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Ventures

## Ventures Roundup: 25 startups to compete at SUP-X in Fort Lauderdale; Miami launches Easy Permits online

Jul 12, 2019, 2:46pm EDT

SUP-X, an annual technology conference for early-stage technology companies and venture capitalists, will convene July 25 at the Broward County Convention Center.

About 1,500 attendees are expected to attend the all-day event featuring more than 70 panels, speeches and demos and a startup competition with \$25,000 in cash and prizes.

Twenty-five startups will compete, including 16 from South Florida, for the grand prize. Lil Roberts, the CEO of Xendoo, which won SUP-X's startup competition last year, will serve as a judge, along with investors from Fort Lauderdale-based Las Olas Venture Capital, Seedfunders and Florida Funders.

The event is presented by TechLauderdale, an organization that aims to bolster the national profile of Broward County's technology sector and support area startup founders in growing their businesses.

The competing companies:



COURTESY SUP-X

Last year's SUP-X startup winner, Xendoo

- Two Degrees and TaGo in Boca Raton
  - Kaizen Tek, Know Wake, Plan Intelligently and The KAT Agency in Fort Lauderdale
  - Vitruvian in Parkland
  - DermaSensor, Zurfers, Arvisl Future, Aware Gen, BioVerse Labs, Citacheck, Hubspring Health, R3v3lation Ads and MyCierge in Miami
  - Community Quest in Stuart
  - NeuX in Tampa
  - RideSurf and View Stub in Orlando
  - Red Rover in Alachua
  - Aha Pure Foods in Gainesville
  - Xchange Post in Charlotte, North Carolina
  - Cassian Solutions in Pittsburgh
  - Unbound in Seattle
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### **Coding school to expand with \$4M investment**

Ironhack grew to 100 full-time employees from just 30 since the first time JME Venture Capital invested in the Miami-based coding school two years ago. JME announced a second investment that is expected to create even more jobs, Ironhack co-founder Ariel Quinones told the Business Journal.

The Spain-based early-stage venture capital firm led a \$4 million round for Ironhack, bringing the coding school's funding to \$7 million to date. Additional investors included Paris-based Brighteye Ventures and Spain-based All Iron Ventures.

The capital injection allows Ironhack to add services and employees at its nine campuses in the U.S., Europe and Latin America, as well as test new products.

“We’re starting to see more competitors,” Quinones said. “As such, we are ramping up to differentiate our brand for students and employers.”

Ironhack is testing corporate training with 20 to 30 students from German company MediaMarkt, which is shuttering much of its brick-and-mortar operations and training its remaining employees for technology positions, Quinones said. Ironhack could launch corporate training by 2020.

In addition to potentially adding corporations as customers, Ironhack will add more teachers, administrators and courses with its latest funding round. It’s seeking a VP of education management and an administration manager for its Miami campus, as well as a a VP of technology in Spain.

“We have been supporting Ironhack since its first financing round, and they have shown impressive execution and managerial skills,” JME Capital’s José María Hernanz said. “We are thrilled to participate in this round to continue supporting its vision of how education should be transformed.”

Ironhack has graduated 3,000 students, and 85% find a job within six months, according to the company. It’s focused on expanding in Latin America and Europe, Quinones said. He is eyeing Chile, Mexico, Italy and multiple cities in Brazil for possible new campuses.

In Miami, the school is experimenting with new models to increase accessibility to its courses. Ironhack recently partnered with Facebook to start a fund to train more women and minorities.

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## Miami launches online permitting program

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The new service, designed for mobile devices, is intended to eliminate paperwork and waste. It can save contractors time by allowing them to skip trips to the city’s building department for jobs including replacements for air conditioning units, pool heaters, water heaters and bathtubs.

The program is an extension of the city's ePlan Review, which allows site plans to be submitted online, instead of the traditional paper-based plan review method.

"Easy Permits is yet another example of how we are committed to ditching antiquated systems and embracing technology to unclog our processes and procedures,"

Miami Mayor Francis Suarez said.

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## **BY THE NUMBERS: Amazon's Opa-locka robotics fulfillment center**

Amazon.com recently hosted the grand opening of its Opa-locka robotics fulfillment center, where the e-commerce giant says there's enough steel to build the Eiffel Tower twice.

The first item received at the facility, which processes millions of packages each week, was a beach towel. Each day, employees there sort, pack and ship packages – including books, electronics and consumer goods – with the help of robots.

Here's a breakdown of Amazon's new fulfillment center:

**320 pounds:** Weight of each robot

**750 pounds:** Weight each robot can lift

**855,000 sq. ft.:** Facility size

**1,500:** Jobs created

**\$15:** Hourly wage

**13,000:** Amazon jobs created in Florida since 2010

**\$5.5 billion:** Amazon investments in Florida since 2010

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