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Applications Now Open for Fourth Annual Summer of Acceleration

Hosted by Memphis Entrepreneurial Partners: Start Co., Epicenter and Memphis Bioworks Foundation

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (March 6, 2019) – Today Memphis entrepreneurial partners Start Co., Epicenter and Memphis Bioworks Foundation announced the release of the applications of their accelerator collaboration known as the Summer of Acceleration, now in its fourth year.

Accelerators are 100-day intensive, hands-on educational programs that speed the development of high-tech, high-growth startup companies. Accelerators are operated in four regional industries of strength: smart city, medical device, supply chain and logistics, and home services.

"The Summer of Acceleration provides a unique experience for startup founders through a strong cohort in an inclusive environment," said Ryan Ramkhelawan, director of acceleration at Start Co. The access to resources, corporate partners, and the growing investment community, gives our startups an edge as they grow to the next level."

During the Summer of Acceleration, Start Co. will provide centralized programming for core accelerator curriculum such as building a business model, customer discovery and sales pipeline development, to all participating startups. In turn, each accelerator partner will provide its cohort with industry-specific programming and connections to mentors and potential customers. All teams will co-locate at Start Co.'s downtown space throughout the summer.

In addition, investment accelerator participants will be connected to community-wide resources, including a growing angel investor community and executives-in-residence who support represented industries. Epicenter, a Memphis' entrepreneurial hub, will provide the additional connectivity to resources.

Applications for programs can be found on F6S.com and close March 15. The Summer of Acceleration accelerator programs are:

Launch Delta Home Services Accelerator, powered by ServiceMaster and Start Co., supports tech-based startups working to disrupt or replace existing home service technologies. The companies may work in the areas of the internet of things (IoT), smart home data, customer service platforms, platforms for delivering service and the home services supply chain. Applications can be found at <https://www.f6s.com/launchdelta/apply>.

Sky High Civic Technology Accelerator, is designed to fit within the greater Smart Memphis effort by partnering with the City of Memphis information services team and Innovate Memphis. This accelerator is seeking civic and smart city technology-based startups to solve problems and create efficiency in the transportation, crime and public safety space. Applications can be found at <https://www.f6s.com/skyhighcivictechnologyaccelerator/apply>.

Sparkgap Logistics Accelerator, powered by Start Co. and Epicenter, connects startups investigating in logistics solutions in intelligent packaging, supply chain visibility, supply chain data analytics, and gives access to expertise and potential customers across the dense and diverse logistics industry in Memphis. Applications can be found at <https://www.f6s.com/logisticsaccelerator2019/apply>.

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ZeroTo510 Medical Device Accelerator, founded and operated by Memphis Bioworks Foundation, specializes in developing and commercializing medical device innovations. Now in its eighth year, ZeroTo510 leverages the deep Memphis medical device ecosystem to bring in experts to assist entrepreneurs in developing their prototype, chart a plan to gain FDA clearance, and build a commercial model understanding the complex reimbursement models found in today's healthcare. The program has been recognized for four straight years as one of the top 25 accelerator programs in the country by the Seed Accelerator Rankings Project (SARP). Applications can be found at <https://www.f6s.com/zeroto5102019/connect>.

In addition to industry programming, female founders in all accelerators can elect to participate in Start Co.'s parallel Upstart track, which will provide complementary networking and mentorship opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

Accelerator programming will launch May 6 and will culminate August 15 with Demo Day, the opportunity that will allow for startups to pitch their startup ideas to investors, share their insights with the greater entrepreneurial community and network with community leaders.

Partners and sponsors for the Summer of Acceleration include: ServiceMaster, Innovate Memphis, Launch Tennessee, American Airlines, Archer Malmo, AutoZone, IBM, Baker Donelson, The Marston Group and many more.

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About Epicenter:

The Memphis region has a connected and collaborative entrepreneurship ecosystem led by Epicenter, the nonprofit hub of the greater Memphis entrepreneurial movement. Using a systems approach, Epicenter drives strategy and measures impact among a network of economic development, academic, corporate, and government partners to increase support to new and existing tech startups, creative and community-based businesses, student entrepreneurs, and others across industries and stages of growth. Epicenter and its partners connect these entrepreneurs and their innovative ideas to programming, capital, customers, and talent in order to create a just, inclusive, and growing economy that accrues to all Memphians. More information is at epicentermemphis.org.

About Start Co.:

Start Co. is a nationally recognized nonprofit 501(c)(3) venture development organization based in Memphis, Tennessee, that relentlessly builds founders and companies, promoting entrepreneurship for everyone with a focus on digital startups. Start Co. is a member of the [Global Accelerator Network](#) and aims to advance Memphis' economic growth through entrepreneurship. The organization is supported by partners including [American Airlines](#), [Archer Malmo](#), [Baker Donelson](#), [The Marston Group](#), [Mosaik Solutions](#) and IBM. More information can be found at neverstop.co.

About Memphis Bioworks Foundation:

Memphis Bioworks is the Mid-South's go-to organization for creating companies, jobs and investments in the Life Sciences; working with entrepreneurs, companies, universities, researchers, investors and governments to help take ideas from concept to market. A visionary community leader, Memphis Bioworks has a well-established record of sparking new levels of economic vitality by investing in entrepreneurs, building state-of-the-art labs and facilities, incubating companies, and training the next generation of workers. ZeroTo510 was launched as a program of Bioworks in 2012. For more information, visit www.memphisbioworks.org.