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## **STLVENTUREWORKS RECEIVES GLOBAL SOFT LANDINGS DESIGNATION**

*InBIA program to attract and welcome foreign startups*

**St. Louis, October 27, 2015**—STLVentureWorks, a small business incubator, is pleased to announce it has been awarded the Soft Landings designation from InBIA to support international startups moving to St. Louis. InBIA is an international non-profit organization and global advocate for the support of building entrepreneurial-driven economic ecosystems. Soft Landings provides resources to better assimilate international businesses into the St. Louis business community.

[STLVentureWorks](#) is the first incubator in St. Louis and the first incubator system in Missouri to be awarded the designation. Only 18 incubators have achieved this status nationally. As a part of [St. Louis Economic Development Partnership](#), STLVentureWorks collaborates with many St. Louis partner organizations to help global Soft Landings thrive in St. Louis.

There has been an immensely positive feedback on this triumph:

### **Sheila Sweeney, CEO of the Partnership**

"We are extremely happy and honored to be recognized as an incubator system that welcomes startups from all over the world. It will enable us to attract startups and focus on innovative ways to grow our economy."

### **Anna Crosslin, president/CEO of International Institute of St. Louis**

"We are pleased to hear that the Partnership has been awarded with this designation. The International Institute of St. Louis looks forward to working with them and assisting the Soft Landings with our expertise."

### **Anthony Bartlett, founder of St. Louis Transplants**

"St. Louis Transplants gladly welcomes all new Soft Landings to this city and we hope to assist them with finding community and friendship in St. Louis. Congratulations to the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership for achieving this designation."

### **Kirstie Chadwick, president and CEO of InBIA**

"InBIA's Soft Landings program was created to help entrepreneurial support organizations gain international awareness for the highly specialized services they offer. St. Louis Economic Development Partnership has earned this distinction for its demonstrated success helping foreign companies succeed in their domestic market. We are excited to announce their incubator system as our newest Soft Landings designee."

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*accredited economic development organization*



This designation comes at a crucial time with the growth of the Global Plant Life Sciences cluster, where the Helix Center Biotech Incubator is located.

**Sam Fiorello, COO of Danforth Plant Science Center, president of Bio Research & Development Growth (BRDG) Park**

“Attracting international companies to the region is an important component to our strategy to grow our innovation ecosystem and goes hand-in-hand with promoting local entrepreneurship. Our entire community benefits when innovators from other parts of the world choose the Saint Louis region to build and grow their businesses. I believe that the Helix Center’s International Soft Landing designation will tell innovators worldwide that our region is open for business.”

The Soft Landings designation shows the community continues to look forward to developing the entrepreneurial ecosystem with the help of this designation. The first Helix Center Soft Landings company, [Kaiima](#), was founded in Israel and will join the program in November 2015.

**STLVentureWorks – [www.stlventureworks.com](http://www.stlventureworks.com)**

Launched in 1994, STLVentureWorks has a network of five incubators supporting 600-700 entrepreneurs. The STLVentureWorks team provides on-site assistance, learning workshops, networking opportunities and customized mentoring. Each location is different, offering a range of office, meeting, retail, warehouse, manufacturing and laboratory space.

**St. Louis Economic Development Partnership – [www.stlpartnership.com](http://www.stlpartnership.com)**

Established in 2013, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership brings together the economic development agencies from St. Louis County and City of St. Louis to drive growth, generate prosperity and catalyze investment. As a distinguished Accredited Economic Development Organization, the Partnership provides a broad range of services, including entrepreneurial support (financing and incubators), business expansion and retention, real estate and community development and international trade support through World Trade Center St. Louis.

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