



Smart City Works to partner with US Ignite and ‘Global City Teams Challenge’ to speed up commercialization of innovative infrastructure solutions and build smarter, safer, and more resilient cities

Pioneered by Smart City Works in partnership with US Ignite and Global City Teams Challenge, the cutting-edge smart and resilient infrastructure initiative will help change the way cities design, build, operate, and maintain civil infrastructure in cities and countries around the world. Smart City Works will team up with US Ignite and Global City Team Challenge to identify the best ideas and emerging companies to help commercialize the most promising solutions to improve livability in cities.

For Immediate Release: June 13, 2015

AUSTIN, TEXAS – Today, Smart City Works Co-Founder David Heyman and US Ignite CTO and Co-Founder Glenn Ricart unveiled an innovative infrastructure initiative to speed delivery of solutions in the built environment that will improve the safety, operations, and resilience of cities across the globe.

The partnership is designed to support cities worldwide in the areas of water, energy, construction, and transportation, and to improve how infrastructure is designed, built, and maintained. The result of this initiative will not only help bring cities new tools and capabilities for designing, building, and operating key infrastructure, but will also greatly enhance the livability and vibrancy of cities by bolstering their economic and physical vitality, sustainability, and resilience.

Underlying the announcement today is a reality of a world in the midst of historic and rapid urbanization. More than half of the world’s population now lives in or near a major urban area, global population continues to grow unabated, and over the next two decades the world’s cities will have to accommodate about 70 percent more residents within existing physical footprints. At the same time, the infrastructure to support healthy and vibrant cities—our buildings, roads, water, energy, and transportation systems—is deteriorating, costly, and inefficient. The

problem is that simply adding more physical infrastructure won't work, given challenges of limited investment and resources, diminishing space, energy use, and climate change. The world's great cities—and the companies that help design, build, and maintain infrastructure—will need unprecedented innovation and investment to meet the demands over the coming decades.

In 2015, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and US Ignite launched the Global City Teams Challenge (GCTC), a collaborative platform enabling local governments, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, technologists and private corporations from all over the world to form teams to work on groundbreaking Internet of Things (IoT) applications within the smart city environment. The goal of GCTC is to advance the deployment of replicable and scalable IoT projects in the smart city environment. However, without pathways to commercialization, even the best ideas and inventions oftentimes fail to ever make it to market. The unique initiative announced today will dramatically improve and expedite existing innovation and commercialization opportunities for participants in NIST's the Global City Team Challenge.

Under the initiative, qualified Global City Challenge Teams interested in commercializing their innovations will have an opportunity to compete for a place in an upcoming Smart City Works cohort class. Smart City Works and US Ignite will work to identify and select qualified GCTC teams. Winners will be announced in the fall.

Select start-ups will join a cohort of leading edge companies to participate in a five-month program designed to propel graduating companies into the marketplace, endowed with proven products, and equipped with the skills to grow and compete for funding and market share. Cohort participants will be put through an intensive business training program, and given access to professional services, leading executive mentors, and unique technical resources, testbed facilities, and investment capital.

Smart City Works is the world's first business actuator and a premier business accelerator uniquely focused on improving livability and resilience in cities. Twice-yearly, Smart City Works holds a competition to select the best emerging companies with high-impact technology solutions focused on significantly improving the way we design, build, and operate civil infrastructure and make urban environments smarter, safer, and more resilient.

"We want to dramatically change the way society innovates and commercializes infrastructure for cities," said David Heyman, co-founder of Smart City Works. "This partnership creates a novel pathway to enable new technologies, processes, and products to be successfully introduced to the market for the benefit of cities and their citizens," Heyman said.

US Ignite Co-Founder Glenn Ricart said that "this partnership advances our goal to help developers, communities, individuals, and partners bring gigabit applications to life."

"Smart City and Internet of Things technologies can bring in tremendous opportunities to businesses as well as to local governments and communities," Sokwoo Rhee, Associate Director of Cyber-Physical Systems Program at National Institute of Standards and Technology and Program Lead of Global City Teams Challenge, "Global City Teams Challenge is glad to partner with Smart City Works in helping entrepreneurs create replicable and scalable smart city solutions and make tangible and positive impacts on improving the quality of life."

Notes to editors

About Smart City Works

SMART CITY WORKS™ is the world's first business "actuator" and a premier business accelerator for improving livability and resilience in cities. Smart City Works' unique focus on the built environment aims to dramatically change the way society designs, builds, and operates civil infrastructure. Smart City Works operates twice-yearly sessions that are designed to propel graduating companies into the marketplace, endowed with proven products, and equipped with the skills to grow and compete for funding and market share. For more information about Smart City Works, please visit: www.smartcityworks.io

About US Ignite

US Ignite is a nonprofit focused on the creation of next-generation Internet applications that provide transformative public benefit. For more information about US Ignite visit www.usignite.org.

Media Contact:

Caitlin Scott, Full Court Press Communications
caitlin@fcpcommunications.com (916) 505-8641