



ION
DISTRICT



RICE | ALLIANCE

Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship

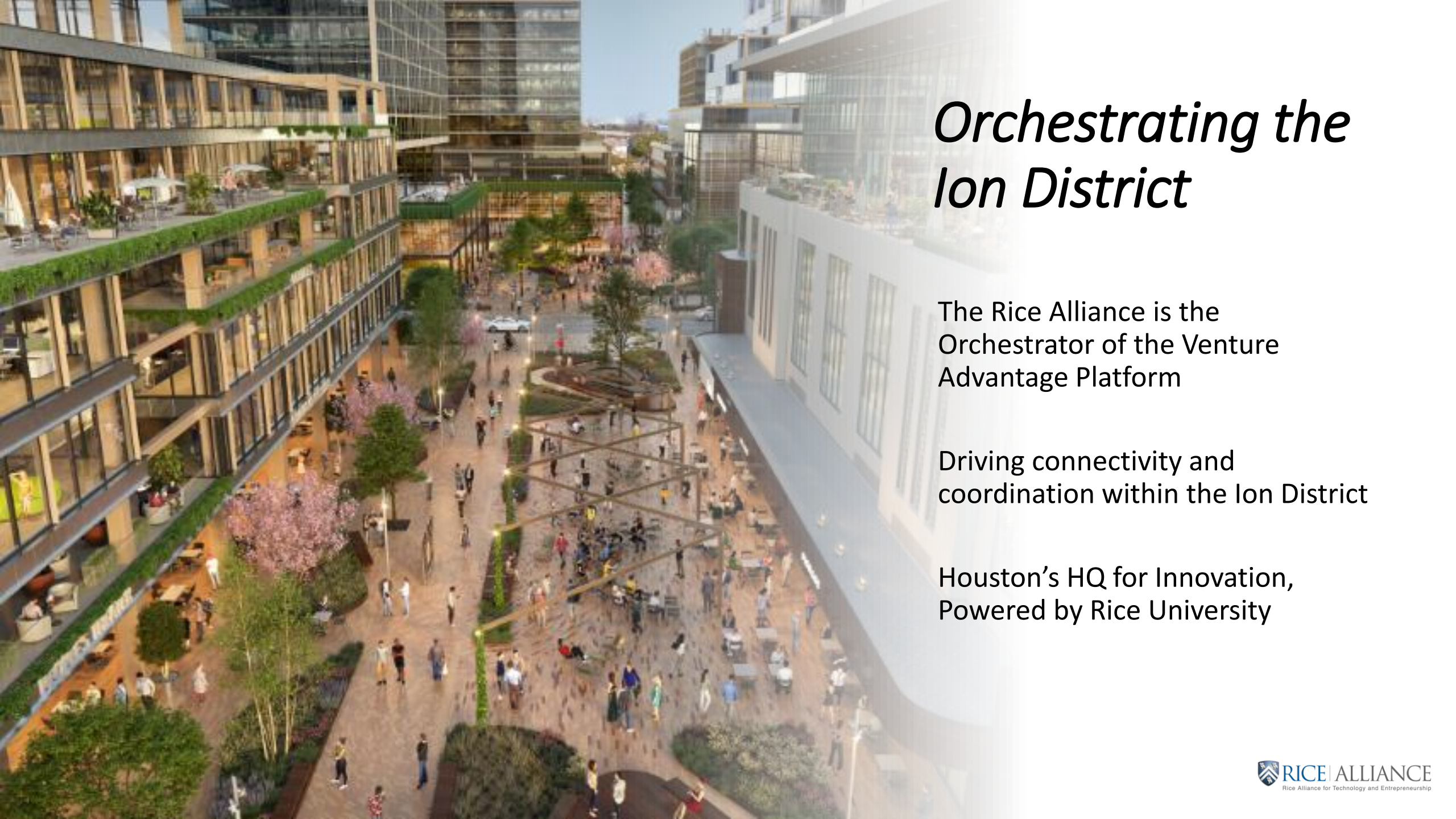
Houston's Venture Advantage Platform



John (JR) Reale, Jr.
Executive Director



We help people pursue their life's work.



Orchestrating the Ion District

The Rice Alliance is the
Orchestrator of the Venture
Advantage Platform

Driving connectivity and
coordination within the Ion District

Houston's HQ for Innovation,
Powered by Rice University





OUR IMPACT

3,714

Companies in our programming over 20+ years

1,582

Programs, events, and meetings were hosted at the Ion in 2025

\$31.46+ B

In funding raised by participating startups over 20+ years

#1

Rice Business Grad Entrepreneurship Program by Princeton Review since 2018

RICE | BUSINESS

PRESENTS THE



RICE BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

April 8-10, 2027

HOUSTON TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION TASK FORCE



BECOME LEADING
TESTING GROUND FOR
NEW TECHNOLOGIES



“Trillions of dollars in economic value is created by the technology sector, with much of that growth driven by startups. Technology creates more jobs than it displaces, and advances such as artificial intelligence will improve living standards in many ways.”

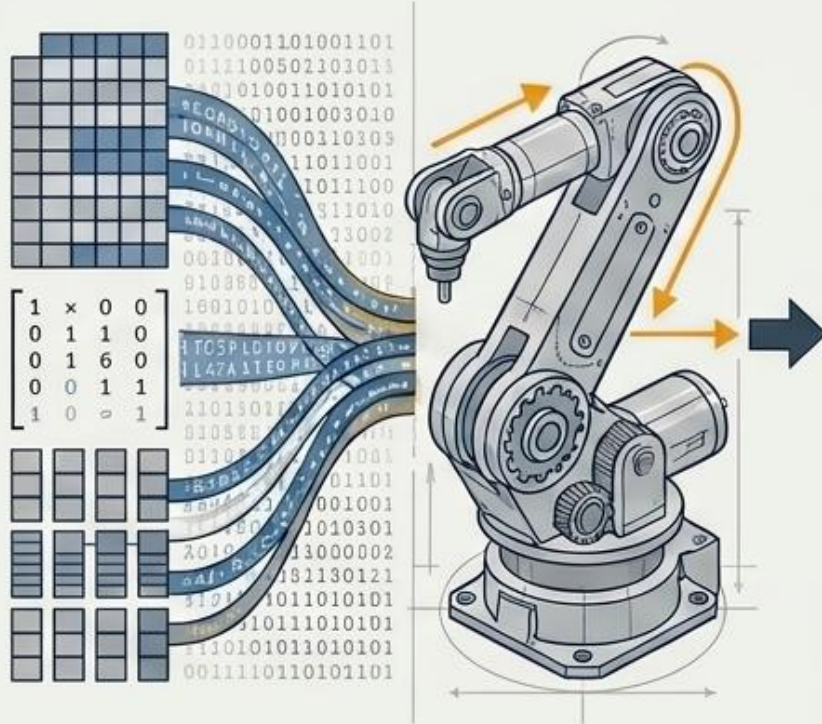
Global Startup Ecosystem Report
Startup Genome Project 2017

DEVELOP AN INSPIRING
INNOVATION DISTRICT

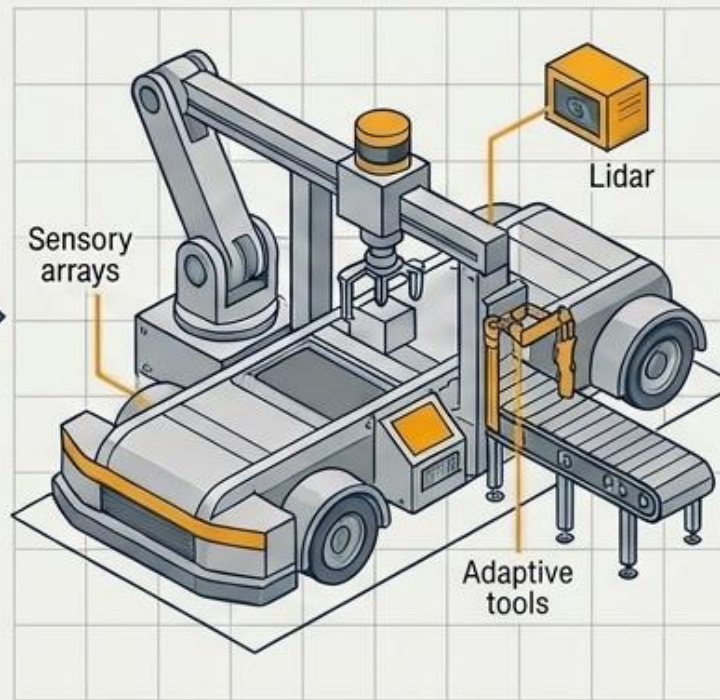


THE TRANSITION FROM DIGITAL INTELLIGENCE TO PHYSICAL AI

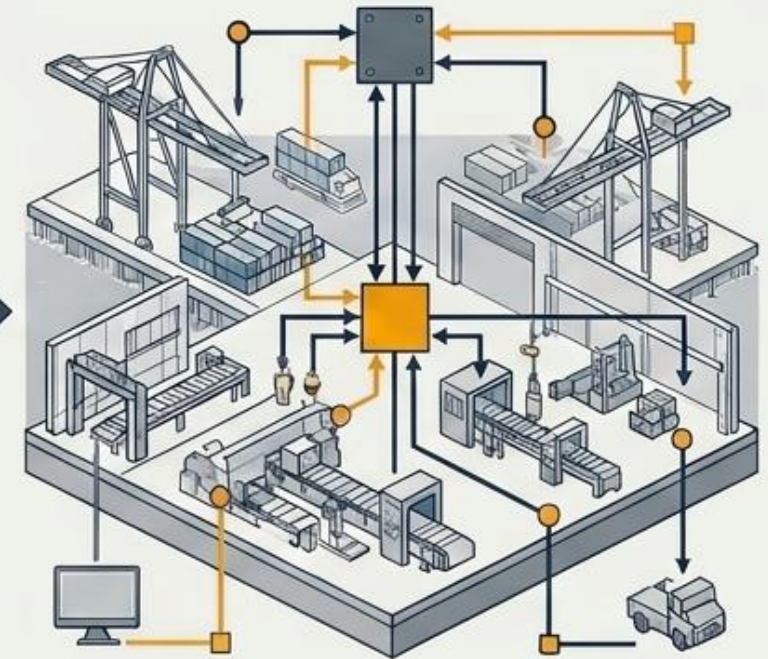
Intelligent physical action



Autonomous and adaptive physical systems

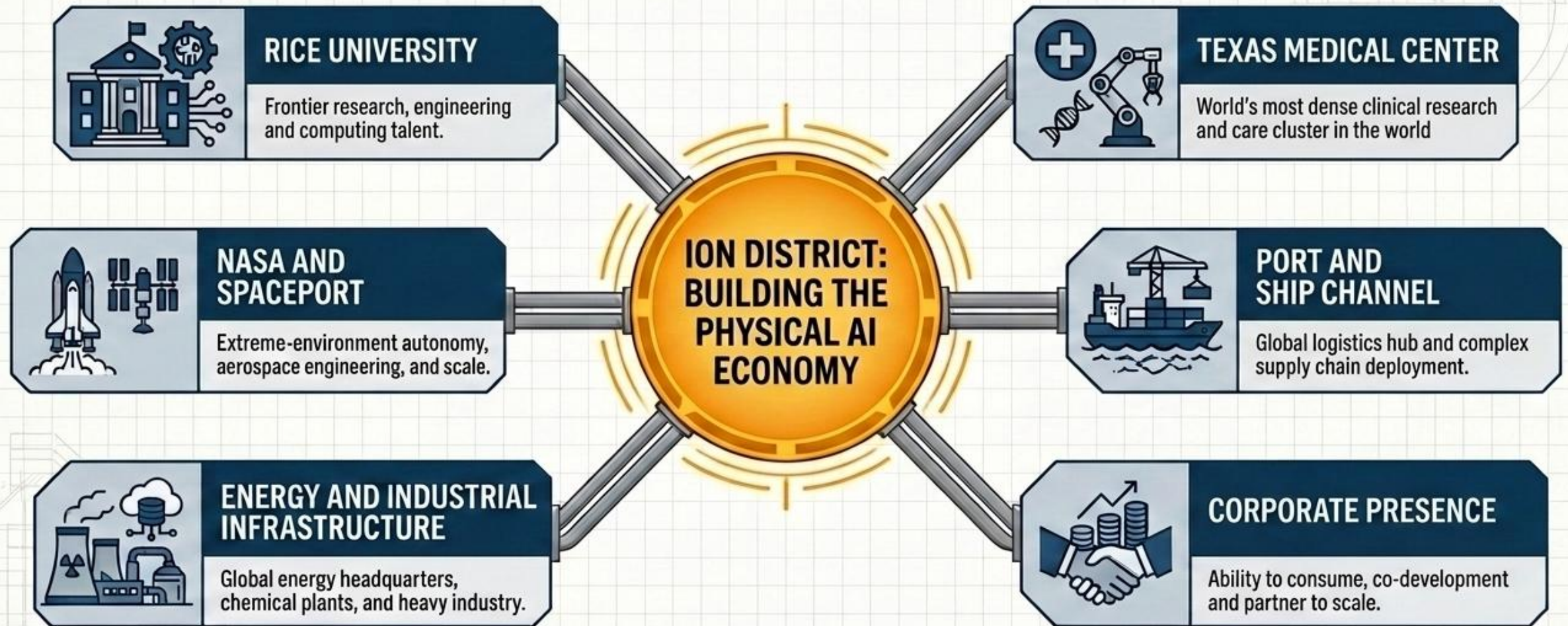


Intelligent machines, facilities, and infrastructure



The next economic advantage will accrue to regions that can combine AI and compute with complex industries, scientific expertise, physical infrastructure, and real-world operating environments.

HOUSTON HAS A DISTINCTIVE RIGHT TO WIN IN THE PHYSICAL AI ECONOMY



[4] Source: Greater Houston Partnership Regional Data.

HOUSTON

Sept. 14-18, 2026

houstonenergyclimatestartupweek.com

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

23rd ANNUAL RICE ALLIANCE ENERGY TECH VENTURE FORUM

FEATURED KEYNOTES



KEYNOTE

Ira Ehrenpreis

Founder and Managing
Partner of DBL Partners



KEYNOTE

Sean Maher

Vice President,
Investor Relations and Chief
Economist at Phillips 66



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