

For Immediate Release  
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## **Mayor, World Trade Center San Diego to announce the 2017 MetroConnect cohort**

*Annual program provides 15 San Diego companies with \$10k each and assistance on global expansion plans*

**San Diego** – In an effort to help local businesses access foreign markets, San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, World Trade Center San Diego (WTC San Diego) and JPMorgan Chase & Co. will launch the 2017 MetroConnect program.

Now in its third year, MetroConnect is the flagship export assistance program of WTC San Diego, which equips 15 local small- and mid-sized enterprises with \$10,000 challenge grants and additional support services to pursue business in foreign markets including Japan, the U.K., Mexico and Canada.

The 15 companies represent a cross-section of San Diego's diverse business ecosystem, with industries ranging from life sciences to craft brewing to software to maritime and more.

**WHAT:** Check presentation and media availability with Mayor Faulconer, WTC San Diego and MetroConnect companies

**WHO:** **Mayor Kevin Faulconer**, City of San Diego  
**Nikia Clarke**, executive director, World Trade Center San Diego  
**Tim West**, executive director, middle market banking San Diego, JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
**Jeff Silver**, president, Rough Draft Brewing; 2016 MetroConnect Grand Prize Winner  
*Fifteen prize winners will be announced and available for interviews*

**WHEN:** Tuesday, August 1 at 9:30-10:00 AM

**WHERE:** University Club atop Symphony Towers  
750 B St., #3400  
San Diego, CA 92101

**VISUALS:** Presentation checks, company product displays

*An embargoed list of the 15 San Diego winners is available in advance of the announcement.*

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