



*We propel urban tech startups to make cities more livable, responsive, and efficient.*

## **Future City Innovation Connector 2019 is calling for proposals**

**The MIT-Tsinghua Future City Innovation Connector (FCIC)**, initiated by the MIT China Future City Lab and Tsinghua University, connects MIT and Tsinghua urban tech startups with the plethora of application scenarios in China. Each year, FCIC selects outstanding startup teams, prepares them with the most relevant knowledge, equips them with the most useful market-launching tools, and locates the best Chinese pilot sites for them. FCIC sponsors field work in China, supporting the startup teams with abundant government, market and industry resources. Teams have unique opportunities to engage with city leaders, industry-leading business partners, China experts, entrepreneurs, and local innovation communities.

From December 2018 to February 2019, we are calling for proposals for the FCIC 2019 cohort. Please refer to the following information for more detail.

### **Call for MIT Startup that:**

- Have at least one founding member who is an MIT student, faculty, researcher, or affiliate.
- Aim to develop products or services that solve urban problems and has a strong urban technology focus in the field of smart society, Real Estate tech, construction tech, or mobility & delivery.
- Have a prototype
- Passionate about launching their business in China, and have or are open to have a Chinese speaking partner in the team.

### **What We Offer**

- **A new MIT course for Spring 2019:** 11.s951: FCIC China Connector Workshop: Urbanization, Technology and the Innovation Market is a new course that provides startups with a structured roadmap (frameworks, tools, and strategies) to bring urban technology innovation to the China market.
- **A network of partners and customers:** Connections with leading real estate conglomerates, city and district leaders, and other key stakeholders in China who are keen to work with startups on pilots and as potential customers.
- **China Trip:** Structured 4 week trip in China in July that includes workshops with city leaders, roundtables with industrial executives, demo day events, and more. Participating startups will work towards launching pilots in test sites.
- **Funding:** Each selected team will be awarded \$8,000 FCIC travel grants, plus partial local accommodation. FCIC is partnering with [Leping Foundation](#) to select 1 team to offer extra \$20k equity free seed grant to advance technology driven social innovation in China. The selected team will need to spend at least 3 month in China. Leping Foundation will also provide in-kind free acceleration service with their Beijing headquarter.

- **Opportunities to build future livable cities from ground up:** FCIC startups that have successfully validated their solution through pilots will gain access to partners from new city development corporations to transform the cities of the future.

### Required Team Commitment:

At least one core member of each team is required to attend the 11.s951 in the spring semester. The goal of the workshops is to prepare the teams well enough to be efficient and resourceful in the China trip. Please note team does not have an automatic right to China trip and travel grants unless they pass the assignment of 11.s951.

**APPLY NOW**

<https://cfclab.mit.edu/FCIC>

Application Deadline: February 25<sup>th</sup> 12pm

For inquiry: [fcic2019@mit.edu](mailto:fcic2019@mit.edu)

### Key Dates:

- Feb 25                      Deadline to Apply
- March 1                     Announce shortlist for Interview Day
- March 4-5                  Interview Day
- March 12                    Final Decision
- March 19                    Deadline for teams to reply confirmation
- March 30                    Announcement of 2019 FCIC Cohort
- April 4–May 9              Spring workshops (class meet every Thursday 9am-12pm)
- May 20                        Industry Partner Round table at MIT
- July 1-27                    FCIC China trip (Teams arrive in Guangzhou by June 30)