The Rice Alliance's 12th Annual Energy and Clean Technology Venture Forum on September 11, 2014 is the largest energy and clean technology venture capital conference in the southwest.

This event represents an opportunity to learn about the latest emerging technologies, meet investors to seek funding, see promising companies, learn about investment opportunities, meet individuals from the energy & clean technology industry, learn about promising companies seeking to expand their management team, as well networking and learning opportunities for entrepreneurs, researchers, investment professional and business executives.

This is a must-attend event for anyone involved in the energy and clean technology community in the region. The conference will include industry luminary speakers, investors, and promising startups from throughout the U.S. and beyond.

Companies wanting to present can apply by submitting an Executive Summary:

- The most promising emerging energy and clean technology companies will be invited to pitch in the one day event to 400-500 investors, industry participants and other attendees.
- Companies will have an opportunity to pitch their company at the Forum, to meet 1-on-1 with investors during the Investor Office Hours, and to participate in the Company Showcase

The results from past presenters have been impressive:

- Over 1,400 companies have presented at past Rice Alliance Forum events
- These presenters have raised more than $2.9 billion in early stage funding
- Attendance at this event from 2009 to 2013 averaged more than 540 individuals
- More than 100 investors attended the 2013 event
All areas within the energy & clean technology industry will be represented at the forum:

- Alternative, clean or sustainable energy
- Oil & Gas exploration and production technologies
- Oil & Gas refining and marketing technologies
- Electricity and power generation
- Energy storage, transportation, efficiency or conservation
- Environmental remediation
- Software applications for the energy/clean tech industry
- Smart grid and other I.T. related companies to improve energy

Why attend?

- To gain access to investors and potential funding
- To see the most promising disruptive energy & clean technologies
- To attract potential customers
- To cultivate strategic relationships with industry players
- To meet promising technology companies
- To network with key service providers in the entrepreneurial and energy communities

If you have questions about the 12th Annual Energy & Clean Technology, please contact the Rice Alliance at tvforum@rice.edu or 713-348-3443.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quick Facts</th>
<th>Recent Speakers</th>
<th>Company Spotlight</th>
<th>Earned Excellence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Rice University was ranked as the #1 university in the U.S. in 2005 and #3 in 2006 in the commercialization of nanotechnology published by Small Times Magazine | Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business  
George R. Brown School of Engineering  
Wiess School of Natural Sciences | | © Copyright 2014  
Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship  
Rice University |

Janice and Robert McNair Hall  
P.O. Box 2932-MS 531  
Houston, Texas 77252-2932
## Venture Forum Agenda

**Rice Alliance for Technology & Entrepreneurship**

**12th Annual Energy and Clean Technology Venture Forum**
Thursday, September 11, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 AM</td>
<td>Registration and Continental Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 8:40 AM</td>
<td>Welcoming Remarks (Shell Auditorium)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Brad Burke, Managing Director, Rice Alliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:40 – 9:10 AM</td>
<td>Opening Keynote</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Jim Sledzik, Senior Partner &amp; President – Houston, Texas, Energy Ventures</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:10 – 10:15 AM</td>
<td>Company Pitches</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15-10:45 AM</td>
<td>Networking Break (AFC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:30 AM</td>
<td>Company Pitches</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Venture Capital Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Laurence Hayward, Investment Partner, Independence Equity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Dan Watkins, Managing Director, Mercury Fund</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Sean Ebert, Altira Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Joshua Posamentier, Prelude</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>Technology Development &amp; New Ventures from the Service Company Perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Sammy Haroon, Executive Director, Palo Alto Innovation Center, Baker Hughes</td>
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<td>- John Bartos, Vice President,</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 1:10 PM</td>
<td>Afternoon Remarks and Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Brad Burke, Managing Director, Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Maryanne Maldonado, Vice President and Managing Director, Energy Acceleration, Houston Technology Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:10 – 2:15 PM</td>
<td>Company Pitches</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 PM</td>
<td>The New Role that Accelerators and Incubators are Playing in Supporting Energy Startups</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Moderator: Russ Capper, CEO and Owner, The EnergyMakers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Kirk Coburn, Founder and Managing Director, SURGE Accelerator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Kraettli Epperson, Managing Director, JumpPhase Ventures and Launch Oklahoma</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Mitch Jacobson, Co-Director, Clean Energy Incubator, Austin Technology Incubator</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
<td>Angel Investors: Filling the Early Stage Funding Gap</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Moderator: Russ Capper, CEO and Owner, The EnergyMakers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Victor Elgohary, Texas Halo Fund</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Hayden Hill, Houston Angel Network</td>
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<td>- Kelly Hill, Director, Texas Hill</td>
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<td>Country Angel Network &amp; Investment Partners</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Chris Scotti, Aggie Angel Network</td>
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<td>2:15 – 2:45 PM</td>
<td>Corporate and Strategic VCs: What are they looking for in 2014:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Kemal Anbarci, Chevron Technology Ventures</td>
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<td>- Alexander Rozenfeld, Shell Technology Ventures</td>
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<td>- Dan Carter, Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures</td>
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<td>- John Egil Johannessen, Statoll Technology Invest</td>
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<td>- George Coyle, ConocoPhillips Technology Ventures</td>
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<td>- Akira Kirton, BP Ventures</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 - 2:45 PM</td>
<td>Alternative Funding Options: Venture Debt and Royalty Growth Capital</td>
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<td>Moderator: Greg Price, Sikich LLP</td>
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<td>- Weston Rice, Vice President, Cypress Capital, LLC</td>
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<td>- Tim Kitch, Managing Director, Technology and Life Sciences, Austin Market President - Comerica</td>
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<td>- David McLaughlin, Senior Vice President, Square 1 Bank</td>
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<td>2:45 – 3:15 PM</td>
<td>Networking Break</td>
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<td>3:15 – 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Company Pitches</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 – 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Village Capital 2014 Energy Accelerator – Company Spotlight</td>
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<td>- Ross Baird - Executive Director, Village Capital</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Village Capital Company Pitches</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>SURGE Accelerator – Company Spotlight</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Kirk Coburn, Founder and Managing Director, SURGE Accelerator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SURGE Accelerator Company Pitches</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 – 5:15 PM</td>
<td>Closing remarks and Announcement of Most Promising Companies,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sponsored by Chevron Technology Ventures</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Brad Burke, Rice Alliance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Kemal Anbarci, Chevron Technology Ventures</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15 – 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Company Showcase and Networking Reception</td>
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<td>Quick Facts</td>
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<td>2009 Ranked #5 in the U.S. Princeton Review &amp; Entrepreneurship magazine</td>
<td>Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business</td>
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<td>George R. Brown School of Engineering</td>
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http://alliance.rice.edu/2014_Energy_Venture_Forum_Agenda/
10x Technology

Libertyville, Illinois-based 10x Technology, LLC develops and manufactures micro- and nano-structured polymer substrates that have applications in the Energy, Medical, Electronics, Transportation and Military sectors. 10x's products range from micro-needle arrays for transdermal drug delivery to Fresnel lenses for solar concentrator systems. The founder of 10x Technology, Mr. Robert Pricone, is the inventor behind the first micro-prismatic retro-reflective sheeting for high brightness traffic signs which are now found worldwide. EVONIK Industries, a world leading manufacturer of acrylic sheet and molding compounds and bulk and performance monomers, is a strategic alliance partner of 10x. 10x holds several patents (and patent applications) in production methods used to manufacture micro- and nano-structured materials and continues to file new applications on improvements in process technology designed to reduce material costs, increase production speeds and enable the creation of new classes of products.

AnCatt

AnCatt is American Chemical Society Green Chemistry & Engineering Business Plan Competition and TechConnect National Innovation Award winning startup who has sold thousands dollar of samples to leading manufacturers. AnCatt invented the first anti-corrosion coating that corrosion seemly cannot penetrate through with record-making 13,000 hrs of independent salt fog test (ASTM B 117) still shown no rusting or blistering which has been recognized as a miracle by industry experts; 3X longevity of chromates and 6X longevity of zinc-rich coatings. AnCatt conductive polymer nano-dispersion (CPND) based coating success is the first heavy-metal free (green) heavy-duty anti-corrosion coating. It has proven an environmentally-friendly, economical, self-healing, super-strength metal-protection coating platform that could dramatically extend life of metals and save billions of dollars, the environment, energy, resources, and lives. AnCatt coating will become the most desirable anti-corrosion coating for future construction and manufacturing practices worldwide, the proven platform will soon bring more exciting products.

Autonomic Materials, Inc.

Autonomic Materials, Inc. (AMI) is commercializing microencapsulated self-healing polymers for use as an additive in high-performance coatings, adhesives, sealants and composites. Applications include corrosion prevention in high-performance coatings and restoration of moisture protection and structural integrity in high-performance adhesives, sealants and polymeric composites. AMI’s additives offer innovative self-healing technologies that extend lifetimes of polymeric materials, thereby minimizing upkeep and repair. The microencapsulated self-healing agents deliver an autonomous healing response precisely when required; immediately at the time and site of damage, and without the need for human intervention. AMI holds the exclusive license to multiple patents from the University of Illinois, with an additional AMI-initiated patent portfolio covering coatings, adhesives and sealants. AMI seeks sales, joint development and strategic alliance opportunities with potential partners. AMI is not seeking investment capital at this time.
**Bandgap**

Bandgap is replacing coal plants with solar fields by modifying existing cell manufacturing lines to make nanowire solar cells. This upgrade doubles cell makers' margins by increasing the efficiency and lowering the cost of solar cells. With our low overhead, we will quickly reach cash-flow positive through licensing. Our second generation product will be a solar cell that competes without subsidies with conventional electricity sources. Our products are based on our silicon nanowire arrays which are made with our low cost and controllable process. In addition to solar, we are partnering with other companies to commercialize the use of our nanowire arrays in the fields of microfluidics, MEMs, Li ion batteries, and throughput vias.

**Bearing Analytics**

Bearing Analytics provides owners and operators of industrial machinery the best solutions available for asset monitoring and failure prediction, leveraging best in class proprietary sensor hardware as well as cloud-based data management and failure prediction analytics capabilities. Through the ability to monitor critical equipment, generate actionable information (what machine will fail, when it will fail, and how it will fail), and deliver that information via web and mobile APIs, Bearing Analytics can enable maintenance engineers to maintain operational efficiencies and avoid unplanned machinery downtime - a problem that can cost upwards of $1M / hour in some industries. Applications range across all mechanical industry verticals - Energy Generation, Oil & Gas, Process Industries, Manufacturing, Transportation, Aviation, etc. With Bearing Analytics technology, we can make equipment downtime and unexpected machinery failures a thing of the past!

**Best Tech Brands, LLC**

We develop and market Synergyn™ branded diesel, gasoline and oil additives that:
- Increase miles per gallon typically by 10 to 20%,
- Save up to 75¢ a gallon, net of additive cost,
- Reduce friction, wear and maintenance cost,
- Reduce emissions by 10 to 20%,
- Improve the quality of the remaining emissions,
- Are proven in independent lab, dyno and on-the-road tests,
- Are protected by trade secret or patents, and
- Yield high margins to us and our distributors and retailers.

Potential customers include owner/drivers of cars, trucks, trains, buses, and agriculture and mining equipment. One of the additives was co-developed with NASA; another is based on technology developed by Felipe Chibante, a Rice PhD who worked under Prof. Smalley, the Nobel Prize winner in nano-carbons. We are in a lean launch, selling 2,250 gallons per month of additives, and seeking up to $10 million for retail and fleet launch. Productions is outsourced.
**Big Delta Systems, LLC**

Big Delta Systems is an early stage startup aiming to supply manufacturers of portable and wearable electronic devices with customized high-energy power sources. Using a new, patent-pending manufacturing process, power sources can be manufactured in any shape and size, flexible or rigid. The mission of the company is to give device manufacturers complete freedom to design products that are beautiful, thin, light, long lasting, and that can even be flexible, ultimately enriching user experience. Instead of designing devices around standardized batteries, Big Delta Systems seeks to turn the design process around and design power sources that enable device designers to realize their visions. With this disruptive technology, Big Delta Systems will bring about a new paradigm to all types of wearable and portable electronic devices, bringing them ever closer to people in form, fit and function and usher in a new era of portable electronics with designs never imagined before.

**Biosilica and Energy Corporation**

Rice hulls are agricultural waste generated by the rice milling industries. The annual world rice production from these industries has been above 729 million metric tons, resulting in about 218.7 million metric tons of industrial waste rice hulls. In the United States, rice production is above 10.5 million metric tons, resulting in 3.5 million metric tons of industrial waste rice hulls. Biosilica and Energy Corporation (BsEC) intends to become a low cost producer of high quality amorphous silica, called as Biosilica from waste rice hull with uses in High Performance Concrete (HPC) and as fillers in plastics, paints and tires. Rice hulls have 14 MJ kg⁻¹ of energy which can be used to produce steam/heat to generate additional revenue. With successful operation of one or more commercial plants in USA, the company will be positioned to become a major amorphous silica supplier in a large multibillion dollar profitable global market.

**Biota Technology**

In this talk, Biota Technology will present how microbial data can be used to better predict reservoir quality in critical decisions including sweet spot identification and water cut assessment. We will discuss the emergence of this new information source, developed with $20M over 5 years, then identify unique challenges and approaches in analyzing microbial data. A portfolio of applications to unconventional energy production will be presented in addition to laboratory data and learnings from pilot programs in the Permian Basin.

**Bractlet**

Bractlet is the catalyst to unlock the $500 billion investment potential of energy efficiency. The U.S. built environment has the potential to save 20% of the U.S. energy consumption, but this potential is not being realized. The energy efficiency space relies on once-a-month utility bills to identify savings opportunities, manage energy, and verify savings from retrofits. They tell you how much energy a building uses but not why it uses that energy or how to lower its consumption. Bractlet’s solution combines data collection, data storage, analytics, and cloud-based software. Our solution collects deep data from a building—equipment data, environmental data, and building metadata—through a self-forming sensor network. This information feeds our analytics engine that creates highly accurate energy models that can be cross-compared with our database to automatically recommend an energy saving action.
Calaeris is an environmental technology company focused on developing a unique patent pending waste-to-energy thermal process, Vacuum Enhanced Continuous Turbulent Thermal Oil Recovery (VECTTOR®) that provides a solution to some of the most complex waste streams from the energy sector, with proven potential for cross-application to waste streams from other industries. Our technology will reduce the environmental footprint of our clients and provide economic advantages compared to current practices. Suitable waste streams are tank bottoms, spent drilling fluids, drill cuttings, oil-based paint, cutting/lubricating/quenching oil from steel industries, Fullers earth, oily sludge from blow down and crystallizers, biodiesel sludge and other similar and applicable industrial and petrochemical sludges.

Cee6Cubed designs and manufactures nano-composite materials and components. By combining new methods of producing high-purity nanopowders and new sintering (forming) technologies, the company enables the production of higher performing components for a wide range of applications. The initial focus of the company includes high performance seals, bearings, couplings and mechanical components targeting industries including Oil & Gas, Pulp and Paper, Chemicals, Mining, Aerospace, Alternative Energy and Water Treatment. Cee6Cubed plans to design and manufacture nano-materials and components that are stronger, smoother (less friction), lighter-weight, and more consistent (homogeneous). It plans to achieve this by developing and using novel manufacturing process technology to produce nanopowders and form them into mechanical components used by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in the aforementioned applications. The manufacturing technology is also expected to increase throughput and reduce turnaround times (24 hours) and address supply shortages.

Clear Creek Networks has developed a self-operating network for management, monitoring, and security for electric utilities. The critical infrastructure of the grid relies on networks that are currently manually-managed and notoriously difficult to maintain. This problem is intensified as the grid ages and our demands of it increase. Clear Creek Networks’ software completely automates data network management, eliminating humans (and human error) from the process, thereby limiting the associated dangers. While the competition continues to design and roll out traditional, manually-managed and closed networking solutions requiring multiple management systems, Clear Creek Networks provides a single system that is completely self-operating.

The little things add up fast. That’s why Curb pioneered an energy engagement system that puts the power back in the hands of homeowners. Curb’s suite of sensors and software lets you see the amount of energy each appliance and area of your home is consuming, how much you're spending, when devices are on/off and if there are any home security breaches. Real-time alerts and smart tips help you save money, be more efficient, and keep your home secure even when you’re away. Curb accomplishes this through a combination of hardware and proprietary software algorithms identify individual home appliances, enable people to accurately anticipate their electricity spend and make changes to reduce usage before their bill arrives. Check out the live demo here: http://bit.ly/1ySDmuJ
Down Hole, Inc.

Down Hole, Inc. is a Houston, Texas, oilfield services company that has been formed to commercialize three related products that have been designed and developed to separate water from either gas or oil while they are still down hole and before they are brought to the surface. After being separated, the water is pumped to a subsurface injection zone for disposal, and the hydrocarbons are brought to the surface. The amount of water produced at the surface is essentially eliminated, as are associated costs, while hydrocarbon production is usually increased. DHI systems will allow energy companies to dramatically lower or eliminate the cost associated with produced water production and positively impact their financial performance.

Dynamic Tubular Systems, Inc.

Dynamic Tubular Systems, Inc. is pioneering the next generation of expandable tubular solutions for well construction and completions in conventional, unconventional, and deepwater industries. Completely unrelated to conventional expandables, our products offer 5-10 times the strength of currently available expandable systems, and can fully extend, or deepen any borehole or casing diameter. By avoiding the telescoping effect inherent in conventional well casing schemes, DTS technology enables operators to drill to any depth while maintaining a large enough flow area for unconstrained production. This will allow operators to maximize extraction rates, ultimate hydrocarbon recovery, and return on their investment. Certain applications of DTS technology can reduce the time and cost of well construction by up to 25%—with actually improved borehole integrity and safety—while the larger finished well diameter can increase production rates by 50% or more.

e-Chromic

Licensed from NREL, e-Chromic’s smart window technology turns diffuse reflective when activated. Therefore, it does not suffer from the “heating problem”. This enables our technology to be placed on a flexible substrate (glass or plastic) and used to retrofit existing windows, transforming ordinary existing windows into highly energy efficient smart windows. Because e-Chromic installs a thin film as opposed to new window units, our solution costs the end user substantially less for both hardware and services than other smart window technologies. Instead of serving a very limited market, our market opportunity is huge. DOE estimates that there are approximately 19.5 billion square feet of installed windows in the US alone. According to results from NREL’s energy modeling, reflective smart window technology achieves 43% greater overall energy savings than absorptive technologies. Reduction in air conditioner usage, together with the related reduction in CO2 emissions, is estimated to be approximately 35%.
**EEme, LLC**

EEme, a residential energy analytics spin-off from Carnegie Mellon University, uses big data to mine for residential energy efficiency sweet spots. EEme leverages a non-intrusive virtual home audit approach that revolves around processing private utility data (e.g. smart meter or monthly reading data) and publicly available information (e.g. property tax records) to statistically predict the energy efficiency and behavioral demand response (DR) potential of a given measure for every residential user in a given service territory. EEme’s team has a collective background in human-computer interaction, machine learning/statistics, building science and behavioral science. EEme recently completed pilots with San Diego Gas & Electric Company and WattVision, an energy sensor maker. EEme is now preparing to kick off an engagement with the U.S. Department of Defense where EEme will monitor and provide the analytics for a military base. Negotiations with other utilities, energy efficiency program implementers, efficiency consulting incumbents and smart meter hardware/software vendors are underway.

**Effortless Energy**

Effortless Energy offers free and easy home upgrades. The company’s innovative efficiency-as-a-service model leverages software, advanced data analytics, and finance to make home energy efficiency the no-brainer it ought to be. After a visit from an “Energy Expert”, Effortless Energy pays for and upgrades things like thermostats, refrigerators, lighting, and furnaces to make them more efficient. Then, the company shares in the utility bill savings it creates by charging customers per unit of energy saved at a rate lower than the cost of using energy. As a result, customers receive a more valuable, easier-to-control, more comfortable, quieter, healthier, and greener “Effortless Home” while saving money on their bills. Effortless Energy partners with local contractors and utilities, which use Effortless Energy’s mobile, cloud-based SaaS to identify cost-effective home upgrades. This allows contractors to cut home audit times, drastically reduce paperwork, leverage all available rebates, and finance 100% of cost-effective upgrades through a Home Efficiency Agreement.

**Emrgy Hydro, LLC.**

1.3 billion people worldwide lack access to reliable electricity, yet harvesting just 0.1% of the energy in the world’s water could supply 5x the global demand, according to the UK Marine Foresight Panel. Currently, almost all hydropower comes from expensive plants powered by technologies that require flows of 5-6+ knots; however, most of the earth’s natural currents flow at less than 3-4 knots and are not accessible by existing technologies. Emrgy is developing affordable hydropower in waters currently thought to be too slow or shallow for energy generation. Together with the US DoE and US Navy, we developed a compact hydrokinetic turbine that replaces conventional turbines 8x larger -- enabling power production from free-flowing rivers, municipal aqueducts, tidal streams and even wastewater pipes without expensive damming. One $40,000 turbine will generate over 780MWh per year, powering 7 average US homes, or almost 90 in India.
enVerid Systems offers a new air treatment and energy saving technology for HVAC in commercial buildings. All buildings continually replace indoor air with fresh outdoor air in order to maintain desirable indoor air quality. The injection of outside air dilutes contaminants, predominantly CO2 and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), but a substantial amount of energy is consumed in conditioning the constant inflow of outside air – up to 50% (!) of total cooling power. The idea behind enVerid is simple but powerful: surgically eliminate the unwanted contaminants instead of replacing the air, and achieve two objectives: significant savings and better air quality. This is accomplished by enVerid’s HLR® Module that can be retrofitted virtually to any commercial building HVAC system.

EurekaSun

Conventional interest in solar energy has been centered almost exclusively on solar-based electricity generation, either through photovoltaic panels or large-scale solar thermal facilities. Low efficiencies, high capital outlay, and no competitive complementary technology for nocturnal power storage, are all serious and potentially fatal barriers to widespread use. At EurekaSun we have a radically different approach, to harness the sun’s energy to directly power physical processes, bypassing the efficiency bottleneck of solar photovoltaics/electrification. At Rice University, it was recently shown that by dispersing light-absorbing nanoparticles in water and illuminating with sunlight, steam can be generated at remarkably high efficiencies (nominally 80%) without the sizeable energy consumption normally required to heat the fluid volume. This Solar Steam Generation (SSG) process produces high temperature steam rapidly in relatively compact geometries that are readily adaptable to portable, off-grid platforms for sanitation and water purification in the developed and in the developing world.

Fractal Systems

Fractal Systems is a private Canadian company with offices in Sherbrooke, Quebec and Calgary, Alberta. The company has developed a partial upgrading technology called JetShear™ that can reduce diluent (light oil used for blending) required for transportation of extra heavy oils and bitumen to the market (refinery). The patented technology uses a combination of heat and cavitation to substantially reduce the viscosity of heavy oils.

Fracture ID

Fracture ID was formed to assist in targeted hydraulic stimulation, identifying zones of higher EUR potential and lower decline rates for stimulation while avoiding sub-commercial zones. The technology utilizes high frequency drill bit noise and drilling dynamics data to identify natural fracture swarms and brittle, higher mechanical strength rock, both of which have a significant effect on completions efficiency. The service provides a value/cost ratio sufficient to allow it to be run on the majority of unconventional horizontal wells drilled.
GeoTek Energy, LLC

GeoTek Energy’s clean technology improves hydrocarbon production efficiency while reducing production costs! The company’s patented geothermal technology when compared to traditional ESPs, improves operating reliability and oil production efficiency, substantially lowers operating and maintenance costs and can also generate electrical power. GeoTek’s “ThermalDrive™” replaces the unreliable “down-hole” electrical components of traditional electric submersible pumps (ESPs); pumps oil more efficiently while also eliminating the need for electrical power; and can still provide electric power to other oilfield operations in both onshore and off-shore applications. Developed to serve both the geothermal and oil and gas market, the technology development is partially funded by a substantial Department of Energy grant.

GMC Inc.

GMC is a Deepwater products company for the Subsea Umbilicals, Riser and Flowline (SURF) Industry. The company is focused on moving its Intelligently Connected Pipe (ICP™) to market as an enabling technology for Ultra Deepwater (UDW) field developments. ICP™ Technology allows the delivery of fatigue resistant, lightweight, non-welded high strength steel risers to enable future Deep Water and Ultra Deep Water (UDW), and Pre and Post -Salt projects. ICP™ consists of GMC’s proprietary Mechanical Connector and Friction Joining technologies. GMC’s Mechanical Connector is the enabling technology behind Intelligently Connected Pipe (ICP™); a revolutionary product for offshore riser and flow-line applications. Friction Joining (FRJ) is a solid state joining process that generates heat through mechanical friction between a moving part and a stationary component, with the addition of a lateral force called “upset” to plastically displace and fuse the materials.

Graphenix Development

Graphenix Development, Inc. (GDI) is a growth-stage company that utilizes nano-structured carbon materials for a broad array of applications and markets. Its near-term focus is on providing high performing carbon electrodes for ultracapacitors, a large and high-growth market. In 2014 the ultracapacitor market is around $600 million growing at 25% annually and is expected to reach $6 billion by 2024. The company’s proprietary advanced manufacturing methods permit it to fabricate these higher-performance electrodes at lower cost than their competitors’. This is through a toll manufacturing relationship at Kodak’s Eastman Business Park and other toll manufacturing partners. GDI has a Chinese capacitor partner and initial customer. They will both manufacture and sell the ultracapacitor devices in the Asian market in the 2nd half of 2015. GDI signed a $1 million product development agreement with this partner in May 2014.
Green Ultimate Recovery develops and tests novel processes to increase hydrocarbon recovery and extend the life of existing infrastructure. The company has filed two recent patent applications (2011 and 2012) and a third will be filed by September 2014. The developed chemical processes increase oil recovery while contemporaneously inhibiting the production of costly water waste. The approach is unique in that it also stimulates the asset for natural gas generation. Thus, the natural gas to be harvested in the future is a “free” byproduct of the treatments injected into the well for oil recovery. The company has also developed a chemical delivery system to inject the well treatments below ground at remote locations in a safe manner. Additional technological developments allow for iterative solutions by scaling from single well to full field applications.

Indy Power Systems has developed the Energy Router™, the industry’s first complete intelligent energy management solution that is modular, scalable, and upgradeable. The Energy Router™ can: 1) reduce demand charges, 2) eliminate “blinks” in power, and 3) allow participation in a utility company’s “Demand Response” program. The System allows end-users to receive multiple benefits and revenue streams from a single system. The System is also upgradeable, allowing different sources and/or loads to be added with only a software upgrade. The Energy Router™ System is the first to be capable of managing any number of different energy sources and/or loads, the first to integrate secondary-use (used) batteries for commercial energy storage, and the first with completely independent phase control. The Energy Router™ System is also battery agnostic so that any single battery chemistry, or any combination of chemistries (new and/or used), can be integrated to meet cost/performance targets.

Integrated Microfluidic Devices (IMD) is a startup venture that makes the world a safer place by enabling rapid bacterial detection from fluid samples. Fluid Screen, IMD’s flagship product, is a novel hand held device that detects bacteria in water and other fluids in 30 minutes as opposed to days. The Company will sell devices to water testing laboratories and customers who need to identify potential threats, especially E.coli and Total coliforms, in water before they become public health issues. In the near term, IMD focuses on building a strong customer base in the US water testing industries. The longer-term vision is to extend this fast, accurate and affordable technology platform to medical diagnostics and a full range of other applications globally.
IntelliHot Green Technologies

IntelliHot seeks to disrupt the water and space heating industries. It designs and manufactures energy-efficient heating systems for commercial, residential and industrial environments. Their intellectual property estate (6 patents issued, 12 pending) covers advances in system architecture, control logic, and state-of-the-art energy efficient heat exchangers. Their units have demonstrated energy savings between 20% to 40%. Today, IntelliHot has more than 1,500 units installed in leading hotels, restaurants, apartment complexes, assisted living, and other commercial accounts throughout North America such as Sheraton, McDonald’s, Benihana’s, and Costco. In 2013, IntelliHot expanded its business from light commercial water heating into heavy commercial water heating, and further into residential combination systems (hot water + space heating). These products are built on IntelliHot’s core heat exchanger and electronics platform, limiting additional parts vs. traditional manufacturers.

Lucelo Technologies

Lucelo Technologies is developing a printed solar cell device fabrication process using nanocrystal-based inks on flexible substrates that can deliver inexpensive, localized energy for low-power electronics (e.g., LEDs, sensors, and audio components) integrated into printed materials. The company was founded to put electrical power in places where it currently does not exist with low-cost printed photovoltaics. Our goal is to turn every day plastic, paper, and fabric media into readily accessible micro power grids by either directly printing or mounting pre-fabricated ultra-flexible printed PV devices on any material.

Meshify

Meshify™ operates at the intersection of the Internet-of-Things (IoT) and Energy. While mission-critical assets have been remotely monitored and controlled for decades in the energy industry, these assets represent less than 5% of the total number of electronic devices in use on a daily basis. Some examples of applications that need additional monitoring include waste material tracking, waste water management, poisonous gas detection, flame monitoring, personnel safety monitoring, pumps/motors/controls, generators, cathodic protection systems among others. Meshify leverages recent advances in computing processing, mesh-networking and WAN infrastructure with proprietary software to enable a quick and nimble system that adapts to new devices without years of development or high hurdle costs upfront. From hardware to security to device life-cycle management, Meshify offers a complete solution to integrate remote devices and their intelligence into your organization quickly.
Modumetal

Based in Seattle, WA, Modumetal Inc. is an advanced materials company that is creating a new class of protective metal alloys for industrial sector applications via a patented technology called nanolamination. While derived of the same basic raw materials as conventional metals, Modumetal’s alloys provide superior strength, corrosion resistance, thermal properties, wear resistance, fatigue performance and toughness. Modumetal is bringing these products to the industrial marketplace through patented manufacturing techniques which produce alloys at a cost competitive with conventional metals manufacturing. As opposed to conventional technologies, which only feature one homogeneous layer of protection, Modumetal’s manufacturing process creates a product with a multi-layered structure whose interfaces impart significant durability and performance enhancement of the alloy. Over the past eight years, the Company has partnered with organizations across the energy, steel manufacturing, aerospace, military, and construction sectors to develop and refine its technology, which has now been validated by industry leaders who are currently conducting field trials after several years of successful specification testing. Modumetal is now focused on increasing production capacity and accelerating full-scale commercial sales. Due to its low-cost, low-capex manufacturing process, Modumetal is poised to capture market share wherever enhanced strength, durability and longevity are valued across the industrial materials market. Modumetal’s initial focus is to address the limitations of existing metal coating solutions in the Upstream Oil & Gas sector where corrosion and wear play a major role in frequent part replacement and unexpected downtime.

MTPV Power Corporation

MTPV Power Corporation creates Semiconductor chips that covert heat directly into electricity. Much like a solar panel will convert sunlight into electricity, we are able to convert any source of heat into electricity with several significant advantages over existing solutions. By using Micron-gap ThermalPhotoVoltaics (MTPV) we are able to create 10x to 50x more power, using no moving parts, and 45% less heat than competitive technologies. These advantages open the door for chip based solutions that were previously unobtainable.

NextPotential

NextPotential's system can be integrated into existing plant infrastructure in any industry which generates a concentrated stream of carbon dioxide. From natural gas refining and power generation to ethanol fermentation and biomass operations, our system recycles waste to generate additional low-cost fuel. Renewable energy sources face the problem of energy storage, but our approach addresses this issue by converting solar energy into methane which can easily be transported and stored for use on demand. The net effect of our technology is a decrease in fuel expenditure and an increase in fuel efficiency for adopting plants. NextPotential's technology makes environmental concern profitable.
NOHMs Technologies, Inc.

NOHMs Technologies ("NOHMs") raised Series A investment February 2014, and is seeking Series B investors to enable market entry in 2016. NOHMs is a rechargeable battery materials development and manufacturing company. Our non-flammable ionic liquid battery electrolyte and lithium sulfur battery solutions enable our customers to design power systems with improved run-time, durability, and reduced weight. We have taken a portfolio approach to development for rapid commercialization in small markets to fund further development and build a successful brand to enter consumer markets. NOHMs is positioning as a materials and component supplier to the industry, and our customers are battery manufacturers. To-date, our non-dilutive funding comes from Joint Development Agreement with a prime supplier to the DoD and development grant awards from US Air Force, NSF, NYSERDA, NASA, NIH, and DARPA.

Nzyme2HC Company

Nzyme2HC is a biological hydrogen production company spun out of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. We have novel NLP (nano lipoprotein particle) capability that stabilizes hydrogenase in vitro (for several months) and focuses the enzyme entirely on H2 creation. Very high yield, ~15X multiplier vs. en vivo. Extremely low CAPEX. Inexpensive materials. No biomass. No Carbon. Totally renewable/clean/green. We believe, at scale, total cost of production of $1-2/kg H2 is potentially achievable. Thus can compete with SMR (steam methane reforming), even at low natural gas commodity prices. Can be implemented in central or distributed/stand-alone mode. Particularly valuable to countries/operations that desireous of independence from natural gas supplied by potential adversaries.

OptiEnz Sensors

OptiEnz Sensors sells a breakthrough technology for continuously measuring (in-line) organic chemical concentrations in water and aqueous solutions. The systems reduce the cost and increase the efficiency of water treatment processes in the oil & gas industry, by providing 24/7 quantitative remote process monitoring. The OptiEnz sensing system is easy to use and provides accurate results at a fraction of laboratory analysis costs—no pretreatment, expensive equipment, or skilled labor required. Simple. Accurate. Inexpensive.

PAX Pure

PAX Pure uses nature's principles to economically purify highly contaminated water at 60°C instead of at its normal boiling point of 100°C. This is accomplished without membranes or high pressure pumps in an innovative and patented one-step process. Since the technology is modular and simple in its design, it can drastically reduce costs in multiple water-stressed markets including industrial wastewater, brine concentration, and oil and gas. The oil and gas market, for example, produces large amounts of hyper-saline water that presents economic and environmental concerns. Water treatment and disposal can comprise 60-80% of hydraulic fracturing project costs. PAX Pure can handle extremely high TDS waters for <$1.00 per bbl (estimated cost) offering significant savings. PAX Pure will establish license agreements or joint ventures with industry partners to bring its technology to market.
PetroGel

In oil spill recovery, waste byproduct is generated that can be up to 30 times the volume of the oil spilled. The advantage of using PetroGel is to reduce additional waste generation from an oil spill and economically recover oil that would otherwise add to the waste product. PetroGel helps in getting rid of the secondary pollution generated that goes to landfill or is otherwise burnt. PetroGel, which is currently under commercial development, is the only product that can clean up oil during an oil spill and has the potential to recover the oil back.

Rebound Technology

Rebound Technology develops refrigeration systems for supermarkets, a sector struggling with the following issues: • Keeping food frozen makes up 30% all of electricity costs; • Commonly used synthetic refrigerants will soon be regulated; • Peak energy purchases cost up to 4x more than off-peak purchases. Rebound solves these problems by implementing IcePoint, a refrigeration technology that uses waste heat to mitigate energy-intensive compressor use and thermal energy storage to eliminate all daytime energy purchases. The result for supermarkets: a 60% reduction in low temperature cooling costs at an industry required, three-year payback.

RedEye Apps, Inc.

Redeye manages the process of storing, finding, sharing, marking up (making changes to), drafting, approving and managing engineering drawings using the cloud and any internet-enabled device. Our vision is that RedEye will make all of the world’s engineering drawings and data more available and useable. Founded in Australia in 2012, RedEye is the first fully cloud based engineering management solution. RedEye is purpose built to assist asset owners and their service providers to take control of their intellectual property, improve safety and productivity of their assets and to dramatically increase project delivery and engineering efficiency. RedEye opened its first international office in Houston in June 2014. With revenue grow of 560% over the last financial and more then 940 users from 45 companies. RedEye is seeking series A funding to scale our sales and client management functions to build a globally relevant SaaS solutions company in our chosen markets.

Secure Waters

Secure Waters provides Water-Security-as-a-Service for users and stewards or the world’s surface waters through the networked deployment of proprietary sensors. The underlying technology enables these sensors to provide real-time, online, 24/7 monitoring of surface waters without the need for consumables or reagents or hands-on interaction, and provides detection, identification, and alerting for a broad spectrum of chemical waterborne toxins. The company’s initial aim is toward the unmet demands of the existing $5 billion global water monitoring market, with a strategic focus on owning the currently vacant water solution segment of the emerging smart/connected cities and internet-of-things markets including associated “big data” analytics opportunities within global water.
SEE Forge is a cloud based solution for improving operational efficiencies and lowering risks. Our solution eliminates paper work and spreadsheets so you can monitor, do predictive analytics in real time and to notify employees and systems for faster response. Your employees will have a single device for all applications and processes.

Seismos introduces a disruptive technology enabling real time, non-invasive underground fluid monitoring during oil production. What conventional 3D/4D Seismic attempts to do with months of processing and millions in cost, Seismos can perform in real time at a fraction of the cost without shutting production. Real time implies immediate corrective actions and production uplifts. A decision making cycle of months is shortened to days. Seismos is currently focused on EOR productions (CO2 EOR, steam etc) before launching products for fracking and other applications.

Seisquare software makes conventional and unconventional O&G asset teams confident to make high quality E&P decisions and stunning gain in barrels yielded per dollar of capital at no additional cost. Unlike any other E&P modeling software, Seisquare software will make E&P projects look and feel like video games designed for the next generation of E&P players, walking them to the reservoir with confidence and to the best of their skills. In conventional operations, Seisquare software will power-boost every single E&P software platform on the market, whether in house developed by major O&G companies, or commercialized by main software houses. In unconventional operations, Seisquare will team up with microseismic and big data companies to develop and market cutting edge stand alone software for full seismic planning and monitoring of shale oil and gas reservoirs. Seisquare succeeds thanks to the support of top industry experts, Houston customer base and strategic oil&gas partners.

Seven Lakes Technologies is a niche technology company providing disruptive Big Data solutions in Energy Sector (Mobile and Cloud based). Our product suite includes Data Management solutions (Well Workflow), Field Production Operations Suite (Mobile FDG,) and BI/Analytics Solutions (Well Profitability, Downtime Dashboard). We are in the process of developing predictive analytics products and Enterprise Social Media products as well. Our intuitive product suite, quick service and in-depth business systems knowledge along with strong intellectual capital has a resulted in a very loyal customer base. Our customers have become our brand ambassadors and fueling our market share growth. We are looking at investors who are familiar with our industry, share similar ideology and who can foster our creative thinking in developing products that bring the most value to our customers.
Siva Power

Siva Power is a leader in advanced solar device and manufacturing technology. It is developing a solar factory built for the "gigawatt era," with the goal of attaining the lowest production cost in the world. The company's thin-film photovoltaic solar panels, using copper indium gallium selenide (CIGS), combine innovations in equipment, materials and process to achieve high efficiency at unprecedented scale. Formerly known as Solexant, the company rebranded to Siva Power in the fall of 2013. With extensive research and development analysis, Siva Power CEO Brad Mattson shifted the company’s technology focus to the emerging “Solar 2.0” technology: CIGS. This repositioning from scaling first-generation solar panel technology to the higher efficiency, lower cost CIGS technology has poised Siva Power for success.

TempoIQ

Named a Smart Grid Company to Watch by Smart Grid Magazine, TempoIQ provides backend sensor data analytics technology for data capture, storage, monitoring and analytics. TempoIQ has a particularly strong presence in the alternative/ renewable/ sustainable energy market, and some of its clients include:
- Brightergy: A way for businesses, schools, cities and nonprofits to manage energy. http://brightergy.com
- Australian National Government (Australian PV Institute): The Institute comprises companies, agencies, individuals and academics with an interest in solar energy research, technology, manufacturing, systems, policies, programs and projects. http://apvi.org.au/

TempoIQ has raised $4.5 million in funding, including rounds led by investors in the data information field. In 2012, It participated in the first TechStars Cloud Accelerator Program in San Antonio, earning $118,000 in seed funding from the event.

VerdeEn Chemicals

VerdeEn Chemicals will recover and manufacture high purity lead products (oxides, alloys and refined metal) by recycling spent lead-acid batteries. VerdeEn’s proprietary technology has no lead pollution – it is cleaner, safer, faster, and more energy-efficient than the state of the art recycling technology based on smelting. The company’s main customers will be lead-acid battery manufacturers who purchase lead products to manufacture new batteries. Lead-acid battery is the most recycled item globally (close to 100% recycling rate) with recycling being done across the globe. VerdeEn is a global start-up with an initial focus on United States and Indian markets.
Testimonials

Testimonials of past attendees:

“Got quite an education about what’s going on in energy in general as well as clean energy, what is happening, what is coming down the pike; also got a few potential investment ideas.”

“Each year I come away with positive impression that some very smart people are thinking both inside and outside of the box about energy issues.”

“Great exposure to the entrepreneurial process... good contacts for investment opportunities, and excellent networking”

“The forum helped refine our view of our product and plan. We also made good connections with VCs and other businesses.”

“The speakers were able to transmit the trends in the venture capital market.”

“I enjoyed seeing the potential new technologies that are in this space, many of which are very cutting edge, and offer attractive investment potential.”

“Insight into technologies and pain areas. Insight into investment perspectives. Contacts with potential investors. Idea exchange with other entrepreneurs.”

“Great ideas...and a peek into the future...especially what we can expect 20 yrs down the road”

“Continued appreciation of Rice as a center for entrepreneurship in Houston and as an asset for Houston, Texas, and the nation.”

“We were able to gain a lot of valuable feedback from multiple VCs (both at the speed-dating event and from the business plan feedback panel). Having VCs at an event is always extremely helpful, so I'm glad they find this Forum useful.”
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<th>Quick Facts</th>
<th>Recent Speakers</th>
<th>Company Spotlight</th>
<th>Earned Excellence</th>
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Janice and Robert McNair Hall
P.O. Box 2932-MS 531
Houston, Texas 77252-2932

Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business
George R. Brown School of Engineering
Wiess School of Natural Sciences

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Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship
Rice University
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 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.

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 GeoInteligis 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.

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.

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.

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.
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.
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 & 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.

Hill Country Angel Network
hillcountryangelnetwork.com
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.
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 JP Morgan 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.
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.

Tyler Texas Angel Network
tylertexasangelnetwork.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.

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.

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 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 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.

Energy Ventures is an independent private equity dedicated to innovative upstream oil and gas technologies. From initial investment to exit, we partner with our portfolio companies to ensure the most effective use of capital and talent. Our method is proven by our record: since inception in 2002 we’ve seen more than 4,000 deals, made thirty-seven investments and successfully exited fifteen companies. Energy Ventures’ fund managers, partners and advisors come from oil and gas backgrounds, giving them a true understanding of the industry and its technology needs. Headquartered in Stavanger, with offices in Houston and Aberdeen, in addition to a global operating partner base, Energy Ventures is located where the energy industry and technology innovations thrive.

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.
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 (INVO), the University of Michigan’s Venture Center Council and BioHouston. Dan is also the co-founder of the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship.

Shell Technology Ventures
www.shell.com

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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.