





FOREWORD

Agribusiness is vital to Australia's economy.

Living in one of the world's driest regions, Australians have learned how to adapt their production systems to get the most out of the land. Innovation through technology has been key to establishing Australia's place as global player and exporter of food and agriculture commodities and products. Australia's private sector and governments actively invest in collaborative research, as well as the infrastructure to support these R&D efforts.

The past year was an exciting time for the agtech ecosystem in Australia, with achievements including:

- Establishing a Cooperative Research Centre for digital technology in the food industry
- The successful graduation of our first specialist agtech accelerator and pre-accelerator program cohorts, with new rounds and additional agtech accelerators announced for 2018
- Completion of the government funded Accelerating Precision to Decision (P2D) project designed to facilitate digital technology in Australian agriculture, including through appropriate legal frameworks, data systems and access to critical datasets
- Rapid ecosystem growth including industry collaboration and regional agtech clusters
- Many agtech companies forming global partnerships, securing investment, completing trials and gaining formal recognition through international awards.

With this in mind, the Australian Trade & Investment Commission (Austrade) is delighted to present the following organisations, all of which have accomplished, participated in or strongly supported the achievements listed above. As leaders in their respective fields, this group represents the perpetually evolving potential of agtech in Australia.

Austrade is committed to continuing this momentum and, in addition to showcasing the talent and potential here, we are actively arranging and participating in global events and initiatives.

We welcome you to connect with all of our delegation and look forward to the opportunity to work with you in the future.



Nicola Watkinson

Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner, New York

E: nicola.watkinson@austrade.gov.au

M: +1 646 515 5617 P: +1 646 344 8120 W: austrade.gov.au





Delegation participants

AgDNA Paul Turner	1
AgriDigital Emma Weston	2
AgriFutures Australia John Harvey	3
Australian Farm Institute Richard Heath	4
CSIRO Dr Graham Bonnett Justin Harsdorf	5
DataFarming Tim Neale	6
FluroSat Anastasia Volkova	7
FoodAgility CRC Mike Briers	8
Horticulture Innovation Australia Anthony Kachenko Stuart Burgess	9
Monash University - Bosch Agtech LaunchPad Emma Lucia	10
Nexgen Plants Brian Ruddle	11
Next Instruments Phillip Clancy Victoria Clancy	12
QUT bluebox George Curran	13
Rapid Phenotyping Dr Antony Martin Jacob Lorber	14
Rocket Seeder J. Matthew Pryor	15
Swan Systems Tim Hyde	16
Swarm Farm Andrew Bates	17
University of Tasmania - Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture James Stronach Kate Taylor	18
X-Lab Allen Haroutonian	19

AgDNA

Software platform

Company profile

AgDNA is a farm management software platform that combines artificial intelligence with the Internet of Things (IoT) to help commercial crop producers increase yield, reduce input costs and maximise farm profitability on every acre.

Unique value-add

Technology competitive advantage; OEM data licencing agreements; B2B SaaS business model with 350 store locations; commercial traction; over one million paid acres; superior ROI value proposition; high user retention (96%).

Biography

Paul has been at the forefront of the precision agriculture industry for almost 20 years, with hands-on experience taking agtech companies from startup, to commercialisation through to trade sale.



Paul Turner CEO

E: paul@agdna.com M: +1 628 777 4262

Website: gdna.com

Twitter: @MyAgDNA

Facebook: facebook.com/AgDNA



AgriDigital

Supply-chain software

Company profile

AgriDigital develops software solutions to bring trust and transparency to global agricultural supply chains. In 2016, AgriDigital achieved the world's first settlement of a physical agri-commodity on a blockchain between a farmer and a buyer.

Unique value-add

AgriDigital is a fully integrated, cloud-based solution that enables seamless end-to-end commodity management for all participants in the agri-supply chain from farmers all the way through to consumers. Development and launch of a blockchain-based protocol is central to the company's vision for transparent supply chains and sustainable value chains of the future.

Biography

Emma is the CEO and a Co-Founder of AgriDigital, one of Australia's leading emerging agtech and fintech companies. Emma has had a diverse career as a lawyer, agribusiness executive and executive coach. She is mentor to several startups and founders.

Emma Weston

CEO & Co-Founder

E: emma.weston@agridigital.io
P: +61 407 830 136



Website: agridigital.io

Twitter: @Agri_Digital

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/17944632/

AgriFutures Australia

Research & innovation for rural prosperity

Company profile

AgriFutures Australia invests in research, innovation and learning to enhance the long-term prosperity of rural industries and regional communities across Australia.

Unique value-add

AgriFutures Australia is the only research and development corporation with a cross-sectorial mandate. This means it scans, identifies and works on challenges and opportunities that face Australian agriculture.

Biography

John Harvey joined AgriFutures Australia in May 2016 as Managing Director. He accepted the challenge to set a new, more commercial direction for the organisation. Prior to this appointment, John was Managing Director at Grains Research & Development Corporation.



John Harvey
Managing Director

E: john.harvey@agrifutures.com.au
P: +61 2 6923 6901
M: +61 419 274 917

Website: agrifutures.com.au

evokeag.com

Twitter: @AgriFuturesAU

@evokeAG

linkedin.com/in/evokeag/





Australian Farm Institute

Policy research institute

Company profile

AFI is an independent agricultural policy research organisation. The institute's objective is to enhance the economic and social well-being of the agricultural sector and farmers in Australia though credible public policy research.

Unique value-add

While similar organisations exist at a more general level in Australia and in other developed economies, AFI is the first standalone institute established to focus solely on farm issues.

AFI has investigated opportunities for business participation in the agtech market in Australia and has recently shared its findings from the 'Accelerating precision agriculture to decision agriculture project' (P2D project). P2D project performed an economic analysis on the potential of digital agriculture in Australia and identified sectors and areas where there is scope for investment.

Biography

Richard had twenty years' experience managing a large grain production enterprise before moving into research management roles with the University of Sydney and AFI.



Richard Heath General Manager Research

E: heathr@farminstitute.org.au P: +61 2 9690 1388 M: +61 427 447 872



Website: farminstitute.org.au

Twitter: @AustFarmInstitu

CSIRO Agriculture & Food

Research & development

Company profile

As Australia's national science agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) pushes the boundaries of what is possible in innovation, science and technology. CSIRO delivers impact nationally and globally through collaboration with industry, governments and communities. CSIRO Agriculture and Food takes an integrated geneto-plate approach to improve crop quality and yield, develop innovative food processing technologies, create new value-added foods, and grow the livestock, aquaculture and fishery industries.

Unique value-add

CSIRO's research improves the productivity, profitability and sustainability of agricultural and food sectors, and it delivers transformative technologies, management and knowledge systems to stabilise food security and primary production systems in our region and globally. CSIRO Agriculture and Food operates nationally and internationally, focusing on solutions to long-term and complex problems, at scale and over sustained timeframes, and is the hub for Australia's food and agricultural science and innovation system. Using multidisciplinary approaches, and together with its partners, CSIRO is a world leader in food and agricultural innovation.

Biographies

Dr Graham Bonnett has been a research scientist with CSIRO since 1993. He is currently a Research Director in CSIRO Agriculture and Food leading the Integrated Agricultural Systems Program which uses a combination of experimental and modelling approaches to improve the profitability, productivity and environmental outcomes of farming systems.

Justin Harsdorf has been a member of the business development and commercialisation team in CSIRO since 2000. He is responsible for developing innovative business solutions with partners to deliver innovative agriculture technologies to global markets.



Dr Graham Bonnett

Research Program Director Integrated Agricultural Systems E: graham.bonnett@csiro.au

M: +61 408 158 023



Justin Harsdorf

Business Development and Commercialisation Manager
E: justin.harsdorf@csiro.au
M+61 418 490 644

Website: csiro.us

Twitter: @CSIROnews

LinkedIn: linkedIn: linkedin.com/company/csiro/



DataFarming

Precision technology

Company profile

DataFarming is an Australian agtech company that is developing integrated, easy-to-use, intelligent, precision technology solutions. DataFarming streamlines the process of capturing data, developing insights and harvesting value.

Unique value-add

Experience in understanding market needs; clear product pipeline and value proposition; removing barriers to adoption (simple systems, easy access and low cost of entry).

Biography

Tim is an agtech veteran with over 20 years of industry experience, and 15 years' experience running his own Precision Ag business. His extensive portfolio of work spans Australia and internationally.



Tim Neale
Managing Director

E: <u>tim@datafarming.com.au</u> **M:** +61 409 634 006



Website: datafarming.com.au

Twitter: @data_farming

@TimNeale1

LinkedIn: linkedIn: linkedIn: linkedIn: linkedin.com/in/tim-neale-29b28139/

FluroSat

Plant-trait technology

Company profile

FluroSat is a crop-health monitoring startup that provides agronomists and farmers with multi-use, actionable maps to help improve yields and reduce input costs.

Unique value-add

FluroSat allows agronomists and farmers to use their on-farm observations to calibrate the remote-sensing imagery captured using multi-/hyperspectral sensors on drones/planes/satellites, and access the actionable insights produced using per-paddock crop-growth models.

Biography

Anastasia is an aeronautical engineer completing her PhD in autonomous drone navigation. She has experience ranging from projects with the NASA robots on board the International Space Station, to managing a 370-person team for UEFA.



Anastasia Volkova
Co-Founder & CEO

E: anastasia@flurosat.com M: +61 431 003 688



Website: flurosat.com

Twitter: @flurosat

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/flurosat/

Food Agility CRC

Cooperative Research Centre

Company profile

The Food Agility CRC brings together 54 participants from the food, technology and research sectors, guided by agile methods to achieve our vision. The CRC will integrate the agile culture and processes of the digital economy through a whole-of-value-chain lens for fresh and processed food.

Unique value-add

Food Agility CRC will use contemporary agile and user-centric design principles, combined with deep engagement with the food sector, to optimise adoption of digital services.

Biography

Mike was named in the 'Knowledge Nation 100' as Australia's chief evangelist for big data and IoT, and was appointed Australia's first Industry Professor of IoT at UTS. He is currently the Founding CEO of the Food Agility CRC to empower Australia's food industry to grow its comparative advantage through digital service innovation. Mike is a Co-Founder and Director of the IoT Alliance Australia and the Knowledge Economy Institute.

Dr Mike Briers

E: mike.briers@foodagility.com P: +61 3 6226 5744



Website: foodagility.com

Twitter: @mikebriers

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/michael-briers-ao-740375

Horticulture Innovation Australia

Research & development

Company profile

Horticulture Innovation Australia (Hort Innovation) is a not-for-profit, grower-owned R&D corporation (RDC) for Australia's A\$9 billion horticulture industry. Hort Innovation invests around A\$100 million in R&D to improve productivity, farm gate profitability and the global competitiveness of Australia's horticultural industries. Hort Innovation is the link between the needs of industry, capabilities of science and potential of marketing.

Unique value-add

Hort Innovation addresses market failure R&D which is pre-commercial and supports the wider sector. Investment decisions are prioritised by the current needs highlighted by each horticulture levy industry. To gain the necessary insight from industry, Hort Innovation undertakes widespread consultation with growers and through the Strategic Investment Advisory Panels, made up of panelists representing the levy industry. Priorities for investment can be found in each industry's Strategic Investment Plan.

Biographies

Anthony Kachenko is the Research & Development Team Leader. He is responsible for leading a team that manages research projects that drive innovation within Australian horticultural industries.

Stuart Burgess works across the Temperate Fruit and Berry categories, both of which have a strong export focus. He also manages the Advanced Production Systems and Leadership Funds within the Hort Frontiers program. Stuart has a passionate and lifelong involvement in the rural sector, having been raised on a dairy farm on the South Coast of NSW, before redirecting his attention into horticulture in his early twenties with the onset of deregulation.



Anthony Kachenko
R&D Lead

E: anthony.kachenko@horticulture.com.au M: +61 429 221 443



Stuart Burgess
Fund Manager

E: stuart.burgess@horticulture.com.au
M: +61 417 536 300

Hort Innovation

Website: horticulture.com.au/

Twitter: @hort au

Facebook: facebook.com/hortinnovation

Monash University Bosch Agtech LaunchPad

University partnership

Company Profile

Monash is Australia's largest University and part of the Group of 8. Monash provides world leading research capabilities and educates the professionals of the future.

Unique Value-add

Monash University is co-designing a research and education platform with a major industry partner. The site will be built from the ground up to provide a living laboratory for, enabling the use of artificial intelligence, automation, robotics and advanced sensor technology as an integral step between the lab and full scale deployment.

Biography

Emma Lucia is the Industry Partnership Manager for Monash University, developing multidisciplinary strategic partnerships across the university. This includes managing the development of the Monash – Bosch AgTech LaunchPad.



Emma Lucia
Industry Partnerships Manager

E: <u>emma.lucia@monash.edu</u> **M:** +61 413 960 885



Website: monash.edu/industry

Twitter: @MonashUni

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/emmalucia/

Nexgen Plants

Plant-trait technology

Company Profile

Nexgen Plants was formed on the back of closing a A\$2 million seed venture round. After delivering proof-of-concept outcomes around plant virus resistance, the company has progressed the development of a new non-GM breeding approach for a range of plant traits.

Unique Value-add

Nexgen Plants is commercialising two platform technologies, the first is a non-GM plant breeding platform used to confer a range of disease resistance, production and consumer traits into economically important crops. The second platform technology enables virus resistant traits to be developed in plants. These technologies were developed at the University of Queensland.

Biography

Brian Ruddle is an experienced startup CEO having been involved in forming four food and ag startup ventures. He also formed the innovation and technology commercialisation advisory firm Impact Innovation Group.



Brian Ruddle

E: brianr@nexgenplants.com M: +61 407 169 979



Website: nexgenplants.com

Twitter: @Brian.Ruddle

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/brian-ruddle-248b7618/

Next Instruments

Precision Ag: sensor technology

Company profile

Next Instruments has been a leading manufacturer of grain and food analysers for 20 years. It has taken sensor technologies developed by Australian universities, CSRIO and private companies and commercialised them around the world. Next Instruments presently export to 42 countries. In Australia, its analysers are used by more than 500 grains farmers and many leading food manufacturers including Sanitarium, Kraft, Vitasoy, Woolworths and Mrs Macs Pies.

Unique value-add

The CropScan 3000H On Combine Analyser is Next Instruments' latest development. This analyser measures protein, moisture and oil-ingrains and oils seeds as they are harvested. The Cr3000H provides real-time information whereby farmers can blend grain in the field to optimise payments based on quality and to generate protein, yield and Nitrogen removal maps for use in developing Variable Rate Fertilisation prescriptions.

Biography

Phillip Clancy, MBA, BEng(Chem), has 15 years' experience in sales and marketing in Australia and the US. Phillip founded NIR Technology Systems in 2000 to manufacture NIR analysers. In 2010, Mathew and Phillip Clancy launched Next Instruments to commericalise and market to the world a broarder range of Australian designed and made instruments.



Phillip Clancy

CEO

E: phil.clancy@nextinstruments.net

P: +61 2 9771 5444 **M:** +61 428 923 468

Victoria Clancy

Marketing Manager E:

victoria.clancy@nextinstruments.net

Website: nextinstruments.net/

cropscanag.com
Twitter: @cropscan

Facebook: facebook.com/NextInstruments



QUT bluebox

University ag robotics

Company Profile

QUT bluebox is the technology transfer arm of the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). QUT has successfully developed and trialed robotic weed management and harvesting technology.

This represents several years of work that has advanced through to mature prototype design with in-field testing of weed detection, mechanical and chemical weed treatment and robotic fruit harvesting (red bell peppers) agricultural robotic platforms.

QUT bluebox intends to establish a tech startup company through which the provisionally patented technology will be commercialized with investor engagement activities to commence May 2018



Unique Value-add

Fast , low impact, robotic weed detection and management in broadacre and horticulture sectors.

Fast, non bruising, accurate and precise harvesting of fruit (red peppers) in structured and unstructured environments.

Biography

Mr. George Curran is a CPEng with over 25 years of experience in the design, development and commercialization of autonomous systems and related technologies into the agricultural, mining, and aerospace sectors.

George Curran

Senior Commercialisation Manager

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g2.curran@qutbluebox.com.au

M: +61 431041336 **P:** +61 7 3138 8467



Website: qutbluebox.com.au/

Twitter: @qutbluebox

LinkedIn: linkedIn: linkedIn: linkedin.com/in/george-curran-74aa1a19/

Rapid Phenotyping

Precision Ag: sensor technology

Company profile

Rapid Phenotyping (RP) is an early stage agtech/biotech company driving innovations in applied analytical science; pioneering a novel device that boasts high resolution and real-time artificial intelligence analytics backed with a strong IP position.

Unique value-add

RP build mobile devices that put the analytical power of a laboratory into the palm of your hand; offering users a simple and seamless means to make real-time decisions when and where it matters.

Biography

Antony Martin has experience across a range of technologies including crop breeding, advanced optical imaging and machine learning; technologies that form the backbone of RP. Antony holds a PhD in crop phenomics and has conducted research into applications of machine learning to reduce breeding cycles. During a post-doctoral term at Hunter Medical Research Institute he delivered complex technology products for bio-medical diagnostics and research, including the launch of a 3D imaging facility and the world's first open source 3D virtual biobank. Antony is now focussing efforts back toward agriculture, developing the sophisticated handheld testing devices and software platform technology behind RP.



Dr Antony Martin

CEO

E:
antony@rapidphenotyping.com

M: +61 401 922 699



Jacob Lorber

Business Development

Manager

E: jacob@rapidphenotyping.com

M: +61 451 465 901



Website: rapidphenotyping.com

Twitter: @RapidPhenotype

Facebook:

facebook.com/rapidphenotyping

Rocket Seeder

Accelerator program

Company profile

Rocket Seeder Limited is a food and ag innovation accelerator program. Rocket Seeder is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation committed to supporting food and agriculture entrepreneurs.

Unique value-add

Rocket Seeder is the only accelerator program currently focused on the entire ag and food supply chain and so it provides the broadest possible canvas for potential investors in the whole spectrum of ag- and food-related innovation. Rocket Seeder's partnership with the Monash Food Innovation Centre provides unique advantages to its cohort and it also offers a wide variety of collaboration models with research groups, international partners and investors.

Biography

J. Matthew Pryor was a co-founder of Observant, an Australian agtech pioneer acquired by Jain Irrigation in February 2017. He now serves as CEO/CTO of Jain Agriculture Services Australia. He also chairs the board of Rocket Seeder.



J. Matthew Pryor
Chair

E: <u>jmp@rocketseeder.com</u>
M: +61 407 102 200



Website: rocketseeder.com/

Twitter: @rocketseeder

@jmatthewpryor

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/jmatthewpryor/

Swan Systems

Web-based analytics

Company profile

SWAN Systems is a web-based analytics platform that incorporates the latest technologies to schedule and monitor optimal water and nutrient application rates for the agricultural, horticultural and water utility sectors.

Unique value-add

SWAN is different due to its ability to collect data from a variety of sensors and manufacturers to make a series of calculations without been tied to specific hardware.

Biography

Tim is a founding director of both SWAN Systems and AFS Agriculture, a specialist agricultural consultancy firm providing consultancy services to innovative farmers and horticulturalists. Tim has over 25 years of experience in agriculture and horticulture.



Tim HydeFounding Director

E: <u>tim@swansystems.com.au</u> **P:** +61 8 6323 2206

M: +61 427 425 832



Website: swansystems.com.au/public/index.html

Twitter: @swnsys

LinkedIn: linkedIn: linkedIn: linkedin.com/company/17874888/

SwarmFarm Robotics

Farming technology

Company profile

SwarmFarm Robotics is empowering farmers with new technology so they can deploy new farming methods and field practices to revolutionise food production. Its robots revolutionise farming systems from the ground up with a delivery platform to introduce new farming methods and techniques that are only possible on board a robot. SwarmFarm is not building a driverless tractor – rather, it thinks robots are what comes after the tractor.

Unique value-add

SwarmFarm is one of the only companies in the world with real, working agricultural robots, and paying customers. Most other companies are still experimenting with concept robots.

Its robots also work in teams, or 'swarms' of small machines rather than one large tractor on a typical farm.

Biography

As Co-Founder and CEO of SwarmFarm Robotics, Andrew Bate is the chief visionary, leveraging his experience as a successful grain and cattle farmer and his deep knowledge of robotics to drive the successful development of the SwarmBot. Andrew has spent a lifetime in agriculture; he trained as an agronomist and spent the last 19 years farming near Emerald, Central Queensland.



Andrew Bate

CEO & Managing Director

E: andrew@swarmfarm.com

P: +61 7 4845 4822 **M:** +61 428 186 371



Website: swarmfarm.com

Twitter: @SwarmFarm

Facebook: <u>facebook.com/swarmfarm/</u>

University of Tasmania Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

Research institute

Company profile

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) is a leading agricultural research institute with deep and highly functional relationships across the agriculture and food value chain, and strong national and international portfolio that it uses to deliver local benefits.

Established in 1996 as a joint venture between the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania, TIA conducts globally relevant agricultural research with local impact. The institute performs an integral role in guiding the future economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture and food sectors through priority-driven research, development, extension (RD&E) and education.

Unique value-add

TIA's point of difference as an academic institution is its strong industry partnerships. TIA has a diverse research portfolio (A\$70 million) that is dominated by industry-relevant research. TIA has globally unique capabilities that contrast its geographic remoteness but reflect its strong relationship with government and industry-facing research portfolios.

Biographies

James Stronach is the Deputy Director, Strategy and Engagement for the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. James has a strong commercial background having expertise in finance, human resources and strategy and has led organisation reform across the health, manufacturing and education sectors. James is passionate about authentic performance and has developed his understanding of how academic impact can significantly and positively influence communities since joining the University of Tasmania in 2012.

Kate Taylor works across the University of Tasmania's research portfolio is responsible for developing strategic partnerships between academia, industry and government that tackle large-scale, complex challenges. Kate uses her commercial skills in business development and technology transfer to form effective collaborations that deliver successful outcomes and create positive, long-term impact. Kate holds Bachelor of Biotechnology (First Class Honours), is a Registered Technology Transfer Professional and has experience working with startups.



James Stronach
Deputy Director, Strategy
and Engagement

E: james.stronach@utas.edu.au P: +61 3 6226 7503 M: +61 400 914 100



Kate Taylor
Manager of Business
Development and
Technology Transfer

E: <u>k.e.taylor@utas.edu.au</u> **P**: +61 3 6226 7286





Website: utas.edu.au/tia

Twitter: @TasInAg

Facebook: facebook.com/TasInAg/

Agri-Food Innovation Programs

Company Profile

X-Lab Ventures works within the Australian R&D sector to bring innovations in Science and Engineering - Deep Tech - together with Entrepreneurial practices — Design Thinking, Lean Startup, Agile. X-Lab's aim: unlock exponential solutions to huge global problems, connect leaders and innovators with investors and partners, explore new industries and opportunities, uncover new pathways to growth for existing players. It is a proudly Australian team inspired by the future and it works in sectors like Agri-food, Education, Impact, Space — diverse industries unified by an imperative to drive global change.

Unique Value-add

X-Lab helps industry clusters provide support to innovators — startups, SMEs researchers and industry — building entrepreneurial hustle, linking them to partners and investors locally and internationally, and de-risking business models by coaching and embedding our practices and culture.

X-Lab design and facilitate innovation programs for the likes of FRDC, CRDC, UNSW, IOTAA and the Food Agility CRC.

This Agritech Summit mission coincides with a Global Linkages tour X-Lab is running for a number of investment-ready teams within FRDC's Fish-X program, namely: DeckHandApp, FreO2 and Tuna Solutions, all with global opportunities within Fisheries & Aquaculture requiring strategic investors.

Biography

Co-founder of X-Lab, Allen is an experienced startup mentor and founder who was formerly lead coach of the renowned Pollenizer startup incubator. His career includes stints as an exec with global icons IBM and Apple, as well as roles driving global expansion for a number of Australian startups. His work within AgriFood since 2016 has exposed him to over 70 innovators within the aquaculture, fibre, fisheries, grains, and livestock sectors.



Allen Haroutonian
Co-Founder & CSO

E: <u>allen@x-lab.com.au</u>
M: +61 408 508 000



Website: x-lab.com.au

Twitter: @x_lab_au

LinkedIn: <u>linkedin.com/in/allenharoutonian/</u>

Contact Austrade for further information and support

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission – Austrade – contributes to Australia's economic prosperity by helping Australian businesses, education institutions, tourism operators, governments and citizens as they:

- develop international markets
- win productive foreign direct investment
- promote international education
- strengthen Australia's tourism industry
- seek consular and passport services.

Austrade helps companies around the world to identify and take up investment opportunities in Australia as well as to source Australian goods and services. Our assistance includes:

- providing insight on Australian capabilities
- identifying potential investment projects and strategic alliance partners
- helping you identify and contact Australian suppliers.



Joanna Olivera

Investment Director, San Francisco

T: +1 415 644 3634 **M:** +1 415 481 5638

E: joanna.olivera@austrade.gov.au

575 Market St Suite 1800 San Francisco CA 94105 USA



Cassandra Keener

Investment Director, Chicago

T: +1 312 374 9402 **M:** +1 630 550 9253

E: cassandra.keener@austrade.gov.au

123 North Wacker Drive Suite 1325 Chicago, Illinois 60606 USA



Arianna Sippel

Investment Director, Sydney

T: +61 2 9392 2356 **M:** +61 402 066 789

E: arianna.sippel@austrade.gov.au

Level 23, 201 Kent St Sydney, NSW 2000 Australia

W <u>austrade.gov.au</u> E <u>info@austrade.gov.au</u> Twitter @AustradeUSA

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