



Forum 2018: “Investing in Resiliency”
Recovery, Rebuild, Redesign for Families, Communities, and Industries

When & Where: September 26-27, 2018 | Ideson Historic Library | Houston Texas

What & Why: *An invitation-only forum of global, national, and regional resiliency and investment expertise to explore immediate and near-term opportunities in the \$9+ billion Texas, Southwest and Gulf US water technology marketplace.*

InvestH2O 2018's topic was chosen in response to the ongoing threat of storms and floods in one part of the State, drought and depleting sources of water in other parts of Texas. Too much water one day, not enough the next. Additionally, the demand for uninterrupted water supplies due to industry and population growth, expanded use of sensors and the Internet of Things increasing cyber threats, and requirements for fortifying critical infrastructure - all are persistent challenges and pressures on communities, citizens, ratepayers, industries and facilities!

Yet resilience has shown time and time again that - through an innovation perspective of best practices, tools, equipment, expertise, and investment - Texas, the Southwest US and our peer Gulf States can thrive. From Cape Town to Hurricane Harvey, resiliency investment is a critical component of being a competitive economy, thriving community, innovative organization, and growing enterprise.

Objectives: *Convert lessons learned and after-action reports, exchange previous and current experiences, successes and failures into best next-steps for investing in resiliency-focused technologies, integrated packaged solutions, and project opportunities, across public and private sectors.*

InvestH2O 2018 seeks to convene the best ideas, brainpower, market intelligence with representatives from family offices, venture funds, corporate venture offices, private equity, public finance, foundations and procurement decision-makers. Through sessions coupled with ample time for one-on-one meetups, identify and spark resources towards real-world, immediate and near-term market-demand, thereby unleashing entrepreneurs, inventors, innovators, investors for generating resilience at scale.

Whom: *InvestH2O has increased its participation among the level of speakers, panelists, attendees, investors, and tech firms – 125 (2015) and 250 (2016 and 2017). For 2018, we will open our invitation to over 350 state, regional, national, and global attendees. Of special interest is invitations to global water leadership and delegations attending the largest water technology conference post the Forum, leveraging Houston as an in-bound port of arrival.*

Registration: <https://investh2o-2018-resiliency-registration.eventbrite.com>

Agenda (In Formation/as of August 31, 2018)

September 26, 2018

- Noon – 3:00pm **Pre-Workshop One: Branding, Marketing, Communications**
Resiliency Engagement Strategies with Public and Private Sector Interests
- Pre-Workshop Two: Houston Water Innovation Hub Tour and Resiliency Presentation**
On-site Tour with City of Houston Water Innovation Hub Leadership
- 3:30pm-5:30pm **Forum Kickoff Keynote and Presentation:**
Kick-Off Keynote Speaker (to be announced)
- “The Business Case for Investing in Resiliency” Town-Hall*
The Honorable Linda Capuano, Administrator – Energy Information Administration –
US Department of Energy
Seamus McGraw - Author – “A Thirsty Land”, UT Press
Ebie Holst, CEO SplashLink and Co-Founder Project ECHO
**Additional speakers in progress*
- 6-8pm **Reception & Presentation of Innovators of the Year Award (Resiliency Focus)**
InvestH2O/AccelerateH2O Annual Innovators of the Year, Presentation of Youth and
Student Hackathon Winners, and Opening Reception
Innovator of the Year Awardees: Exxon Mobil, Siemens, City of Houston, Harris
County; Special Recognition of HEB, Anheuser Busch/Silver Eagle, the GSD Network

September 27, 2018

- 7:30am-8:30am **Registration and Breakfast**
- 8:30am-9:15am **Welcome and Opening Keynote Remarks**
- 9:15am-10:30am **Interactive Town-Hall: Federal & Private Sector Partnerships for Resilient**
Communities, Industries
 Moderator: Doug Maughan, US Department of Homeland Security – S&T Cyber
Directorate
- Nick Shufro, Director of Strategic Alliances, FEMA Headquarters
 - The Honorable Anne Idsal, EPA Region 6 Administrator
 - Edward Craner, SVP – Holt Caterpillar Ventures and Strategy
 - Daniel Simmons – Assistant Secretary of US Dept. of Energy
 - Al Kennedy, National Water Strategy Team - Siemens

Quick Pitch Sessions*

Between formal sessions, three-minute pitch introductions by breakthrough, growth, mature stage companies seeking investment, procurement, licensing, and/or strategic partnerships. Investor-Company one-on-one conversation areas will be available throughout the Forum venue as well as Pitch Session Cocktails upon conclusion. Further, we will arrange special briefings for international delegations and companies based on level of participation and interests.

- 10:45am-11:30am ***Global Collaboratory - World's Water Resiliency Leaders Perspective***
Moderator: Global Resiliency Director – Arcadis
The Honorable Jacob Vind – Consul General – Denmark and North American Water Sector Lead
The Honorable Dr. Run Wang – Hubei University, China – Director, Sponge City
Dr. Jennifer Turner – the Woodrow Wilson Center (Washington DC) – Director of International Programs
- 11:30am-12:30pm **Facilities, P3s, and the Future of Alternative Financing for Resilient-Critical Infrastructure Project Development**
Moderator: Bob Butler – SVP, Critical Infrastructure Protection, AECOM
Eric Letsinger – CEO, Qualified Ventures
- 12:30-1:45pm ***Lunch and Keynote “Fireside Chat”***
Moderator: Chris Tomlinson, Business and Economic Reporter, Houston Chronicle
Crystal & Mark Victor Hansen, Globally-Recognized Authors and Speakers, Philanthropists and Water Technology Investors
- 1:45pm-2:30pm ***Reality Check: Reverse Pitch from Public and Private Sector Decision-Makers***
Nicole Kaiser, US Head of Technology Approval Groups, Isle Utilities
The Honorable Daniel Simmons, Nominee, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, US Department of Energy
Melissa Meeker, Gwinett Water Innovation Program; former Executive Director – Water Research Foundation;
- 2:30pm-3:45pm **Concurrent Sessions:**
From Lessons Learned to Innovations, After-Action Reports to Investments
 - ***Resiliency “Unplugged”: Off the Grid, Out of the Box Engagement and Investments for Communities and Regions***
 - ***CyberH2O: Internet of Things and Protecting Digital Platforms***
 - ***One-Water Resiliency Challenges & Opportunities***
- 4:00pm-4:45pm ***Wrap-up Session: Where We’re Headed – Projected 2018-2020 Resiliency Investing Roundtable of Investment Managers and Advisors***
Moderator: Christine Martini, RonovoBlu
Zach Huhn, CEO, Venture Smarter, Chairman – Smart Regions Conference
Chris Rezendes, Context Labs
***additional investment representatives in final confirmation**
- 4:45pm-5:15pm ***Resiliency: A Call to Action & National Prize Competition Announcement***
- 5:30pm-6:30pm ***Meetup & Happy Hour Texas “Cocktails” (Off-Site Location)***

Registration: <https://investh2o-2018-resiliency-registration.eventbrite.com>

About the Youth and Student Water Resiliency Inventathon: on September 22nd-23rd - AccelerateH2O will convene the first-ever Youth and Student Water Resiliency Inventathon in collaboration with Carollo Engineers, Houston Community College System, the Texas Water Research Network, and Station Houston. Focused on building awareness and initial interest in resolving grand-challenge problems related to family, community and industry water resiliency, the Inventathon will form teams among 150 high-school, community-college, and four-year university students. Teams will compete for prizes, initial investment, and introduction during the September 26th Kickoff Reception. More information: www.inventathon.us

About AccelerateH2O: We are singularly focused on overcoming barriers and limitations to innovating water and the deployment of technology to address critical challenges for citizens, consumers, businesses, and communities. AccelerateH2O was established as a 501c3 statewide initiative to organize the innovation capacity of academic, industry, entrepreneurial, public sector, and investment expertise to spark immediate solutions to the ongoing drought and growth prospects demanding additional sources of water, and to generate efficient and economic solutions in the \$9+ billion Texas and the Southwest US unique marketplace. More about AccelerateH2O can be found at www.accelerateH2O.org including additional information on our Roundtables, Demonstration Hubs and Technology Showcases, Reports, and Partnerships. Example of Demonstration Hub Program (www.HoustonH2O.org)

About InvestH2O: InvestH2O is our ongoing forum of connecting the best technologies, products, services, and integrated solutions with investors, procurement decision-makers, water managers, and collaborative partners in the private and public sectors. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, InvestH2O convened 125 and 250+ water and water technology attendees respectively, and attracted 20 and 45 emerging, growth technology firms to pitch their capabilities, applications, and investment needs. Through our ongoing platform, AccelerateH2O and InvestH2O connect interested parties, incubators/accelerators, and end-users with a broad spectrum of investment scenarios including pre-commercialization, equity, project, and infrastructure opportunities. More information on InvestH2O can be found at www.investH2O.com

Registration: <https://investh2o-2018-resiliency-registration.eventbrite.com>