



For Immediate Release:
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StartFast Venture Accelerator Announces Cohort for 2015 Summer Program

Syracuse, NY—[StartFast Venture Accelerator](#) announces the names of five startup teams that will be participating in this summer's program, beginning May 26, 2015. The finalists were selected from more than 2,000 startups screened during a five-month process.

The 2015 teams joining the accelerator program in Syracuse this summer are:

- **Hoverstat:** Hoverstat provides drone-automated roof inspections to the insurance industry. When an insurance adjuster arrives at a house, all they must do is set down the drone and activate the app. The drone then uses an automated flight pattern, sending measurements and damage information to the app where the adjuster can add to the estimate before printing it out for the homeowner. Insurance companies will be able to provide faster, more accurate relief at a lower cost.
Website: <http://www.hoverstat.com>
Founding Team: Leanne Eckelberg; Mark Sapp

- **SmartyPans:** SmartyPans is a smart cooking pan that connects to a mobile device (via bluetooth) and as you select a recipe on the SmartyPans app, it provides step-by-step cooking instructions. The app also computes calories in real time and integrates with other mobile device/apps, streamlining the flow of nutritional information right from the point of cooking.
Website: <http://www.smartypans.io>
Founding Team: Prachi Baxi; Rahul Baxi

- **Phronesis Techne:** Mogee is an iPhone keyboard app enhancing messaging through images; making messenger-based communication more contextual, articulate, and fun. Mogee will become a marketplace for designers and advertisers to release their proprietary content. The vision is to create an image-based global language platform.
Website: <http://www.phronesistechne.com>
Founding Team: Shuai Payne; Michael Moore

- **Electronic Gaming Federation:** The Electronic Gaming Federation is an electronic sports company working to establish an NCAA equivalent for competitive gaming including titles such as League of Legends, Dota 2, and Starcraft. The company also produces eSports media including live broadcasts of events, news, and eSports analysis.
Website: <http://www.egfederation.com/>

Founding Team: Tyler Schrod; Rockie Hunter; Josh Roberts; Ryan Vazquez; Kathleen Tigie

- **BitReady:** BitReady is a platform that focused on simplifying Bitcoin to bring it to the masses. Users can deposit fiat currency into their accounts which they can then spend as Bitcoin, circumventing the need to understand the technology behind Bitcoin in order to use it. The service manages the process of buying and spending Bitcoin for the user so our customers can focus on making purchases, not managing their finances. We offer users protection from losses resulting from market volatility and exchange rate variation.

Website: <http://bitready.io>

Founding Team: Patrick Kelly; Michael Young

According to StartFast Managing Director Chuck Stormon, “StartFast is a very competitive accelerator to get into. The five teams entering the 2015 program emerged at the top after our review of over 2,000 startups. The high quality of applications we received made it very challenging to pick the finalists, and we’re very excited about this year’s cohort.” This year’s teams will have the opportunity to work with StartFast’s nearly 100 mentors as they grow their companies and prepare to pitch investors on August 13th’s Demo Day.

“Every year since 2012, new investors and mentors have joined the StartFast family,” said fellow Managing Director Nasir Ali. “Our select network of mentors has grown to nearly 100, offering the teams their expertise and advice. Together, we are making Syracuse and Upstate NY a global destination of choice for startup founders.”

About StartFast

StartFast is the #1 startup accelerator program in Upstate New York. Typically, fewer than 1% of the companies screened are selected to participate. StartFast companies aim to make a year's worth of progress building a successful business in just 3 months. The program is a 12-week bootcamp for startups, providing capital, expert guidance, staff, office space, and introductions to world-renowned mentors, angel investors, and venture funds. StartFast is a charter member of the [Global Accelerator Network](#) (GAN) and the only GAN member accelerator in Upstate New York.

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