



Venture Engine

Powered by



x



“

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
- TechNexus
- TechStars



Universities and Labs

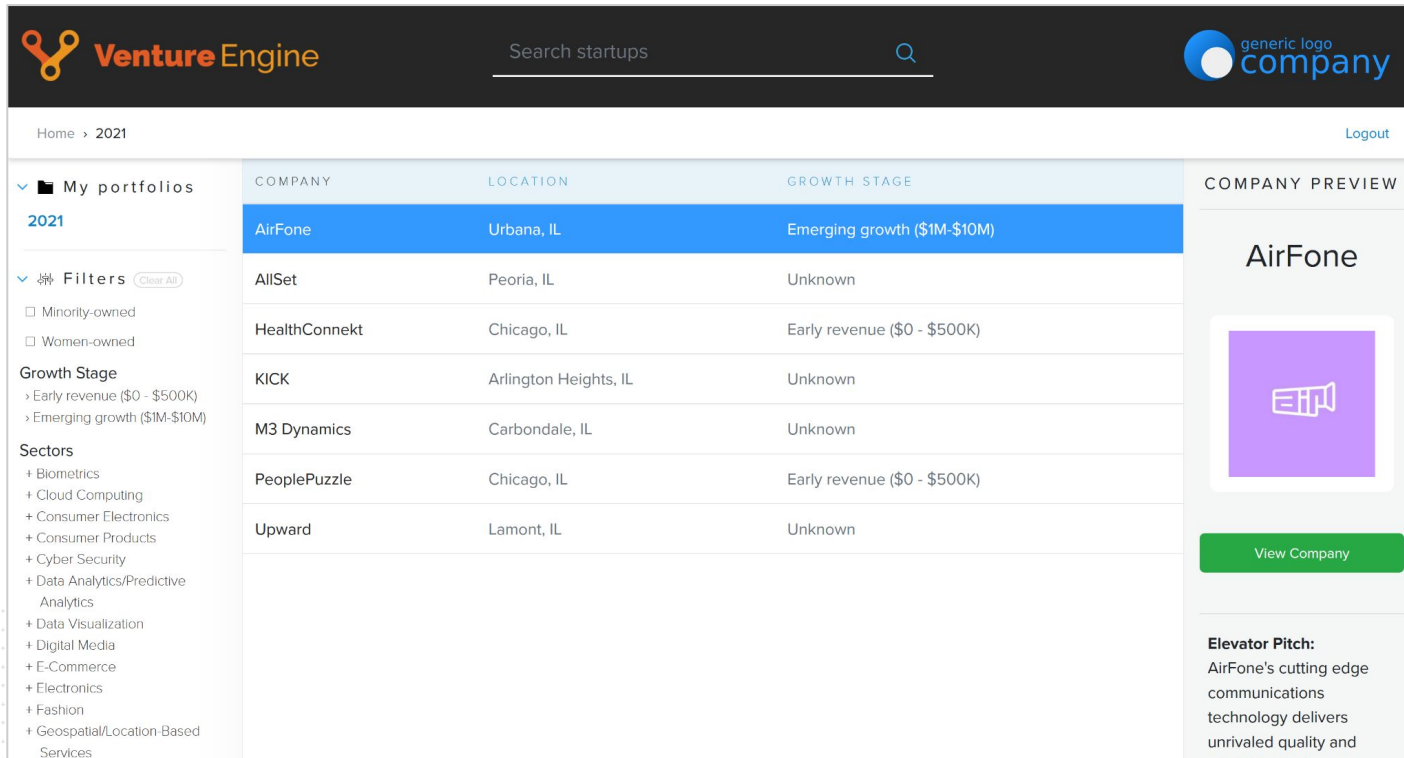
- Argonne National Laboratory
- Bradley University
- DePaul University
- Fermilab
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Illinois State University
- Lake Forest College
- Loyola University
- MxD
- Northern Illinois University
- Northwestern University
- Rosalind Franklin University
- Southern Illinois 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
- 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. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Venture Engine logo, a search bar labeled "Search startups", and a "generic logo company" logo. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there's a sidebar with "My portfolios" (showing "2021") and "Filters" (including "Minority-owned", "Women-owned", "Growth Stage", and "Sectors"). The main table displays a list of startups with columns for "COMPANY", "LOCATION", and "GROWTH STAGE". On the right, there's a "COMPANY PREVIEW" section for "AirFone", featuring a logo, a "View Company" button, and an "Elevator Pitch".

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



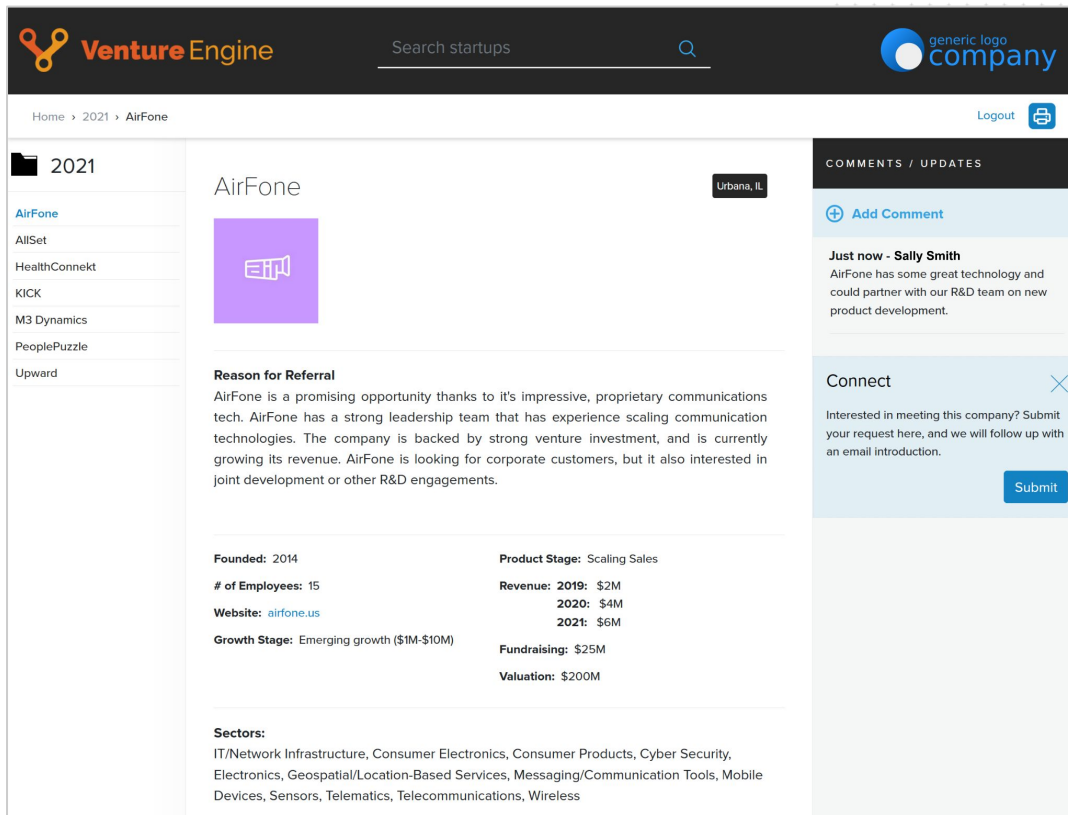
[View Company](#)

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

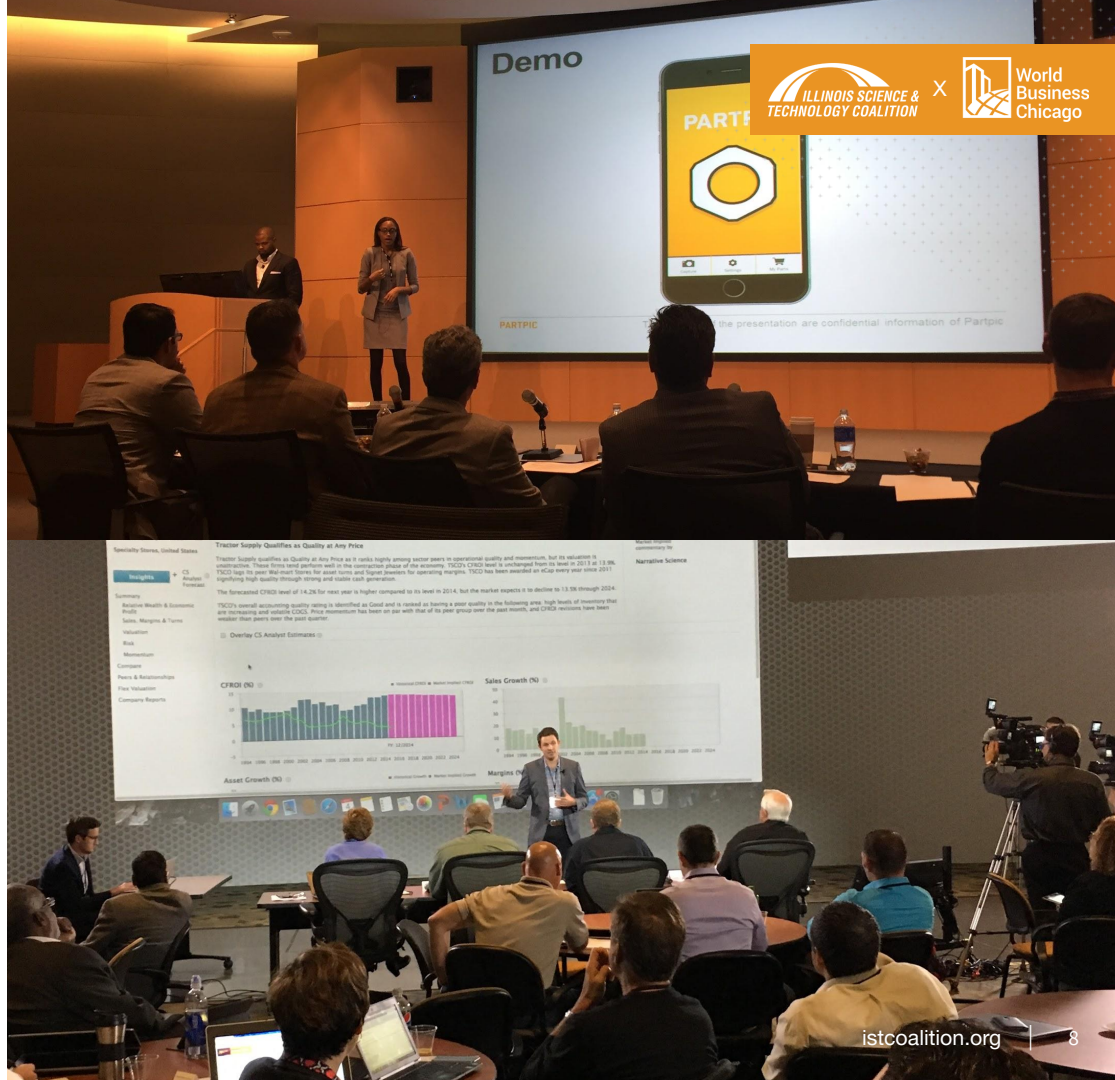


The screenshot shows the Venture Engine website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Venture Engine logo, a search bar labeled "Search startups", and a "generic logo company" profile. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads "Home > 2021 > AirFone". On the left, a sidebar lists various portfolios: 2021 (selected), AirFone, AllSet, HealthConnekt, KICK, M3 Dynamics, PeoplePuzzle, and Upward. The main content area displays the profile for AirFone, located in Urbana, IL. It features a purple square logo with the letters "EH". The "Reason for Referral" section describes AirFone as a promising opportunity with impressive proprietary communications tech, backed by strong venture investment, and looking for corporate customers or R&D engagements. Below this, a table provides key metrics: Founded: 2014, # of Employees: 15, Website: airfone.us, Growth Stage: Emerging growth (\$1M-\$10M), Product Stage: Scaling Sales, Revenue: 2019: \$2M, 2020: \$4M, 2021: \$6M, Fundraising: \$25M, and Valuation: \$200M. The "Sectors" section lists IT/Network Infrastructure, Consumer Electronics, Consumer Products, Cyber Security, Electronics, Geospatial/Location-Based Services, Messaging/Communication Tools, Mobile Devices, Sensors, Telematics, Telecommunications, and Wireless. On the right, a "COMMENTS / UPDATES" section shows a comment from Sally Smith stating that AirFone has great technology and could partner with the R&D team. Below this is a "Connect" section with a form to submit a request for an email introduction.

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*



SECTIONS **Chicago Tribune**

BLUE SKY BUSINESS

NuCurrent, Molex announce deal on wireless charging technology



NuCurrent CEO Jacob Babcock, left, and CTO Vinit Singh pictured at their Chicago office. (Michael Tercha / Blue Sky / Mar. 19, 2014)

HERALD&REVIEW

Join

Program links ADM, emerging businesses

DECATUR — A group of emerging businesses moved closer Thursday to securing a working relationship with one of the state's largest companies that could provide them with a needed opportunity to grow.

A panel from Archer Daniels Midland Co. met with representatives from 11 businesses at the James Randall Research Center in Decatur as they competed during a Demo Day in the Illinois Corporate Startup Challenge. The program is led by the state-supported Illinois Science and Technology Coalition.

NEWSWIRE

Illinois Science & Technology Coalition Announces Expansion and Outcomes of Corporate-Startup Challenge

The flexibility of the Illinois Corporate-Startup Challenge allows corporations to hear pitches from a wide range of ventures, from commercialized lab technologies to emerging growth companies, depending on a corporation's interests.

"The Corporate-Startup Challenge gave Sprout Social, a Chicago-based social media management software firm, the opportunity to present to leadership across multiple business units, rather than pitch our technology to one hotel at a time. As a result, we secured a contract with Hyatt Hotels & Resorts to work with nearly 175 hotels worldwide with a tool to better manage social platforms and build relationships with guests," says Justyn Howard, Founder and CEO of Sprout Social, which participated in the Hyatt Hotels & Resorts Demo Day as part of the Corporate-Startup Challenge last summer.

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



Allstate judges for the Illinois Corporate/Startup Challenge listen to a pitch by Martin Trgina, CEO and founder of BellaDati. (Stacey Wescott / Blue Sky)

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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