



## Mayor's Office of the Chief Technology Officer

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### **CITY OF NEW YORK MAYOR'S OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER RELEASES HOW-TO GUIDE FOR CREATING "MOONSHOT" CIVIC TECH CHALLENGES**

*The NYCx "Moonshot Launchpad" will guide government, technology industry, and academia to build and launch Moonshot challenges to address global issues.*

**NEW YORK**— The NYC Mayor's Office of the Chief Technology Officer in partnership with Cornell Tech, today released the [NYCx Moonshot Launchpad](#): a free, downloadable how-to guide that city agencies, community organizations, and industry partners around the world can use to define issues in the public realm that can be addressed through Moonshot challenges.

The NYCx Moonshot is a challenge that invites global problem-solvers to partner with the City to develop and test novel solutions that can address pressing urban problems with the goal of improving lives. After two successful NYCx Moonshot Challenges, the Moonshot Launchpad is the first-of-its-kind guide that provides insight into the NYCx methodology for selecting, defining, and drafting Moonshot challenges.

"The NYCx Moonshot Launchpad was born from collaboration with New York City agencies, entrepreneurs and tech industry partners wanting to work together to solve urban challenges," said **Jeremy M. Goldberg, Deputy CTO of NYCx and Managing Director of NYC Digital**.

"The Launchpad is derived from the development of our first two challenges focused on Connectivity and Climate Action – from mapping the problem to defining an outcome. Now, this resource is available to any organization or government agency seeking to pursue their own Moonshot and serve the public realm."

"At Cornell Tech, our mission is to develop pioneering leaders and technologies that will have real world impact, and the Moonshot Launchpad is a great example of that. Our team at Cornell Tech worked closely with the Mayor's Office develop this unique platform to allow cities and organizations around the world tackle urban challenges with the goal of improving daily lives," said **Arnaud Sahuguet, director of the Foundry at Cornell Tech**. "We commend the Mayor's

Office of the Chief Technology Officer for this cutting-edge concept and look forward to seeing the innovations that result from it!"

Since its formation in late 2017, the Mayor's Office of the Chief Technology Officer has launched and announced the winners of two Moonshot challenges.

The first 'Moonshot Challenge,' announced in late 2017, was the Trust for Governors Island Connectivity Challenge. The Challenge showcased Governors Island as an ideal testbed for internet connectivity solutions. Global entrepreneurs and technologists were invited to propose and test their solutions to deliver hi-speed broadband and 5G cellular service on Governors Island, with the opportunity to deliver the technology more broadly across the City's five boroughs and help accelerate Mayor de Blasio's goal to bring high-speed, affordable internet to all New Yorkers.

Finalists for the Governors Island Connectivity Challenge worked with the Trust for Governors Island and the Mayor's Office of the Chief Technology Officer to build and test solutions on the island. Fiberless Networks, based in Quincy, MA, the winner, has begun deploying connectivity on Governors Island with plans to continue over the next several years. The 5G technology is the first of its kind in any New York City open space, and is serving as a test case for advancing broadband, Wi-Fi and 5G cellular service throughout the City.

"NYCx's Connectivity Challenge established Governors Island as a flexible testbed for testing and deploying next generation 5G wireless technology, while delivering an important amenity for hundreds of thousands of visitors, tenants and vendors," said **Michael Samuelian, president and CEO of The Trust for Governors Island**. The Moonshot Launchpad will help find solutions for deploying wireless technology in public spaces and showcase how public WIFI can better connect New Yorkers."

The NYCx Climate Action Challenge, announced in December 2017, was the second Moonshot Challenge. The challenge called on the tech industry to develop solutions for scaling electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and help accelerate adoption of EVs citywide with the aim to advance the Mayor de Blasio's promise to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by the year 2050. Over 30 local and global proposals with breakthrough technology solutions, including solar canopies, energy-harnessing infrastructure, and software to connect vehicle batteries to the energy grid to reduce greenhouse gas.

"With our first Climate Moonshot challenge, we brought together creative and brilliant minds to revolutionize electric vehicle charging in our city," said **Mark Chambers, Director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Sustainability**. "With the public Launchpad, we can help unlock solutions to urgent, all-hands-on-deck problems everywhere."

"Collaboration with the NYCx initiative enabled the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) to uncover emerging technology providers from the global marketplace who may help the City expand on-street electric vehicle charging in New York without cluttering our already crowded streets," said **Michael Replogle, Deputy Commissioner for Policy at the NYC DOT**. "Participating in the NYCx Challenge aided our learning and cut

months off the process of exploring alternative technology solutions, while building better interagency partnerships for solutions.”

In August 2018, Mayor De Blasio, in partnership with NYC’s Mayor’s Office of the Chief Technology Officer, NYC Mayor’s Office of Sustainability, NYC’s Department of Citywide Administrative Services, and NYC’s Department of Transportation announced Ubitricity, a German electric mobility company, as the winner of the NYCx Climate Action Challenge. Ubitricity’s technology, which will be tested further in New York City, allows lampposts to be transformed with outlets into electric vehicle charging points that users can connect to with personally-owned smart charging cables that have built-in meters. This technology has the potential to enable the City to deploy curbside vehicle charging more quickly, with lower cost, and with less street clutter than other approaches.

Ubitricity’s retrofit technology is being used in Germany, the United Kingdom, and France. Prior to the NYCx Climate Action Challenge, the technology had not been showcased in the United States. If a pilot program is successful, the Department of Transportation and Department of Citywide Administrative Services will explore a possible near-term, multi-year demonstration project that could include chargers in light poles and new cordless, stand-alone charging points. Working together with the tech industry and the academic community, government can better solve some of the most pressing challenges facing our city,” said **Lisette Camilo, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services**. “As the agency that manages the nation’s largest municipal vehicle fleet, we are proud to be a partner in one of the Moonshot Challenges to explore how to use breakthrough electric vehicle charging technologies to replace all gas-powered vehicles in NYC. This new how-to guide will help others to replicate a successful model to meet community needs.”

“To help with outreach for the 2020 decennial census, NYCx has offered creative tools to better enable people to answer the census questionnaire,” said **Joseph J. Salvo, Director, Population Division, NYC Department of City Planning**.

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**About MOCTO:** The Mayor’s Office of the CTO is led by the New York City Chief Technology Officer. We’re making broadband, smart city technologies, digital services, and the tech industry work for all New Yorkers. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/cto](http://www.nyc.gov/cto) and for regular updates connect with us via [www.twitter.com/NYC\\_CTO](https://www.twitter.com/NYC_CTO).

**About Cornell Tech:** Cornell Tech brings together faculty, business leaders, tech entrepreneurs and students in a catalytic environment to produce visionary results grounded in significant needs that will reinvent the way we live in the digital age. Cornell Tech launched in 2012 and the first phase of its permanent campus on Roosevelt Island opened fall 2017, with students and faculty conducting groundbreaking research, collaborating extensively with tech-oriented companies and organizations and pursuing their own startups. When fully completed, the campus will include two million square feet and will be home to more than 2,000 graduate students and hundreds of faculty and staff.