



Venture Engine

Powered by



ILLINOIS
SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY+
COALITION



“

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.

”



VentureEngine 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 TeamWorking
- TechStars

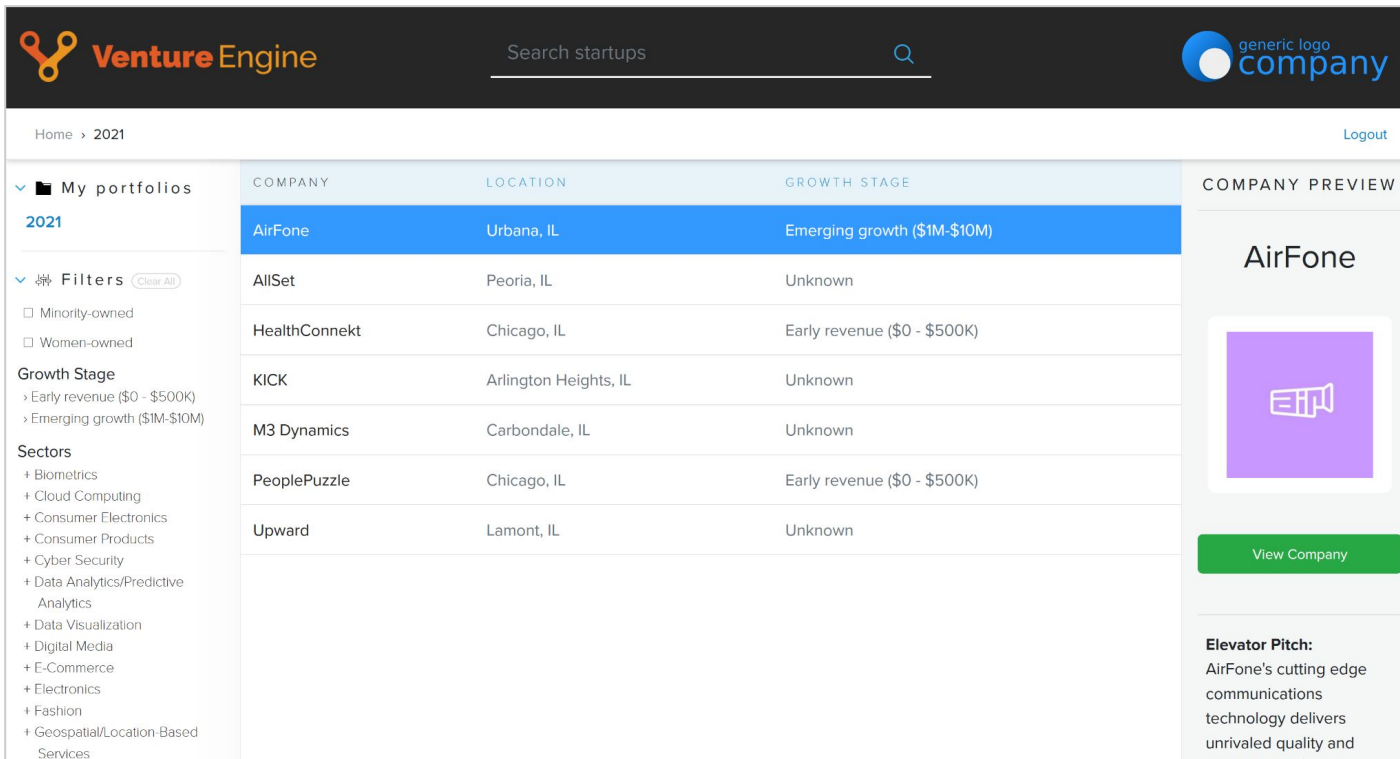
Universities and Labs

- 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 portal 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" placeholder. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main table area.


Left Sidebar:

- Home > 2021**
- My portfolios**
 - 2021**
- Filters** (Clear All)
 - ☐ Minority-owned
 - ☐ Women-owned
- Growth Stage**
 - > Early revenue (\$0 - \$500K)
 - > Emerging growth (\$1M-\$10M)
- Sectors**
 - + Biometrics
 - + Cloud Computing
 - + Consumer Electronics
 - + Consumer Products
 - + Cyber Security
 - + Data Analytics/Predictive Analytics
 - + Data Visualization
 - + Digital Media
 - + E-Commerce
 - + Electronics
 - + Fashion
 - + Geospatial/Location-Based Services

Main Table:

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

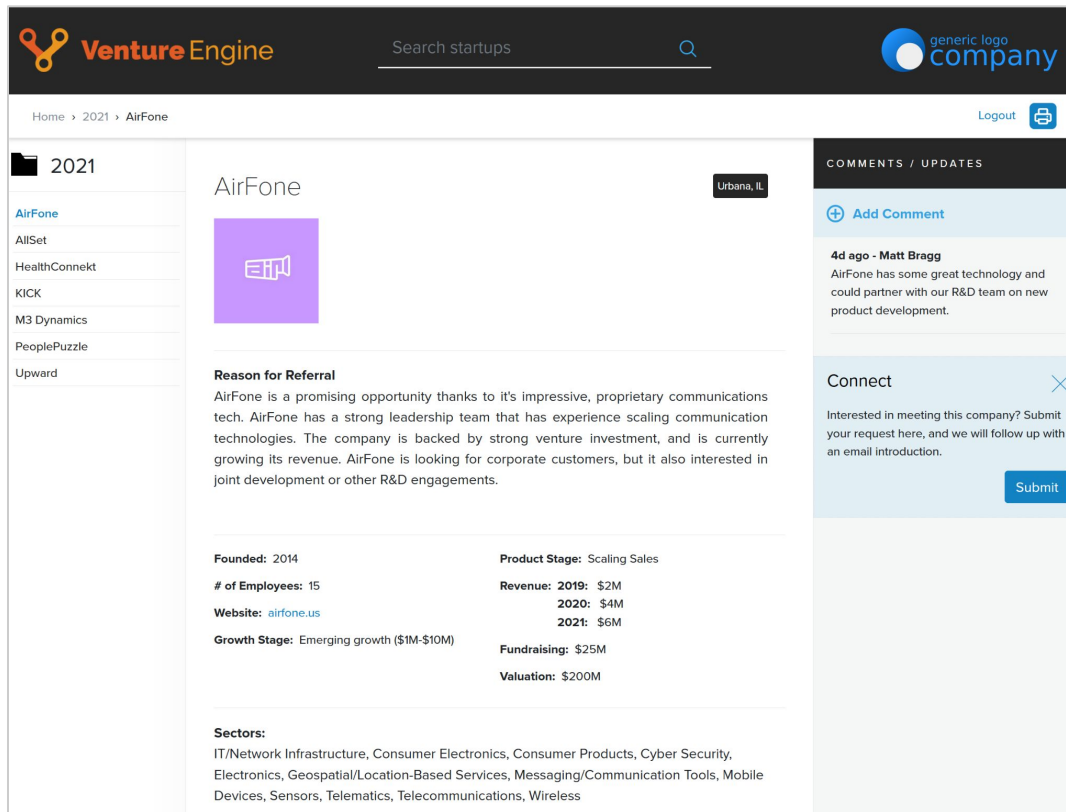
COMPANY PREVIEW (AirFone):

- 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 VentureEngine website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the VentureEngine logo, a search bar labeled "Search startups", and a "generic logo company" logo. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads "Home > 2021 > AirFone". On the left side, there's a sidebar with a folder icon labeled "2021" and a list of companies: AirFone (highlighted), AllSet, HealthConnekt, KICK, M3 Dynamics, PeoplePuzzle, and Upward. The main content area displays the profile for "AirFone", which is located in "Urbana, IL". The profile includes a purple square logo with the letters "EH". Below the logo, there's a section titled "Reason for Referral" with a paragraph of text. Further down, there's a table of 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. At the bottom, there's a "Sectors" section listing various industries. On the right side, there's a "COMMENTS / UPDATES" section with an "Add Comment" button and a comment from "Matt Bragg" dated "4d ago". Below this is a "Connect" section with a "Submit" button.

Home > 2021 > AirFone

Logout

2021

AirFone

AllSet

HealthConnekt

KICK

M3 Dynamics

PeoplePuzzle

Upward

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

+ Add Comment

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...



Colleen D. Egan

CEO, ISTC

✉ cegan@istcoalition.org



Abin Kuriakose

EVP, World Business Chicago

✉ akuriakose@worldbusinesschicago.com



Oluwatobi Oladejo

Innovation Program Coordinator, ISTC

✉ tobi@istcoalition.org



Nicole McCarthy

Innovation Program Manager, World Business Chicago

✉ nmccarthy@worldbusinesschicago.com



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