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SXSW Interactive Announces 2016 Accelerator[®] Finalists, Judges and Emcees

New categories “Payment and Fintech” and “Virtual Reality” added to showcase innovative technology trends at eighth annual pitch competition

Emcees and judges include: Robert F. Smith (Vista Equity Partners), Cyan Banister (AngelList) and Tucker Max (Book in a Box)

January 12, 2016, Austin, TX – The South by Southwest Interactive Festival today announced the 48 finalists, 36 judges and 15 emcees for the 2016 [SXSW Accelerator startup competition](#), presented by [24-7 Intouch](#). In addition, two new categories, “Payment and Fintech” and “Virtual Reality” were added to this year’s competition to highlight the most innovative technology trends in the startup community. SXSW Accelerator takes place March 12-13 at the Hilton Downtown Austin during [SXSW Interactive’s Startup Village](#).

Now in its eighth year, SXSW Accelerator brings together leading startups from around the world to present their innovations to a live audience and panel of experts including entrepreneurs, investors and industry influencers.

From the more than 470 applications received this year, 48 finalists were chosen across six categories: “Enterprise and Smart Data,” “Entertainment and Content,” “Innovative World,” “Health and Wearables,” “Payment and Fintech,” and “Virtual Reality.”

“In the past seven years, we’ve seen some amazing companies compete at SXSW Accelerator,” with more than 65 percent receiving funding in excess of \$2.6 billion and 13 percent of them acquired by Google, Apple, Huffington Post and more,” said SXSW Accelerator Event Producer Chris Valentine. “Of the more than 470 companies that applied this year, 48 finalists will compete for the winning title. SXSW Accelerator is without a doubt the place to witness the most innovative startups pitch their ideas for solving some of today’s most challenging problems through technology.”

The 48 finalists will kick off the competition on Saturday, March 12, with the three top-scoring companies from each category invited back on Sunday, March 13, to pitch again in front of a new set of judges, emcees and live audience. The pitch competition will then culminate with the SXSW Accelerator Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening, March 13 at the Hilton Downtown Austin, where one winning startup from each category will be announced and honored.

This year’s [SXSW Accelerator finalists](#) include:

Enterprise and Smart Data

[Beagle](#) (Kitchener, Ontario)
[Bitfusion](#) (Austin, TX)
[BreathWise](#) (Pittsburgh, PA)
[DataNovo](#) (San Francisco, CA)
[Harvest.ai](#) (San Diego, CA)
[HYP3R](#) (San Francisco, CA)
[Parknav](#) (San Francisco, CA)
[Virta Laboratories](#) (Ann Arbor, MI)

Entertainment and Content Technologies

[Clone.tv](#) (St. Louis, MO)
[DeeMe](#) (Bergen, Norway)
[Hearken](#) (Chicago, IL)
[Maestro](#) (San Francisco, CA)
[PopUp Play](#) (Austin, TX)
[Prynt](#) (San Francisco, CA)
[Rescued Ideas](#) (Berlin, Germany)
[Seerslab](#) (Palo Alto, CA)

Health and Wearable Technologies (Sponsored by [Allscripts](#))

Breath Diagnostics (Louisville, KY)
[Cerebral Assessment System](#) (Pittsford, NY)
[Desktop Genetics](#) (London, England)
[DreamUp Vision](#) (Paris, France)
[GlowDx](#) (Cork, Ireland)
[Kinetic](#) (New York, NY)
[MUrgency](#) (San Francisco, CA)
[Redox](#) (Madison, WI)

Innovative World Technologies (Sponsored by [Brother](#))

[AKA](#) (Santa Monica, CA)
[Dropel Fabrics](#) (New York, NY)
[Engie](#) (Tel Aviv, Israel)
[EpiBiome](#) (San Francisco, CA)
[MakerBioks](#) (Montreal, Canada)
[MeWe](#) (Mountain View, CA)
[Morpher Folding Helmet Company](#) (London, England)
[Rorus](#) (Pittsburgh, PA)

Payment and Fintech Technologies

[Chroma](#) (Portland, OR)
[crnsy](#) (New York, NY)

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[Income&](#) (San Francisco, CA)
[InSpirAVE](#) (New York, NY)
[Koho Financial](#) (Vancouver, Canada)
[Loqr](#) (Braga, Portugal)
[Mobeewave](#) (Montreal, Canada)
[SayPay Technologies](#) (Pleasanton, CA)

Virtual Reality Technologies

[inVR](#) (Los Angeles, CA)
[LumiereVR](#) (San Mateo, CA)
[NeuroDigital Technologies](#) (Almeria, Spain)
[SPHERIE](#) (Hamburg, Germany)
[Splash](#) (Berlin, Germany)
[Thrillbox](#) (Austin, TX)
[Vantage.tv](#) (San Francisco, CA)
[XEOPlay](#) (Oakland, CA)

In addition to the 2016 Accelerator finalists, [15 emcees and 36 judges](#) were also announced today. This year's event boasts a diverse range of prominent individuals who were chosen based on their startup business and investment expertise, as well as overall industry experience.

The 2016 SXSW Accelerator Emcees include:

[Martin Bryant](#) – Editor-in-Chief, *The Next Web*
[Tim Chang](#) – Managing Director, Mayfield
[Nina Curley](#) – Managing Director, Flat6labs
[Roger Hamilton](#) – Founder, Entrepreneur's Institute
[Leah Hunter](#) – Writer, *Fast Company*
[Andrew Hyde](#) – Startup Week Founder, Techstars
[Joseph "Yossi" Vardi](#) – Principal, International Technologies
[Christopher Kay](#) – SVP and Chief Innovation Officer, Humana
[Niki Manby](#) – COO, Citi Ventures
[Tucker Max](#) – CEO, Book In A Box
[Bob Metcalfe](#) – Professor of Innovation, Cockrell School of Engineering at University of Texas-Austin
[Monty Munford](#) – Writer, *The Economist*
[Mia Saini](#) – CEO, Oars + Alps
[Chris Shipley](#) – Executive Producer, MIT's Solve
[Robin Wauters](#) – Founding Editor, *Tech.eu*

Notable judges this year include AngelList Evangelist, Cyan Banister; Khosla Ventures Managing Partner, Ben Ling; and USA Network Founder, Kay Koplovitz. The Accelerator judges will lend their wealth of experience and knowledge in startup, technology and creative fields to select winners from each category.

For a complete list of the 2016 Accelerator judges, please visit:
<http://www.sxsw.com/interactive/accelerator-emcees-judges-2016>

SXSW Accelerator is open to Interactive, Gold & Platinum badgeholders. SXSW Film badgeholders are allowed entry to Entertainment and Content Technologies sessions, as well as the SXSW Accelerator Awards. [Prezi](#) will serve as the official presentation platform for the competition.

To learn more about SXSW's Startup Village, please visit:
<http://sxsw.com/interactive/startupvillage>.

To request press credentials for SXSW Interactive, please visit
<http://sxsw.com/press/accreditation> before the February 10, 2016 deadline.

About SXSW Interactive

The 23rd annual SXSW Interactive Festival returns to Austin from Friday, March 11 through Tuesday, March 15. An incubator of cutting-edge technologies and digital creativity, the 2016 event features five days of compelling [presentations and panels](#) from the brightest minds in emerging technology, scores of exciting networking events hosted by industry leaders and an unbeatable lineup of special programs showcasing the best new websites, video games and startup ideas the community has to offer. From hands-on training to big-picture analysis of the future, SXSW Interactive has become the place to discover the technology of tomorrow today. Join us in March 2016 for the [sessions](#), the [networking](#), the [special events](#), the 18th Annual [SXSW Interactive Innovation Awards](#), [SXSW Accelerator®](#), the [SXSW Gaming Expo](#), the [SXSW Trade Show](#), the [SX Health & MedTech Expo](#), [SX Create](#), [The Job Market](#), cross-industry conversations with attendees from [SXSW Film](#) and [SXSW Music](#), and, most of all, the [unforgettable inspirational experiences](#) that only SXSW can deliver.

SXSW Interactive 2016 is sponsored by Esurance, Mazda, Monster Energy, Capital One, Bud Light, Deloitte Digital, McDonald's, Ten-X and The Austin Chronicle.

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