

# THE FRONTIER 2017

March 8, 2017

## Startups and corporations collaborating at The Frontier conference

The Frontier conference will connect the top innovators, investors, executives and entrepreneurs to break through the challenges in big industry. The conference is set for April 12-14 in New Orleans and will include sessions on autonomous vehicles, robotics, logistics, IoT and others, led by industry experts, startup founders, venture investors and leading innovators.

The Frontier conference in collaboration with Techstars will help connect some of the best companies in their portfolio to innovation leaders in these industries. One of those companies, Rise Robotics, has created efficient belt driven linear drives that are the foundation of exoskeleton research. "When industrial companies work with startups as peers, it leads to faster, customer focused product development," says Arron Acosta, founder and CEO of Rise Robotics.

Corporations who are attending The Frontier conference will have the option to participate in an event managed by Techstars to connect corporate buyers with startup founders who are ready to solve their corporate innovation challenges. Corporations and startups will be matched through a double-opt-in process for 1:1, 30 minute meetings.

"The Frontier conference is a great opportunity for companies, large and small, to work with each other to build better solutions," says Rodney Williams, founder and CEO of LISNR.

Corporate attendees will be able to use these sessions to directly address the challenges and opportunities that exist at their companies through unique access to the Techstars network. Techstars founders can use the sessions for partnership, business development and investment opportunities. There are tremendous shifts reshaping the industrial sectors as baby boomers are retiring and millennials are taking over as young executives, new investors and disruptive entrepreneurs. We built The Frontier for the future leaders that are changing the industrial world.

"The Frontier conference is where the best minds are coming together to change big industry. We are pleased to work with Techstars to help their founders find the best opportunities to help our corporate attendees transform their businesses," Hank Torbert, co-founder of The Frontier said.

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**Techstars** is a global ecosystem that empowers entrepreneurs to bring new technologies to market wherever they choose to live. Techstars is committed to supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs focused on developing solutions for a wide range of industrial sectors,

including automotive, trucking, transportation, energy, smart city, and supply chain. With dozens of mentorship-driven accelerator programs and thousands of startup programs worldwide, Techstars exists to support the world's most promising entrepreneurs throughout their lifelong journey, from inspiration to IPO.

**The Frontier: Innovation in Industrials Conference** is a new, annual event that connects future leaders, strategists, customers, investors and entrepreneurs who want to transform the industrial world. The Frontier will cross boundaries, disrupt the status quo and bring leaders together to not only talk about what's next, but collaborate to make it happen. This year, the conference will take place in New Orleans, LA April 12-14, drawing energy and inspiration from the city's unique spirit and culture.

The Frontier was conceived by Hank Torbert, Kirk Coburn and Tim DeSilva. Hank is an executive and private investor focused on identifying and supporting emerging technologies for industrials. Kirk is a professional surfer, the founder of SURGE Ventures, the top ranked accelerator and seed investor for energy entrepreneurs, and an active energy technology angel investor. Tim DeSilva is a creative strategist and brand architect, and as a founder of Culture Pilot, helps co-curate immersive experiences such as TEDxHouston and Visualized NYC.

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