



Elemental Excelsior Places Big Bets on Electrification of Aviation, the Circular Economy, Partnering with Underserved Communities, and More

Infrastructure innovation accelerator awards up to \$1,000,000 in funding to 20 growth-stage startups addressing energy, water, agriculture mobility and related systems

Honolulu, HI & Bay Area, CA – September 25, 2018 – Today, [Elemental Excelsior](#) (EEx), a global infrastructure innovation accelerator, announced the 20 growth-stage startups in its 2019 cohort, and a new track to fund companies dedicated to increasing access to community-driven innovation for low- to moderate-income (LMI) communities in California.

By the Numbers:

- 20 new startups, bringing Elemental Excelsior's portfolio to 82 companies
- \$8M in funding to startups in the 2019 cohort
- 12 project deployments funded in this cohort
- Projects in its first location in Hawai'i, as well as continued expansion throughout Asia-Pacific and California cities
- 42% of all 2019 cohort applicants applied to the new Equity & Access track

Before this year, EEx offered two accelerator tracks — one for early-stage venture-backed companies seeking support in building out their customer strategies (the Go-to-Market Track), and the other for later-stage companies with a product ready for commercial deployment (the Demonstration Track). EEx would provide companies with up to \$1 million in funding and a testbed for their technologies in Hawai'i and the Asia Pacific. This fall, on the heels of its recent expansion into California, EEx has added a third accelerator track (the Equity & Access Track) to support growth-stage startups in delivering community-driven and earth-positive innovation to California's LMI and disadvantaged communities.

“Our 2019 cohort includes some of the most creative thinkers across multiple industries who are addressing challenges ranging from the circular economy and waste management to electric transportation and water access,” said Elemental Excelsior CEO Dawn Lippert. “As the world approaches a tipping point in resource scarcity and the urgency of the climate change challenge intensifies, it's more important than ever to bet on promising startups that can deliver large-scale, rapid transformation.”

It's also the first cohort to feature the Equity & Access Track, whose primary purpose is to help more people benefit from sustainable innovations.

“Our new track intentionally targets communities that are disproportionately burdened by pollution and climate change, yet often overlooked by innovative technology companies,” said Melissa Uhl, Elemental Exceleator’s Head of California Programs & Chief of Staff. “Startups may not have the resources to explore options in LMI communities, but with EEx providing funding and a platform to engage with customers and project partners, they can accelerate their growth.”

What big bets is EEx making this year?

Demonstration Track: [Ampaire](#), which retrofits electric powertrains into commercial aircraft, and zero-emission electric bus manufacturer [Proterra](#) address challenges in the electric transportation sector. Three companies operate in the clean energy sector: [Sunfolding](#) manufactures solar trackers that replace the mechanical components found in traditional tracking devices with air; [SparkMeter](#) delivers comprehensive low-cost metering solutions for systems ranging from rural microgrids to existing urban central grid utilities; and [Blue Planet Energy Systems](#) provides safe, powerful energy storage in the form of 8-450 kWh lithium ferrous phosphate batteries. [CarbonCure](#) manufactures a bolt-on technology that injects recycled CO2 into fresh concrete, helping builders lower their carbon footprints. And [Zero Mass Water](#)'s SOURCE Hydropanels use the power of the sun to make clean drinking water from the air.

“The Demonstration Track has some exciting projects ready for deployment in Hawai'i, Australia, and Asia Pacific,” said Dana Cotter, Elemental Exceleator’s Portfolio Lead. “We look forward to helping them demonstrate the viability of their technologies and business models with actual customers, then help them scale those projects 10x.”

Go-to-Market Track: [Full Cycle Bioplastics](#) converts organic waste into a compostable, marine-degradable bioplastic resin, and [EthosGen](#) transforms low-grade thermal waste heat into energy or cooling capacity. [Chargetrip](#), which provides intelligent electric vehicle navigation and data aggregation for charging infrastructure, is part of the surge in electrified transportation solutions. [FlyWire Cameras](#) manufactures electronic monitoring systems for sustainable fisheries management, and [Imprint Energy](#) makes printable, rechargeable zinc batteries. Hawai'i-based [Pono Island Capital](#)'s carbon offset fund reflects EEx's awareness that long-term sustainability involves not only hardware and software, but also new market structures.

“With 500 companies at the top of our pipeline, we wanted to bet on companies tackling some of the world's biggest challenges. Equally important, we were looking for leadership teams with the track record and vision to take on the waste, mobility, agriculture, energy, and carbon markets,” said Ramsay Siegal, Head of Partnerships and Pipeline at Elemental Exceleator. “We are excited to work with this Go-to-Market cohort to stress-test their business models, refine their growth strategies, and help them scale.”

Equity & Access Track: Democratization of resources is the underlying thread for the seven companies in this track. Elemental Excelerator is tracking a trend in public-sector funding that puts resources toward innovation and infrastructure upgrades in California’s LMI communities. Since 2012, California’s cap-and-trade climate program has generated \$8 billion for the state, with at least 35% of that to be invested in LMI communities.

[Solstice Power Technologies](#) is a turnkey customer software company that connects Americans to free and inclusive community-shared solar power. [BlocPower](#) aggregates buildings in financially underserved communities to help secure financing for smart or renewable energy system upgrades. [Microvi Biotech](#) creates low-cost, high-performance biocatalytic solutions for drinking water purification, wastewater treatment, and renewable chemical production. In the circular economy sector, [BioCellection](#) transforms previously unrecyclable plastics into biodegradable chemicals for sustainable supply chains, and [Yerdle Recommerce](#) provides white label second-hand apparel marketplaces for large brands to resell their used apparel. [Scoot](#) operates networks of shared electric vehicles — scooters, bicycles and kick-scooters — and [Swiftly](#) operates a big data platform that enables transit agencies to analyze millions of data points in seconds to improve service quality, efficiency, and reliability.

“The tremendous interest in the new track demonstrates that this approach makes sense not only socially, but also presents a compelling opportunity for emerging technology companies to widen their total addressable market. We look forward to working with our newest cohort and local partners to take their businesses to the next level,” said Sara Chandler, Elemental Excelerator’s Manager for Policy & Community, California.

About Elemental Excelerator

Elemental Excelerator helps startups change the world, one community at a time. Each year, they find 15-20 companies that best fit their mission and fund each company up to \$1 million to improve systems that impact people's lives: energy, mobility, water, agriculture, and beyond. To date, they have awarded over \$30 million to more than 80 companies. What makes them unique? They co-fund, co-design, and co-develop projects and strategies that improve infrastructure and sustainably enhance communities. Their program is funded by a diverse coalition of utility partners, corporate partners, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Department of Energy, state government, and philanthropic organizations. For more information, please visit elementalexcelerator.com.

Media Contact:
mc² for Elemental Excelerator
ElementalExcelerator@missionC2.com

###