



EMBARGOED UNTIL 8AM ET, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Elemental Excelsior Selects 17 New Startups Improving Food, Water, Energy and Transportation Systems

Accelerator funds project and companies tackling pressing environmental issues, driving innovation in local and global markets and improving equitable access to technology for frontline communities

Honolulu, HI & East Palo Alto, CA – September 30, 2019 – [Elemental Excelsior](#), a global clean technology accelerator, today announced \$6 million in funding for 17 startups tackling urgent challenges in food & agriculture, water, energy, and mobility. Selected from a record number of applicants — more than 800 from 66 countries — the new cohort brings Elemental’s total portfolio to 99 companies, 10 of which have been acquired over the last seven years. Elemental’s total funding awarded across its portfolio is \$36 million.

“Our eighth cohort brings us to 99 funded startups deploying solutions with eager and committed global and community partners,” said Elemental Excelsior CEO Dawn Lippert. “These companies have technologies and business models that are both ambitious and realistic, ranging from optimizing transportation systems to empowering individuals to participate in the clean energy marketplace. We are encouraged that so many talented entrepreneurs applied to participate in the accelerator, and believe more than ever that startups will be at the heart of fighting climate change and solving the most urgent environmental issues of our time.”

Food/Agriculture

Recent reports from the [IPCC](#) and others illustrate the global food system’s significant contribution to climate change. This year, Elemental is funding four companies whose innovations span the entire food value chain, from farm to fork: [Propagate Ventures](#), which works with farmers to design and manage tree-crop systems; [Goodr](#), which combats hunger by helping companies donate surplus food to community organizations. [Farm Link Hawaii](#), a platform to improve food system resiliency by making it easier to buy and sell local produce; and [Blue Ocean Barns](#), whose seaweed supplement reduces methane emissions from cows.

“There has been an influx of innovation in this sector as agriculture plays an increasingly prominent role in climate change,” said Danya Hakeem, Elemental Excelsior’s Director of Agriculture & Circular Economy Innovation. “We look forward to working with the startups, farmers, and retailers on a wide variety of improvements ranging from how we use land to how we produce and consume food.”

Water

As water crises increase both in the U.S. and globally, Elemental is expanding its investment in watertech. Today, most public water-related investment goes to massive centralized infrastructure, such as treatment plants, overlooking opportunities for improvement elsewhere in the water ecosystem. One of Elemental's priorities is funding technologies that take a decentralized approach to helping municipalities and utilities reduce pollution and improve operations to provide clean water for all communities. New portfolio companies include [Kando](#), whose platform offers real-time wastewater and pollution intelligence, and [FREDsense Technologies](#), which provides portable kits for simple, affordable and comprehensive water quality testing.

"We see significant opportunity in the upstream and downstream value chains — what's known as 'over the fence' treatment — to improve our antiquated water infrastructure and ensure equitable access to clean water in all communities," said Kim Baker, Elemental Excelsior's Director of Water Innovation. "We're funding technologies that plug holes in the existing value chain, proving that agile investments can have a huge impact."

Energy

Elemental's 8th cohort includes a broad range of companies tackling everything from climate change risk prediction to democratizing access to renewable energy and the green economy. [Jupiter Intelligence](#) provides asset-level climate change risk prediction; [Allume Energy](#)'s SolShare panel splits energy from photovoltaic systems for multi-family and affordable housing units; [Span.IO](#)'s smart panel gives homeowners more control over their home energy systems; and [Feasible](#) uses ultrasound and data analytics to detect battery health and quality. Two companies use demand response technologies to drive energy efficiency: [OhmConnect](#) inspires residential customers to reduce their energy use, while [Leap](#) works with smart-home device manufacturers and agricultural farm equipment providers to enable participation in dynamic demand response markets.

"We're excited to support a new wave of companies focused on helping people and businesses in all communities take control of their energy use," said Nneka Uzoh, Elemental Excelsior's Director of Energy Innovation. "Clean technology and climate change are often talked about in a lofty or abstract way, but these startups put the power of change into the hands of everyday people, and help them get value from their existing devices and energy assets."

Mobility

[According to the EPA](#), in 2017 the transportation sector generated the largest share of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, at 28.9 percent, largely from internal combustion engine vehicles. This, and the fact that mobility is highly correlated with economic opportunity and quality of life, led Elemental to



invest in five mobility companies this year: [Remix](#) helps more than 325 cities worldwide understand, plan, and design for car alternatives like public transit, bikes, and micromobility; [Amplify Power](#) provides a unique charging-as-a-service approach to help de-risk and transition municipal and commercial fleets to electric vehicles; [Numina](#)'s sensors anonymously measure curb-level activity and empower cities to enhance people's experience on city streets; [KIGT](#) provides residential and commercial charging stations for electric vehicles rightsized for communities of all income levels; and [Bikeshare Hawaii](#) ("Biki") is one of the most successful bikeshare programs in the country.

"Municipal innovation, particularly in mobility, has been stymied by a lack of data. That's why we invested in two companies this year that provide cities with the insights they need to improve their infrastructure and services," said Danielle J. Harris, Elemental Excelerator's Director of Mobility Innovation. "We also see tremendous opportunity for electric mobility to improve the health and economies of communities that are largely being overlooked by the new mobility revolution."

Equity & Access

Seven of the companies in Elemental's eighth cohort — Goodr, KIGT, Kando, Remix, OhmConnect, Allume Energy and Leap — are focused on bringing their innovations to "frontline" communities across California that are burdened with the worst effects of pollution and economic inequity, making them more vulnerable to climate change.

"If we are serious about addressing climate change, we have to improve access to innovative technologies and bring along creative business models that provide economic benefits in communities that are disproportionately impacted by pollution and face reduced economic opportunities," said Sara Chandler, Elemental Excelerator's Director of Innovation, Equity & Access. "There's also a strong business case for startups to focus on equity both in their workforces and also in how they deploy their products and services. We're extremely excited to working with this year's Equity & Access cohort to grow their businesses and improve existing water, food, energy and mobility systems with community experts in areas that need it most."

About Elemental Excelerator

Elemental Excelerator helps startups change the world, one community at a time. Each year, they find 15-20 companies that best fit their mission and fund each company up to \$1 million to improve systems that impact people's lives: energy, mobility, water, agriculture, and beyond. For more information, please visit elementalexcelerator.com.



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