Nation’s First Cross-Border Latino VC Firm Announces Its First Investments

LEAP Global Partners Launches Its First Early Stage Fund, LEAP Partners I

InVESTS in disruptive Latino-led companies: Listo and PayStand

PALO ALTO, CA June 26, 2017 -- LEAP Global Partners announced the launch of its first early stage venture capital fund, LEAP Partners I. LEAP’s mission is to develop, connect and invest in talented Latin American entrepreneurs working on impactful global solutions in the areas of finance, marketplaces, health, education, shared economy and media. The first fund, LEAP Partners I is a cross-border partnership with a strategic Limited Partner network that includes members of some of the most prominent family-owned enterprises in Mexico, as well as US investors, and will primarily focus on US Latino and Mexico based entrepreneurs.

“We are excited to launch a first of its kind, cross-border venture capital fund seeking to invest in one of the largest untapped entrepreneur opportunities: the Latino entrepreneur,” said Roman Leal, Managing General Partner of LEAP Partners I. “Only one percent of all venture capital-backed companies is Latino-owned. Our hope is that our investment fund, strategic LP network and co-investment partners will serve as a catalyst for the next wave of global innovation by identifying, connecting and investing in the most talented entrepreneurs across the Americas.”

In conjunction with the first close of its fund, LEAP announced its early stage investments in two disruptive Latino-led companies in California: Listo of San Jose and PayStand of Scotts Valley.

"LEAP has the unique opportunity to serve as a bridge between Latin America and US Latino-led startups, beginning with companies headquartered along the West Coast Technology corridor,” said Giovanni Rodriguez, a Forbes contributor and advisor to startups and regional hubs that support them. "With investments in companies based in Silicon Valley, Scotts Valley, and with a pipeline of potential investments down the coast of California, LEAP is already beginning to light up that corridor while blazing a new path that others might follow."

Jeremy Almond, CEO of PayStand notes, “one of the most compelling parts of working with the LEAP team is their focus on partnering with startups to help them grow beyond just a U.S. centric business. The partners at LEAP have the operating experience and the connections, to help startups lead the next wave of digital transformation across the Americas.”

LEAP is ready to support the growth of the next generation of innovation through strategic partnerships and its cross-border network.

“We are excited to collaborate with LEAP Global Partners in our journey to provide life changing financial services to the large underserved US Hispanic community,” said Samuel Ulloa, Co-
Founder of Listo. LEAP’s cross-border network and strategic partnerships will help fuel Listo’s growth and enable us to reach and help millions of hardworking families across America.”

About LEAP Global Partners
LEAP Global Partners is an early stage venture capital firm aimed at identifying and investing in the most impactful technologies created by the most talented entrepreneurs across the Americas. Through its in-house accelerator, LEAP Innovation Lab, LEAP accelerates its portfolio companies utilizing a range of tech, growth and professional services. Together, with the collaboration of strategic investors, enterprises and governments, LEAP maximizes returns for all partners & stakeholders. For more information, visit www.leapglobalpartners.com.

About Listo
Listo is a socially responsible consumer facing company that offers life changing financial services to the hard-working yet underserved Latinos in the US in a highly transparent and aspirational way. Listo leverages technology to empower the community with relevant and insightful information to help them make smarter decisions about their financial goals putting them on a path toward a healthier and brighter financial future. Listo is built by an immigrant team that had previously built a billion-dollar company, with domain expertise in financial services and the Latino communities in particular.

About Paystand
PayStand’s mission is to use modern Internet, Blockchain, and SaaS technologies to transform B2B payments. PayStand’s revolutionary "Payments as a Service" model creates a smart billing & payment network that can digitize receivables, automate processing, reduce time-to-cash, lower transaction costs, and enable new revenue. Enterprises from manufacturers and distributors, to software platforms and service providers use PayStand’s flexible platform to integrate digital payments into their websites, invoices, billing systems, mobile applications, and ERPs. For more information, visit www.paystand.com.

Disclaimer:
This press release is for information purposes only and is issued by LEAP Global Partners to members of the financial press and media and the information contained herein should not be construed as investment advice. This is not an offer or solicitation to sell securities of, or financial interests in, the Fund. Investment in the Fund is limited to a restricted pool of investors, namely “Accredited Investors” and others not requiring disclosure by prospectus as defined under applicable securities laws.

For more information, please contact Eva Carrillo at eva@leapglobalpartners.com.
---