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Anthony “Tony” Cannestra

Director of Corporate Ventures, North American Research and Engineer Center

DENSO International America, Inc.

Tony Cannestra is the director of Corporate Ventures for the North American Research and Engineer Center at DENSO’s Silicon Valley office, located in San Jose, California.

Cannestra is responsible for creating the strategy for DENSO’s efforts in the venture capital industry. He accomplishes this through identifying the pool of startup companies working on technologies of interest to DENSO and building relationships with those companies. He also creates working relationships with entrepreneurs, angel investors, incubator/accelerator companies and venture capital partnerships.

In Cannestra’s current position, he leads DENSO’s direct investment activities, which include strategy development, opportunity identification, management of internal support and approvals, investment finalization and oversight of invested startups. Additionally, he works closely with other investors in the venture capital industry to position DENSO as a high quality, active participant in the industry.

Before joining DENSO in April 2014, Cannestra served as a managing partner for Strategic Venture Partners. At Venture Partners, he provided business development and strategy consulting services to startup companies focused on growing their businesses and relations in Asia, with a primary target of Japan.

Cannestra received a Bachelor of Arts in International Economics in 1987, and Master of Business Administration in 1995, both from the University of California at Berkeley in Berkeley, California.

He is the president of the Leland High School Boosters Club.

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