



## **Bexar County Commissioners Court**

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### **Tech Fuel competition to provide mentorship, economic development grants**

County Judge Nelson Wolff and leaders of Tech Bloc officially launched Tech Fuel, a startup competition aimed at investing in local entrepreneurs and innovators. Three winners of the Tech Fuel competition will receive an economic development grant from the County's \$1 million Innovation Fund. Tech Bloc will manage the competition.

"Tech Bloc is excited to partner with Bexar County to launch Tech Fuel," said Lew Moorman, Tech Bloc's board chairman. "By investing in our technology ecosystem, this competition will help stimulate local startup activity. It is a small but important step toward making our city an attractive destination for entrepreneurs to build their next company."

Tech Fuel is open to technology startups of all stages as long as they have raised less than \$1 million in outside funding, have less than \$1 million in revenue and intend to grow their companies in Bexar County. Entrepreneurs interested in entering the competition can now visit [www.satechfuel.com](http://www.satechfuel.com) to submit an application before January 10, 2016.

Tech Fuel's organizers will announce the top five applicants to continue in the competition on Feb. 15. These startups will then present their companies to a panel of Tech Fuel judges and receive mentorship and coaching from Tech Bloc leaders throughout the competition.

The top three startups will be announced at the spring 2016 Tech Bloc rally. First place will receive a \$30,000 grant, second place receives \$15,000 and third place receives \$5,000.

"In the grand scheme of our economic development efforts, this is a small amount of money to help an entrepreneur bring a big idea to life. Tech Fuel is the very type of investment we had in mind when we created the Innovation Fund," County Judge Nelson Wolff said. "The County is happy to have a partner in Tech Bloc, one that is interested in helping build San Antonio's tech economy."

At his address to the North Chamber in May and again in his address to the San Antonio Chamber in October, Judge Wolff stressed the need to realign economic development incentives, policies and efforts to help technology companies whose investments are more in talent and less in capital. The Innovation Fund was created to fuel Bexar County's new economic development motto, "Start there, scale here; or start here, scale here." This new approach aims to entice small innovative companies to move their operations to Bexar County and build them to scale, as well as to assist local companies to stay and grow here. Tech Fuel is the first project to receive Innovation Funds.

"The Tech Fuel competition will reward entrepreneurs who not only have a bold vision, but also have a penchant for execution," said Blake Yeager, managing director of Techstars Cloud and a founding member of Tech Bloc. "It will provide local technology startups a chance to win much needed seed funding and exposure for their burgeoning enterprise."



#### **About Tech Bloc**

Tech Bloc is a youthful, tech- and urban-centric movement helping position San Antonio to better compete in the international technology economies of today and tomorrow. A voice for the technology ecosystem in San Antonio, Tech Bloc is uniting students, workers, job creators, and urbanists to promote technology education, innovation, job growth and entrepreneurial new starts. Tech Bloc also works with regional leaders to enhance San Antonio's urban livability and improve our city's attractiveness as a career destination for creative-class workers and entrepreneurs.