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**Industrial Tech Startups Experience Growth At Maple Ventures in West Des Moines**

**West Des Moines, Iowa:** [Maple Ventures](#) opened its doors last August with a mission to provide support to industrial technology startups, allowing them to focus on innovation and product advancement. Since the launch of the West Des Moines entrepreneur support center, the startups involved have seen some major growth and changes. The initial startups, including [FarrPro](#), [MakuSafe](#) and [HartSmart Products](#), have either achieved their goal of opening a new facility on their own or have significantly grown their business within Maple Venture's structure.

Hank Norem, CEO of Ramco Innovations and the man who initiated the founding of Maple Ventures said, "The energy and excitement that start-ups and early-stage companies bring to Maple Ventures and our core business, Ramco Innovations, is electric. We thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to meet and work with innovators who are looking to bring high-tech products to the market."

Some of the exciting growth includes: [FarrPro](#), an agtech startup, began their relationship with Maple Ventures via remote administrative services. Before long they grew into a Maple Ventures workspace and warehouse use. Now, they have grown even further, warranting their very own space at 6290 NE Industry Dr. in Des Moines. FarrPro creates innovative, energy-efficient solutions for livestock producers who want to improve the health, welfare, and quality of life of their animals. Their flagship product focuses on keeping piglets warm and healthy as they grow.

"Maple Ventures and the Ramco team were exactly what we needed after we graduated from the [Iowa AgriTech Accelerator](#) program. As we look forward to moving into our new manufacturing facility, we do so with confidence that this transition is coming at the right time - confidence we gained by working with the Maple team to develop our product and scale our operations. The support Hank and his team have given us has, in many ways, kept us on track and in line with our projections during a critical phase in our company's development. Our partnership with Maple also facilitated fundraising by reassuring our investors that we had the operational support needed to bring a complex hardware product to market. Maple Ventures occupies a unique space in the startup ecosystem -- one that will only grow in importance as Iowa continues to become a place where good ideas can become great companies." Amos Peterson, Co-Founder, FarrPro

[HartSmart Products](#) connected with Maple Ventures by hosting a monthly meetup in the training center. The startup then progressed to utilizing office space and some shipping/receiving capabilities, ultimately deciding to move on to their own facility after experiencing growth.

Brandon Hart, Founder of HartSmart Products, said, “Maple Ventures gave me the external visibility my business needed and helped me gain the perspective I needed to proceed. Being able to utilize the administrative services they provide was invaluable. I was able to start making decisions based on the numbers instead of just trusting my gut. I would not be moving HartSmart Products into its own shop without the support of Maple Ventures this past year.”

[MakuSafe](#) has become well-known in startup and tech circles after their most recent successful funding round. The insurtech startup uses a wearable device and a proprietary software program to help keep industrial workers safer on the job. They started working with Maple Ventures through administrative services, then moved into an office space that allowed them to expand their team. Now that production has started, Maple Ventures (in partnership with [Ramco Innovations](#)) will also hold inventory. Gabriel Glynn, CEO and Co-Founder of MakuSafe has been vocal about the various benefits Maple Ventures provides startups. He said, “One unexpected benefit of being inside of Maple Ventures is how much it has helped with our customer prospects and investors. They see the resources that are at our disposal to help us grow and it provides instant credibility.”

Most recently, Maple Ventures has seen increased interest in its remote services and training center as a meeting and special event space. [Ag Manufacturing & Technology \(AMT\)](#), the [AgriTech Accelerator](#) and [1 Million Cups](#) have benefited from Maple Venture’s remote administrative services and event space. Additionally, Maple Ventures has hosted events and workshops for area agencies such as CIRAS and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA).

#### **Upcoming Events at Maple Ventures:**

- 1 Million Cups Des Moines will be hosting a 1MC event beginning at 7:30 am at Maple Ventures on Wednesday, July 17.
- The Iowa Agritech Accelerator will host its Manufacturing Panel on Wednesday, July 17 at 10:30 am at Maple Ventures.

#### **About Maple Ventures**

Maple Ventures supports industrial startups and early-stage companies at its facilities in West Des Moines, Iowa. Founded by [Ramco Innovations](#) in 2018, Maple Ventures seeks to boost industrial innovation and technology in Central Iowa by providing a stable, collaborative environment and infrastructure for technology businesses, allowing them to focus on product development and advancement.

Work space and services are available. Space includes training center for events, as well as office and/or desk space for industrial tech startups. Submit inquiries to [info@mapleventures.us](mailto:info@mapleventures.us)

**Maple Venture’s [press kit](#)**

**Story-related photos available at: <http://bit.ly/2Y5fHso>**