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**GLOBAL INNOVATION THROUGH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NETWORK
LAUNCHED
AT THE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT IN MOROCCO**

GIST Net, a comprehensive online platform, will increase innovation around the world by connecting entrepreneurs with mentors and resources.

Washington, D.C. – November 20, 2014 – The Department of State in partnership with private and non-governmental organizations, launched the Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) Network at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit and at gistnetwork.org. 

The GIST Network (GIST Net) helps the most connected generation in history advance their entrepreneurial ventures. GIST Net provides an online interactive network for young men and women to engage with aspiring and successful entrepreneurs from their local communities and from partners' worldwide networks. Users can engage in vibrant peer-to-peer discussions on topics they care about. They can access live and on-demand programming, benefit from one-on-one mentorship, learn about entrepreneurship opportunities, and gain access to financing. GIST Net streamlines all the information and resources available from GIST and partner organizations in one place.

GIST Net provides startups and entrepreneurs access to extensive resources and partners' networks. GIST Net partners include the [Founder Institute](#), [Gust](#), the [Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation](#), [NestGSV](#), [NovoED](#), [Ponscio](#), [Stanford Technology Ventures Program](#), [TechWadi](#), [U.S. Department of State](#), and [VentureWell](#) (formerly NCIIA).

"GIST Net is an absolute game changer," said David S. Rose, Founder and CEO of Gust, the world's largest online platform and community for entrepreneurs and early-stage investors, which also built the Network. "It will dramatically increase access to mentorship and other critical resources for thousands of entrepreneurs in emerging countries across the world, spurring job growth and economic development."

"Today technology affords people an ever-growing opportunity to fulfill their potential," said Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Catherine Novelli. She added that, "GIST Net is a significant new technology resource that provides entrepreneurs with the tools they need to address challenges in their communities, build markets, and succeed."

"We know that entrepreneurs are vital to local economies around the world," said Annette Beck, senior director Entrepreneurship at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. "We hope making Kauffman's entrepreneurship education resources available through GIST Net will empower future and current founders to start and grow companies that will ultimately create jobs and improve lives."

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About GIST

The Global Innovation through Science & Technology (GIST) initiative operates at the intersection of science & technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship to empower individual innovators and to strengthen entrepreneurship ecosystems. GIST equips young men and women with the skills they need to be successful entrepreneurs and

leaders who turn their ideas into new ventures that transform their communities. GIST programs include Startup Boot Camps, Tech Connect live online programs and the Tech-I competition. Since its launch in 2011, GIST has engaged with more than 2.8 million innovators and entrepreneurs worldwide, providing training to over 4,500 startups that have generated more than \$80 million in revenue. GIST operates in 86 emerging economies in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

About the GIST Network

GIST Net, a unique public-private partnership, is a user-driven resource for young science and technology entrepreneurs in emerging economies. GIST Net helps entrepreneurs navigate the obstacles to building viable companies and connects them with their peers, mentors and access to financing. People around the world can join a real-time conversation on innovation and entrepreneurship by visiting gistnetwork.org, at [Facebook.com/GISTnet](https://www.facebook.com/GISTnet) and on Twitter [@gistnetwork](https://twitter.com/gistnetwork).

GIST Net partners:

[Founder Institute](#), [Gust](#), [Kauffman Foundation](#), [NestGSV](#), [NovoED](#), [Ponscio](#), [Stanford Technology Ventures Program](#), [TechWadi](#), [U.S. Department of State](#), [VentureWell](#) (formerly NCIIA)

WHAT PARTNERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE GIST NETWORK

Founder Institute:

- "GIST is an ambitious platform that gives aspiring entrepreneurs across the globe access to resources to help them launch a company. We are very proud to be partnering with them on this important effort." - Adeo Ressi, Founder & CEO of the Founder Institute (world's largest entrepreneur training and startup launch program).

Gust:

- "The GIST Network is an absolute game changer," said David S. Rose, Founder and CEO of Gust, the world's largest online platform and community for entrepreneurs and early-stage investors, which also built GIST Network. "It will dramatically increase access to mentorship and other critical resources for thousands of entrepreneurs in emerging countries across the world, spurring job growth and economic development."
- Startups on the GIST Network looking for funding can create a profile using the Gust platform to manage all aspects of their investor relationship, from initial pitch to successful exit. "The tools made available through GIST Network will have an immediate impact on the ground here in Morocco and in countless other emerging economies," said Lisa Balter Saacks, Vice President of Global Business Development at Gust. "We're thrilled to help these already thriving communities continue to expand, and to help grow the early-stage investing space as a whole."

Kauffman Foundation:

- "We know that entrepreneurs are vital to local economies around the world," said Annette Beck, senior director Entrepreneurship at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. "We hope making Kauffman's entrepreneurship education resources available through the GIST Network will empower future and current founders to start and grow companies that will ultimately create jobs and improve lives."

NestGSV:

- "We believe access to the GIST platform will prove to be transformative not only for entrepreneurs, but also for the communities in which they work. NestGSV is honored to work

alongside the partners of GIST Net in the effort to further empower global innovation.” - Mark Flynn, CEO of NestGSV

Ponscio:

- Laura Owen, CEO of Ponscio said her company is “honored to be a part of the launch of the GIST Network and is committed to sharing content to enrich the lives of entrepreneurs around the world. This powerful portal will equip and inspire entrepreneurs, while helping to accelerate their success, lower their risks, and optimize business results.”

STVP

- "The launch of the GIST Network platform will directly support entrepreneurs around the world in tackling the challenges of the 21st century,” said Stanford Engineering Professor and STVP Co-Director Tom Byers. “As the entrepreneurship center in Stanford’s School of Engineering, STVP is honored to share learning resources to support this growing community of aspiring entrepreneurs who will bring breakthrough ideas to the world.”

U.S. Department of State:

- “Today technology affords people an ever-growing opportunity to fulfill their potential,” said Catherine Novelli, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment. “GIST Net is a new and important technology resource that provides entrepreneurs with the tools they need to address challenges in their communities, build markets, and succeed.”

Venture Well:

- "VentureWell (formerly NCIIA) is pleased to partner with GIST in supporting the emergence of a pipeline of entrepreneurs equipped to transform their ideas into marketable solutions for their communities and the planet. We are enthusiastic to be part of this diverse global powerhouse of organizations coming together to meet the increasing demand for entrepreneurship training and mentoring around the world,” said VentureWell President and CEO Phil Weilerstein.