



Venture Engine

Powered by



ILLINOIS
SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY
COALITION

TechNexus
VENTURE COLLABORATIVE

“

Smart corporations are aggressively looking to engage with startups through *partnerships, investments, and acquisitions...*

...**But** they need to do so in structured ways that allow them to *manage the apparent chaos...*

...**85 percent** of corporate respondents said that collaboration with startups and entrepreneurs *will drive success* for their organization in the future.

”



Venture Engine allows corporations to...

separate the signal from the noise and build connections with startups that propel innovation.



Scout innovative startups in industries and technology areas that are critical to your business



Explore a curated database of engagement-ready startups scouted on an ongoing basis



Connect with startups that can help grow innovation within your company

Venture Engine sources startups through its network of **referral partners**.

Civic, Nonprofit, and Industry Organizations

- Built In Chicago
- Champaign County Economic Development Corporation
- Chicago Innovation Awards
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- ChicagoNEXT
- Clean Energy Trust
- CME Group
- Freshwater Advisors
- iBIO
- Illinois Agri-Food Alliance
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Illinois Technology Association
- Peoria Innovation Alliance
- Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce
- Women's Business Development Center



Incubators and Accelerators

- 1871
- 2112
- Catapult Chicago
- Chain Reaction Innovations
- EIGERLab
- Founder Institute
- Illinois Science + Technology Park
- Impact Engine
- Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago (ICNC)
- Junto Institute
- MATTER
- mHUB
- Sandbox Industries
- TeamWorking
- TechStars



Universities and Labs

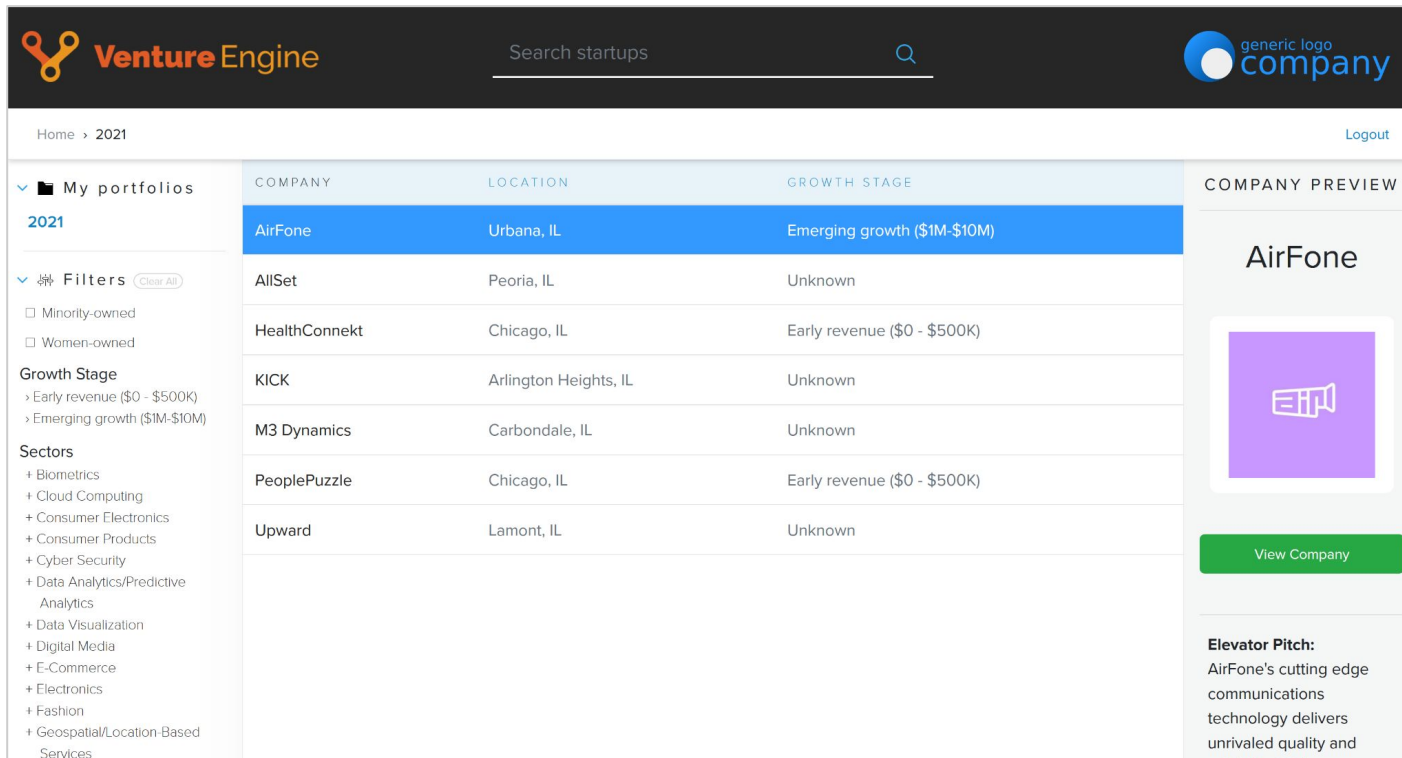
- Argonne National Laboratory
- Bradley University
- DePaul University
- Fermilab
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Illinois State University
- Lake Forest College
- Loyola University
- MxD
- Northern Illinois University
- Northwestern University
- Rosalind Franklin University
- Southern Illinois University
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Western Illinois University



Investment Groups

- 7Wire Ventures
- Chicago Ventures
- CIBC
- Energy Foundry
- G2T3V
- Hyde Park Angels
- i2A Fund
- IllinoisVENTURES
- Jump Capital
- MATH Ventures
- MK Capital
- OCA Ventures
- Origin Ventures
- Pritzker Group
- Serra Ventures
- TechNexus Venture Collaborative
- Touchpoint Capital Partners

Corporate participants get access to Venture Engine's proprietary startup **scouting and tracking portal**.



The screenshot shows the Venture Engine web application interface. At the top, there's a dark header with the Venture Engine logo, a search bar labeled "Search startups", and a "generic logo company" placeholder. Below the header, the main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main table area. The sidebar contains navigation links like "Home > 2021", "My portfolios", and "Filters". The "Filters" section includes checkboxes for "Minority-owned" and "Women-owned", a "Growth Stage" dropdown, and a list of "Sectors" with expandable options. The main table area displays a list of startups with columns for "COMPANY", "LOCATION", and "GROWTH STAGE". The first row, "AirFone", is highlighted in blue. To the right of the table, there's a "COMPANY PREVIEW" section for "AirFone", featuring a placeholder image and a "View Company" button. Below the preview, there's an "Elevator Pitch" section.

COMPANY	LOCATION	GROWTH STAGE
AirFone	Urbana, IL	Emerging growth (\$1M-\$10M)
AllSet	Peoria, IL	Unknown
HealthConnekt	Chicago, IL	Early revenue (\$0 - \$500K)
KICK	Arlington Heights, IL	Unknown
M3 Dynamics	Carbondale, IL	Unknown
PeoplePuzzle	Chicago, IL	Early revenue (\$0 - \$500K)
Upward	Lamont, IL	Unknown

COMPANY PREVIEW

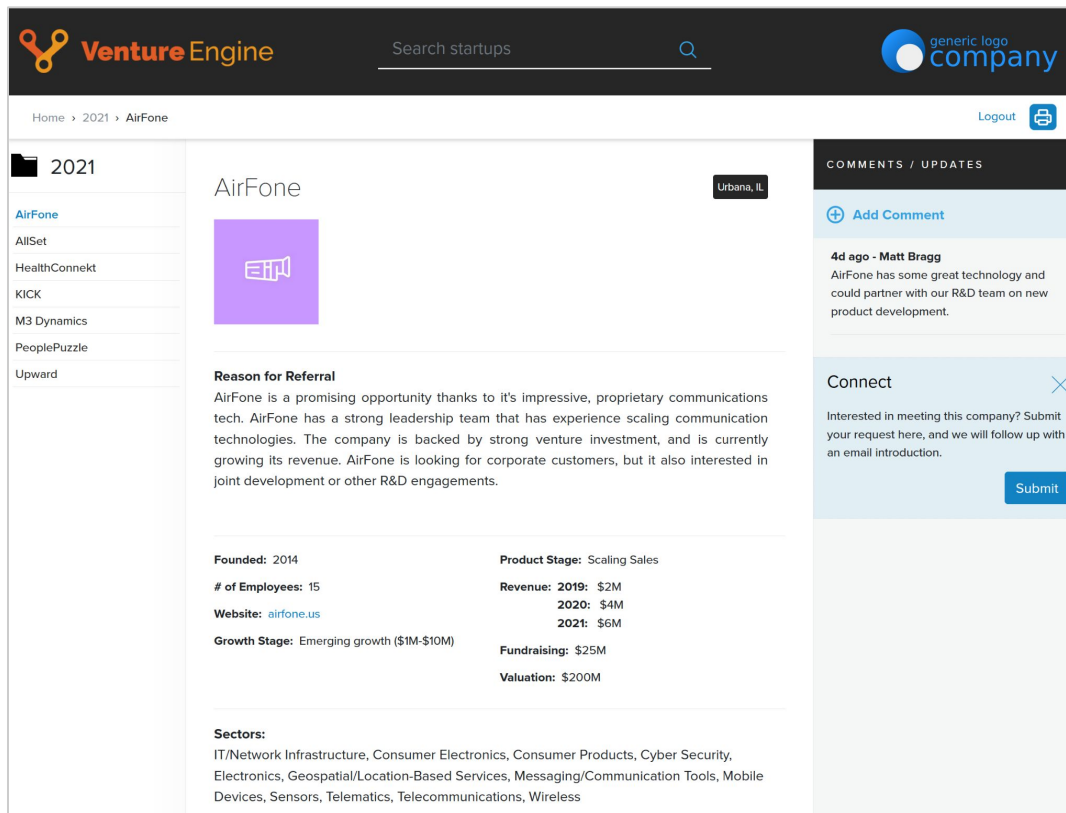
AirFone

Elevator Pitch:
AirFone's cutting edge communications technology delivers unrivaled quality and

Screen each referred startup
using detailed portfolios

Compare notes with colleagues
and track engagement

Connect with startups through
facilitated introductions



The screenshot shows the Venture Engine web application interface. The header includes the Venture Engine logo, a search bar for startups, and a generic logo company profile. The main content area displays the profile for AirFone, located in Urbana, IL. The profile includes a list of other startups in the portfolio (AirFone, AllSet, HealthConnekt, KICK, M3 Dynamics, PeoplePuzzle, Upward), a detailed description of the company, and a table of key metrics.

AirFone (Urbana, IL)

Reason for Referral
AirFone is a promising opportunity thanks to its impressive, proprietary communications tech. AirFone has a strong leadership team that has experience scaling communication technologies. The company is backed by strong venture investment, and is currently growing its revenue. AirFone is looking for corporate customers, but it also interested in joint development or other R&D engagements.

Founded: 2014	Product Stage: Scaling Sales
# of Employees: 15	Revenue: 2019: \$2M
Website: airfone.us	2020: \$4M
Growth Stage: Emerging growth (\$1M-\$10M)	2021: \$6M
	Fundraising: \$25M
	Valuation: \$200M

Sectors:
IT/Network Infrastructure, Consumer Electronics, Consumer Products, Cyber Security, Electronics, Geospatial/Location-Based Services, Messaging/Communication Tools, Mobile Devices, Sensors, Telematics, Telecommunications, Wireless

COMMENTS / UPDATES

4d ago - Matt Bragg
AirFone has some great technology and could partner with our R&D team on new product development.

Connect
Interested in meeting this company? Submit your request here, and we will follow up with an email introduction.

Submit

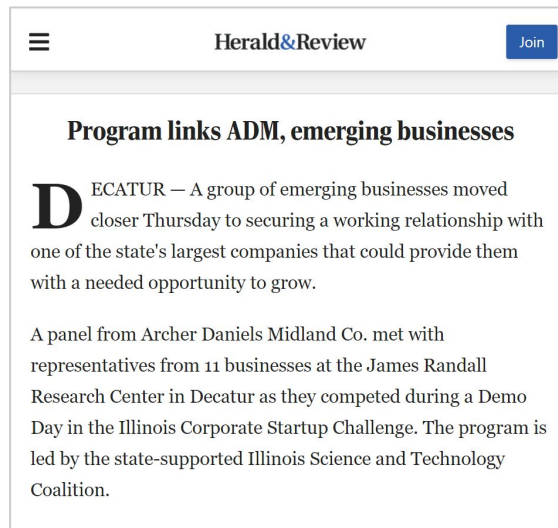
Add-on **Demo Days** bring startups directly to you.

Sessions include *Shark Tank*-style **pitches, Q&A's, innovation breakouts** and **networking**.

Demo days have led to **pilot contracts, investments, mentorship** and **joint development agreements**.



Past corporate-startup *wins*



Past corporate-startup *praise*

Illinois Science and Technology Coalition honored by national group



Kara Feemster, director of business development at Lab42, gives her pitch at the startup challenge. (Stacey Wescott / Blue Sky)

The Illinois Science and Technology Coalition received an award from a national organization Monday for its Illinois Corporate-Startup Challenge, a state-backed program that links technology startups with area companies.

The ISTC earned an "Excellence in TBED" award from SSTI, an Ohio-based organization that's having its national conference in Chicago this week. SSTI, which supports tech-based regional economic development efforts, recognized the Illinois Corporate-Startup Challenge as the "Most Promising TBED Initiative." TBED stands for technology-based economic development.

The complex dance of connecting corporations and startups



Harris isn't alone in her praise for the Corporate Startup Challenge, which brought a dozen startups before a panel of Allstate judges and senior officers in January. Urged by local venture investors, instituted by the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition, and put to work through demo days at Allstate, Motorola Mobility and Molex, the state-initiated program curtails the legwork needed by big companies to find startups with disruptive notions.

Get in touch...



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