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**Florida Venture Forum Adds “Apply Anytime” Platform Allowing Companies  
Year-round Access to Review By Active Venture Capital Investors**  
*Makes mentoring, presenting and networking opportunities available to a larger  
and more diverse universe of companies*

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Miami and Tampa, FL. – June 24, 2020 - The Florida Venture Forum, Florida’s largest statewide support organization for investors and entrepreneurs, announced today it has expanded its platform and service offering to enable companies seeking venture capital funding to “apply anytime” for review by a standing committee of active venture investors.

Previously, the Forum’s presenter application process was limited to certain times of the year, centered around the Forum’s annual conferences and events, and tailored to companies at certain stages or in particular industries.

The new platform, which is available year-round and at no cost or obligation to companies via the Forum’s website, enables companies seeking venture capital to apply to the Forum at any time, and receive review by a committee of active venture investors within a matter of weeks.

The Forum’s new, standing selection committee will review companies based on a loose set of criteria, with particular emphasis placed on whether the company shows promise for receiving venture capital.

Companies selected by the committee will be added to the Forum’s accepted company database available exclusively to Forum members, offered mentorship from the Forum’s membership, and receive other benefits such as entry or discounts to Forum events and conferences, in addition to presentation and networking opportunities.

“This is an exciting development and logical next step for the Florida Venture Forum, which has long been a leader in connecting companies with capital sources and other services they need to grow and scale,” said Travis Milks, managing partner at Topmark Partners (formerly Stonehenge Growth Equity Partners) and the Forum’s board chair. “The Forum has always been Florida’s leading connector of companies and capital sources. Now we will be able to serve companies at all stages, at any time of year.”

The Forum will work with its board of directors and 200+ members, as well as its extensive network of past presenters, service partners and peer organizations to promote the opportunity and recruit applicants. By removing the constraint of application timing, and by casting a wider net in recruiting companies, the Forum hopes to achieve a larger and more diverse pool of accepted companies and, ultimately, increase the diversity of venture-backed companies in Florida, and beyond.

Companies that aren’t immediately accepted will have access to the Forum’s educational programming and online resources, and will be offered facilitated connection opportunities with Forum partner organizations throughout the state, with the goal of helping them become better prepared for capital raising.

Jennifer Dunham, general partner at Arsenal and the Forum’s selection chair, added, “Historically, we have conducted our selection processes around the Forum’s major annual events and conferences, which significantly limited our ability to connect with and serve promising entrepreneurs at other times of the year. The Forum’s new “apply anytime” platform changes all that, offering selected founders and companies the opportunity to access the Forum network, including the most active investors, at times more relevant to their fundraising cycle.”

Kevin Burgoyne, president & CEO of the Florida Venture Forum added, “The Forum’s new “apply anytime” platform will allow us to accomplish several major goals, including serving a greater number of companies on an ongoing basis. We also hope it will greatly enhance the diversity of our applicant pool, resulting in more funding for a more diverse group of founders, and enhanced opportunities for all companies to become better educated and informed about raising capital and growing a business.”

**About The Florida Venture Forum:** The Florida Venture Forum is Florida’s largest statewide support organization for investors and entrepreneurs, helping companies with headquarters, operations or supply chain in Florida connect with sources of capital from across the country. Since 1984 over 1400 companies have presented at Forum events and have gone on to raise upwards of \$7.5B in equity capital and contribute well over \$10B in total economic value to Florida. The Forum’s 200+ members represent a “who’s who” of venture capital and private equity dealmakers, including and equity and debt investors at all stages, as well as major law, accounting, and investment banking firms, and large corporates active in the innovation ecosystem. The Forum provides programs and programming statewide throughout the year in addition to hosting major annual conferences like the Florida Venture Capital Conference, the Statewide Collegiate Business Plan Competition, the Early Stage Capital Conference, and industry-focused events including aerospace and healthcare. For more information, visit: <http://www.flventure.org>.

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