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**Austin Blockchain Month Showcases Distributed Ledger  
and Crypto Innovation Throughout October**

***Austin Blockchain Collective Adds New Patrons, Grows to 120 Members***

**Austin, TX, October 1, 2018** – The Austin Blockchain Collective, a trade association that advocates for blockchain and crypto innovation, today kicked off the inaugural Austin Blockchain Month with the first of 10 events designed to educate, inform and inspire, while also focused on strengthening Austin’s 120-company distributed ledger and crypto ecosystem. The Collective, which also announced continued and new Patronage from Wanchain, NEM and TWO12, aims to establish Austin as a global center of blockchain innovation.

Today’s Capital Factory-led Austin Startup Week Blockchain Track comprises sessions for those both new to the technology and more experienced professionals. The day begins at 9.30am with an introductory podcast that will be recorded in front of a live audience. Other sessions will focus on how blockchain is being used by artists, how blockchain is being leveraged for social impact, introductions to new public blockchain platforms and business applications and issues related to blockchain and distributed ledgers.

Further events during the month include: the Emerge ICO Forum; a UT Blockchain/Crypto research showcase event; the 4<sup>th</sup> running of the Texas Bitcoin Conference; and the Collective's end-of-month Town Hall and Company Showcase. All of the events, which are mostly free, are listed at [www.austinblockchaincollective.com](http://www.austinblockchaincollective.com).

Austin Blockchain Month is also an opportunity to expose the innovation of the Collective's Patrons – Wanchain, NEM and TWO12 – which provide both financial support and leadership direction to drive its mission forward.

Wanchain, a blockchain platform focused on interoperability and which helped found the Collective in March, has continued to build its presence in Austin and has released important capabilities related to blockchain interoperability.

"Wanchain is a strong supporter of the Collective and its mission. In our opinion, Austin is the top city in America for blockchain innovation and talent. Having the Collective facilitate idea sharing, relationship building, and learning is immensely valuable to the whole community, as well as our business. Wanchain gives back to the Collective by providing cross-chain and interoperability expertise, providing leadership on the Board, as well as financially supporting initiatives and growth. It will be exciting to watch the Collective grow rapidly in tandem with the industry," said Jack Lu, Founder & CEO, Wanchain.

In addition to Wanchain's continuing support, the Collective is today announcing two additional Patrons: NEM and TWO12.

NEM is a blockchain platform that originated in Japan that has already been leveraged for several applications, but with a particular capability to support Internet-of-Things architectures. The organization has recently established its North American headquarters in Austin.

"We believe NEM's plug and play blockchain technology platform and the Austin Blockchain Collective can open doors for Austin's thriving startup ecosystem. NEM was designed to be the easiest and safest blockchain for business data. With hundreds of companies across the globe building and deploying on NEM's private and public chains, it's exciting for us to work alongside the Collective to amplify blockchain innovation and education in Texas," noted Alexandra Tinsman, Region Head, NEM North America.

TWO12, which emerged from stealth today, has a mission to finance the future with security tokens.

"The Austin blockchain community is accelerating at a breathtaking rate. Austin Blockchain Month will serve as an incredible opportunity to give the rest of the world a glimpse into all that the Austin Blockchain Collective has been working on. One of our theses at the Collective is that collaboration and community are competitive advantages – working together we will drive innovation and cement Austin's place as a leader in the global blockchain community. At TWO12 we are particularly passionate about expanding Austin's blockchain, tech, and startup

culture into the broader financial services and technology industry. Wall Street 2.0 is live in Texas,” commented Dustin Byington, CEO, TWO12 and Oversight Board Chair of the Collective. Byington will discuss security tokens and TWO12 in depth at the Collective’s October 15 community meetup.

The continued and additional Patronage of the Collective announced today will underpin and accelerate a number of activities and projects already underway, including collaborations with the City of Austin’s Innovation Office, Dell Medical School and the UT Blockchain Initiative.

“Since launching at SXSW this year with 40 members, the Collective has grown rapidly and we have put in place a structure of partnerships and working groups that allow Austin blockchain and crypto companies to build and grow their businesses. We believe this organic growth in our community is essential to establishing Austin as a world class blockchain center,” said Pete Harris, Principal of consulting firm Lighthouse Partners and Executive Director of the Austin Blockchain Collective.

The Collective has already formed a healthcare working group led by Dell Medical School, which is actively assessing blockchain startups for its Texas Health Catalyst incubator program. Other working groups are being formed to allow members to collaborate on the fintech and supply chain verticals, and on technology architectures to marry blockchain with artificial intelligence and machine learning applications.

### **About the Austin Blockchain Collective**

The Austin Blockchain Collective advocates for and showcases blockchain and crypto companies, projects and innovation exploding in Austin, TX. The mission of the Collective is to establish Austin (and the Texas Triangle region) as a recognized global center of innovation in the blockchain space. Practically, it is leading activities that provide tangible benefits to local blockchain/crypto companies and projects whose daily work is making the Collective's mission a reality.

Patrons and Supporters of the Collective include: Wanchain, NEM, TWO12, BLOQspace, Capital Factory, CognitiveScale, Kilroy Blockchain, Lighthouse Partners, Massing PR, Pouch Points and TEN Capital Group.

For more information about the Collective, visit [www.austinblockchaincollective.com](http://www.austinblockchaincollective.com) or email [info@austinblockchaincollective.com](mailto:info@austinblockchaincollective.com).