepreneur, who is dedicated to helping coach companies and foster the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Aggieland. Chris came to College Station to attend Texas A&M University but ended up starting a business and making the area his permanent home. He founded in 1995, and ultimately sold in 2006, the IT services company, AgniTEK, which won 3 Newman 10 and an Aggie 100 Award for fast growth. He then devoted his business skills & spirit of entrepreneurship to help the Center for New Ventures & Entrepreneurship launch Aggies in Business. AiB is a student run & led business consulting & property management company associated with the Mays Business School at Texas A&M that teaches students how to start and run a company through hands on practice. He was elected to the College Station City Council in 2005 for a 3 year term and remains active in politics. Chris is married to Hayley, a local Realtor, and they have a 5 year old son, Thomas.

Aggie Angel Network  
aggieangelnetwork.com

The Aggie Angel Network (AAN) is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to providing quality early-stage investment opportunities for accredited angel investors, and to assisting early-stage high-growth potential technology companies with fundraising and advisory services. We are a network of accredited investors who invest directly into promising entrepreneurial businesses in return for stock in the companies. The Center for Venture Research estimates that U.S. angel investors invested $19 billion in 55,000 deals (about 35,000 small businesses) in 2008. The Aggie Angel Network is actively seeking to invest in great startup companies. In addition to money, the AAN brings connections, market knowledge, mentoring and operational excellence to early-stage entrepreneurs with disruptive technologies. Let us help you to turn your vision into reality.
Jim Sledzik
Senior Partner and President

Jim Sledzik, senior partner and president of the U.S. office of Energy Ventures, has more than 25 years of experience in the worldwide oil and gas industry. Sledzik currently serves on the board of directors of six portfolio companies: HICOR, OsComp Systems, Oxane Materials, Wireless Seismic, Ingrain and Acoustic Zoom, and has previously served on the boards of Stingray, Arkex and ffA. Prior to his current position with Energy Ventures, Sledzik served as the Global Marketing & New Technology Director and Vice President of Multiclient Services for WesternGeco and as a Global Account Director for Schlumberger. He holds an MBA in International Business, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh and a B.Sc. in Geosciences, Pennsylvania State University.

Cory Steffek
Corporate Venture Capital

Cory Steffek is the managing director of North American Venture Capital at Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures (SAEV), the corporate venturing subsidiary of Saudi Aramco. He is responsible for identifying technology investments of strategic importance in the areas of upstream oil and gas, downstream oil and gas and value-added products, renewable energy, energy efficiency and water. Before joining SAEV, Cory was in corporate development and strategy at First Solar, where he was responsible for strategic investments and acquisitions with emphasis on new technologies and products. Prior to First Solar, Cory was at the Altira Group, an energy-focused venture capital firm, where he led investments in a broad range of energy technology companies. He holds a doctorate in materials chemistry from the University of Michigan and an MBA from The Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.
Participating Speakers & Investors

Rebecca Taylor
Venture Principal

Rebecca Taylor is a venture principal with Shell Technology Ventures (STV), the corporate venture capital arm of Royal Dutch Shell. Her role at STV includes identifying, vetting, selecting and mentoring startups selected for investment. Rebecca has been a founder, advisor and investor in startups for 25 years and has advised the U.S. Department of State on entrepreneurship.

Dan Watkins, PhD
Managing Director

Dan Watkins is the co-founder and Managing Director of Mercury Fund, a venture capital firm investing in seed and early-stage Software and Physical/Life Science startups. He has served in a number of operational roles in both Physical and Life Science startups including GlycosBio (industrial biotechnology), Illumitex (specialty LEDs) and Deep Imaging (novel geological imaging for subsurface fluids). Dan received his B.S. from Rice University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University, all in Materials Science. Dan serves on the advisory boards of Northwestern University’s Innovation and New Ventures Office (INVCO), the University of Michigan’s Venture Center Council and BioHouston. Dan is also the co-founder of the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship.

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Mercury Fund
mercuryfund.com

Mercury Fund is a seed-stage venture capital firm that makes equity investments in compelling and novel software and science-based startup opportunities. Mercury partners with extraordinary entrepreneurs to build globally competitive businesses, focusing on technology innovation originating in the U.S. Midcontinent. Our firm has a particular interest in startups associated with seed accelerators, incubators and universities. We frequently invest prior to the formation of a business plan or complete management team. Since inception in 2005, Mercury Fund has become one of the most active seed-stage venture firms in the Midcontinent, becoming a “go-to” fund for entrepreneurs at the earliest stages of idea generation, company formation, and market execution.