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PRESS RELEASE

IBM to Present at New Austin Blockchain for Business Meetup Group on May 25
Event Organized by Local Business Accelerator Lighthouse Partners, Inc.

Austin, TX – May 4, 2016 – The Austin Blockchain for Business Meetup Group organized by Lighthouse Partners, Inc. will hold its first meeting this month in downtown Austin, featuring a presentation by IBM on the open source Hyperledger Project. The group will meet monthly, featuring leading blockchain innovators, including several Austin-based companies. Lighthouse Partners, Inc. is a **business and technology consulting firm providing business acceleration services for innovative enterprise technologies** founded by 40-year Fintech veteran Pete Harris.

On Wednesday, May 25, IBM Software Architect Gautham Pamu will present on “The Hyperledger Project and Blockchain Use Cases”. The presentation will be business oriented and suitable for those new to the technology. A demonstration of a blockchain application will also be delivered, and there will be time set aside for in-depth questions and answers.

The kick off meetup, which is free to attend, is being held at the new Galvanize campus in downtown Austin, between 6pm and 8pm. Registration is required to attend the meetup, and attendance is limited due to space availability. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/1SB4RUA>.

Acknowledged by business and technology leaders as a development as important as that of the internet itself, blockchain technology provides a mechanism for individuals and companies to collaborate, share information and conduct secure transactions in a direct one-to-one manner, without the need for a third party audit or control mechanism. The technology, also referred to as distributed ledgers, is being explored by many Fortune 500 companies and by governments as a way to increase business efficiency, reduce costs and comply with regulations.

“We are delighted to have IBM present at this first ‘Austin Blockchain for Business Meetup’, since it has taken an early lead in delivering a business vision for this game changing technology,” said Peter Harris, Principal at Lighthouse Partners, which has focused on blockchain approaches for the past two years, including hosting February’s The Block Chain Conference in San Francisco.

A number of IBM’s blockchain-focused executives are based in Austin. Other blockchain companies with operations in the area include Anthem Vault, Factom, Integrity Chain, Satoshi Talent and Tendermint.

Future meetups – to be held on the final Wednesday of each month at the Galvanize facility

– will include presentations from some of these local companies, as well as from global IT powerhouses and innovative startups. The focus of each meetup will be business oriented, highlighting applications of blockchain technology and exploring issues related to its widespread adoption. Technical aspects will be covered at a high level.

About Lighthouse Partners, Inc.

Lighthouse Partners, Inc. is a business and technology consulting firm providing business acceleration services related to innovative enterprise technologies with specific focuses on go-to-market and growth strategies involving partnerships, thought leadership creation and events. Lighthouse Partners, Inc. works directly with global IT innovators to analyze business opportunities and create launch and business growth plans for a range of technologies, including blockchain, distributed ledgers, API management, in-memory big data analytics, compute acceleration, low-latency middleware and high performance cloud.

Founder Pete Harris applies his 40 years of business and technology experience and extensive knowledge of enterprise technologies through Lighthouse Partners, Inc. to help accelerate market development with education, market intelligence, POV, product positioning and customer engagement programs. Pete Harris is also an industry analyst, author, community organizer and conference producer, and has curated and edited online resources covering block chain deployment across a number of vertical markets.

More information can be found at www.lighthouse-partners.com.

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