

For Immediate Release
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Mayor, World Trade Center San Diego to announce the 2018 MetroConnect cohort

Annual program provides 20 San Diego companies with \$10k each and assistance on global expansion plans

San Diego – In an effort to help local businesses access foreign markets amid contentious political rhetoric and tightening borders, San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, World Trade Center San Diego (WTC) and JPMorgan Chase & Co. will launch the 2018 MetroConnect program.

Now in its fourth program-year, MetroConnect is the flagship export assistance program of WTC, which equips 20 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 20 companies in the cohort represent a cross-section of San Diego's diverse business ecosystem, with industries ranging from life sciences to consumer goods to software to defense 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.
Bob Manning, director of marketing, CureMatch (2017 Grand Prize Winner)
Mark Ballam, managing director, San Diego State University's Center for International Business Education & Research (CIBER)
Twenty prize winners will be announced and available for interviews

WHEN: Wednesday, September 26 at 9:30 – 10:00 AM

WHERE: WeWork
600 B St., Third Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

VISUALS: Presentation checks, company product displays

An embargoed list of the 20 San Diego winners is available in advance of the announcement.

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