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Press Release

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Mayor Turner, Partnership lead trade mission to the United Kingdom and Germany to grow business, cultural ties

Industries of focus include energy, life sciences, manufacturing and logistics

HOUSTON, TEXAS (U.S.A.) – The Greater Houston Partnership and Mayor Sylvester Turner will lead a trade and investment mission to the United Kingdom and Germany from July 7 to July 15. The mission will focus on promoting Houston's advantages for investment and trade and enhancing key government and business relationships between the Houston region and the United Kingdom and Germany. Targeted business sectors include energy, life sciences, manufacturing and logistics. Several representatives from the delegation, including Mayor Turner and Bob Harvey, will also travel to Istanbul, Turkey on July 12 to accept Houston's nomination as the destination for the World Petroleum Congress in 2020.

"As key investors in the region, both the United Kingdom and Germany are important markets in our efforts to expand Houston's economic and cultural reach around the world," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "This delegation will build upon the excellent relationship Houston shares with these two countries. Houston is an innovative, opportunity city, and we look forward to the exchange of ideas with our fellow global cities."

Houston is a sought-after location for global firms headquartered in Europe for investment opportunities and as a location to establish their headquarters. "Each year, more global companies are discovering that Houston offers excellent global access, a diverse and educated talent pool, along with a world-class quality of life for their employees," said Bob Harvey, President and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership. "Houston is uniquely positioned as a hub for the Americas, not only as a location to manufacture and export, but also as a strategic partner in the exchange of technology, expertise and best practices with our global counterparts."



To capitalize on this key relationship, the delegation will host a series of forums to exchange best practices and intellectual capital in energy, life sciences, manufacturing and logistics.

The delegates will tour London's Shoreditch innovation district to observe best practices in developing an innovation ecosystem around tech startups, and cultivating urban regeneration in the community. The City and the Partnership are currently undergoing efforts to boost Houston's innovation ecosystem, including recently announced plans to develop Houston's own innovation district. Additionally, delegates will meet with high-level government officials and corporate decision-makers.

Houston is home to the largest medical center in the world with the highest density of clinical care, basic science and academic research on earth. Texas Medical Center is attracting biotech research, therapeutics, medical device and digital health startups and established companies from around the globe, including several Fortune 100 corporations that are planting a flag in Houston. "The TMC Innovation Institute is the largest platform for startups in the life sciences space in the United States. We are also working in collaboration with our world-renowned hospitals and academic institutions to create a translational research campus that will serve as the cornerstone for collaboration and establish Houston as the third coast of life sciences," said Bill McKeon, President and CEO of the Texas Medical Center.

With more than 100 languages spoken, Houston is the most ethnically diverse metro in the nation. In addition to business and trade opportunities, the delegation will also highlight Houston's world-class quality of life and cultural amenities. "The UK and Germany are key international leisure markets for Houston and this mission is a unique opportunity to showcase all that Houston has to offer as a tourism destination," said Jorge Franz, Senior Vice President of Tourism for Visit Houston. "In fact, on this trip, Visit Houston is partnering with the Houston Symphony to bring a trio of musicians to highlight Houston's strong cultural offerings."

Led by the City of Houston and the Greater Houston Partnership, the delegation also includes representatives from BBVA Compass, DN Commercial, Port Houston, Schlumberger, Texas Medical Center, The Village School, and Visit Houston.

Follow the mission on social media using #HoustonMission.

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Greater Houston Partnership works to make Houston one of the world's best places to live, work and build a business. It represents 11 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller. With more than 1,200 member organizations, the Partnership represents approximately one-fifth of the region's workforce. Visit the Partnership at www.houston.org.