

Capital Factory and Station Houston Join Forces to Become Houston's Premier Technology Membership Organization

Partnership represents the best that Texas tech talent has to offer and will put Houston-area entrepreneurs on a path for continued growth

Houston - (January 28, 2020) - Capital Factory, one of Texas' premier technology accelerators, announced today that it will further its "Texas Startup Manifesto" vision of a collaborative and connected ecosystem through a merger with Station Houston.

Effective immediately, Capital Factory will power all of Station Houston's startup membership and startup-focused services. In doing so, Capital Factory will complement Station's current offering with additional resources for entrepreneurs, members, investors and mentors in the Station Houston Community.

"Capital Factory is one of the top startup development organizations in the country. By partnering with Station Houston and expanding their footprint into the Ion, commitment to Houston's entrepreneurs is clear. It's a win for Houston's startups and for our booming ecosystem. Increasing bridges between Texas' major tech ecosystems has enormous synergistic value and I am thrilled to see Houston and the Ion play a significant role in building such competitive strength. The future of tech in Texas is very bright!" - Harvin Moore, President, Houston Exponential.

"Station Houston, powered by Capital Factory" will continue and expand the tradition of technology and energy-focused entrepreneurship through this state-wide partnership, as Capital Factory has been the most active early-stage investor in Texas since 2013, and invested or helped source hundreds of millions of dollars in venture capital funding for Texas entrepreneurs.

Station Houston members will retain everything they love about Station Houston and get the added benefits of Capital Factory. The partnership marks an inflection point for Station Houston, founded in 2016 to provide much needed resources to technology startups. Station Houston will continue its mission of "accelerating innovation, one entrepreneur at a time" with the added strength of Capital Factory's network of partners, investors and mentors.

"We've learned over the years that Metcalfe's Law - The Network Effect - applies to our startup portfolio. The more high-quality startups we have across a diverse range of industries, the more investors, big companies, and big government want to get involved. Uniting with Station Houston will see benefits run both ways," - Gordon Daugherty, Co-founder and President, Capital Factory.

Station Houston, powered by Capital Factory, will continue to operate out of 1301 Fannin, where it currently exists, until it moves into its new space at the Ion in early 2021.

"As we continue to develop our innovation economy in Houston and prepare for the opening of the Ion in January 2021, there is no better partner than Capital Factory to serve the needs of our entrepreneurs. For years, they have demonstrated their commitment to startups across Texas, helping them build their ideas through mentorship and introducing them to venture capital from around the country. I am incredibly excited to have them at the Ion. There are great things to come for the entrepreneurs of Houston," - Gabriella Rowe, Executive Director, The Ion.

Through this partnership, Capital Factory now becomes a founding tenant of the Ion, as it "doubles-down" on Houston as a place where tech entrepreneurship is booming. With a diverse talent base, customer pipelines from Houston's incumbent industries, and a low cost of living, investors and supporters of startups are taking notice of Houston as a city where technology companies can thrive, and their members want to live.

The Ion, its entrepreneurship and workforce development programming, its robotics, prototyping and XR industrial labs and its Academic Partner Network, will now become the focus of the Ion Management Team. The Ion will

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serve as a central innovation hub for all of Houston and together with partners such as Capital Factory, share a common mission to transform its city's innovation ecosystem.

About Capital Factory

Capital Factory is the center of gravity for entrepreneurs in Texas, the number one startup state in the U.S. Last year more than 200,000 entrepreneurs, programmers and designers gathered day and night, in-person and online for meetups, classes and coworking. With boots on the ground in Austin, Dallas and Houston, Capital Factory meets the best entrepreneurs in Texas and introduces them to their first investors, employees, mentors and customers. According to Pitchbook, Capital Factory has been the most active investor in Texas since 2013.

Read more about this partnership from Capital Factory at capitalfactory.com/shmerger.

About The Ion

The Ion will anchor the 16-acre South Main Innovation District and is destined to become the epicenter for Houston's innovation ecosystem as an inclusive, dynamic, vibrant and dense hub focusing on quality collaborations between entrepreneurs, incubators, accelerators, corporations and the academic community when it opens in early 2021. The 270,000-square-foot building will accommodate multiple uses, including shared workspace, prototyping and maker resources, event space, classrooms, food and beverage offerings as well as indoor/outdoor communal areas with shared amenities. For more information, please visit <https://ionhouston.com/>

About Station Houston

Station Houston's vision is to transform Houston into a world-leading hub for technology innovation and entrepreneurship. This vision unfolds as a vibrant community where people live, work and play, with Station serving as the connective tissue fostering our culture of innovation. Station launched in March 2016 and now serves over 200 startups, 400 members, 130 mentors, and dozens of high-impact strategic partnerships with corporations and service providers that represent the key industries serving the Houston economy.

Media Contact

Taylor Cooper
tcooper@ionhouston.com

FINN Partners
theion@finnpartners.com
312-329-3983