

Woodside / TEX-E Fellow at Greentown Labs (Summer 2026)

Term: 10 weeks, starting June 1, 2026

Location & Time Split:

- ~60% at Greentown Labs Houston (*Primary supervisor: Amir Eskafyan*)
- ~10% at Rice University (WRDA lab)
- ~10% at Ion Houston (Woodside's Rice Nexus office)

Role Summary

The Woodside / TEX-E Fellow will serve as the **on-site lead at Greentown Labs** for the Woodside–Rice Decarbonization Accelerator (WRDA) **Plasma Foundry Project**.

This fellowship is intentionally structured as a **founder-track evaluation**—for individuals aspiring to become a **startup founder (CEO or C-level)** who may ultimately license or spin out technology developed within the plasma lab.

Mission & Objectives

- Support the **scale-up and coordination of WRDA** in preparation for the 2026 physical lab build-out
 - Lead **ecosystem engagement** to validate problem/solution fit and identify pilots and early customers
 - Design and deliver a **credible 2027 startup spin-out pathway**, including technical, market, and venture readiness inputs
-

Key Responsibilities

- Orchestrate day-to-day progress for WRDA at Greentown, including facility readiness, partner alignment, and milestone tracking tied to the 2026 build-out plan.
- Lead external engagement across the Houston innovation ecosystem to validate problem/solution fit and surface pilot opportunities.
- Produce an investor-ready **spinout plan** (venture thesis, customer pipeline, technical validation plan, budget & milestones, initial IP/regulatory map, and a draft pitch).
- Engage startups, corporates, investors, policymakers, and researchers across the Houston ecosystem

- Support and participate in external briefings, tours, and a capstone engagement event
-

Who Should Apply

- Rising final-year graduate students (e.g., 4th-year PhD or final-year MS/MBA) with **strong technical depth**
 - Candidates with a **strong desire to pursue a founder or CEO path**
 - Individuals who view this fellowship as an opportunity to **demonstrate founder readiness**
-

Core Capabilities

- **Founder mindset & execution:** Demonstrated bias for action, comfort with ambiguity, and ability to convert open-ended objectives into deliverables.
- **Technical fluency in decarbonization:** Ability to engage deeply with scientists/engineers (e.g., CCU/plasma or adjacent processes), translate lab results into milestones for pilots and scale-up, and pressure-test feasibility/risk.
- **Compelling communication:** Clear written/oral storytelling for technical and non-technical audiences; confident pitching and stakeholder facilitation.
- **Venture building skills:** Customer discovery, market sizing, competitive analysis, go-to-market design, financial modeling, and capital-raise literacy (non-dilutive and venture).
- **Inclusive stakeholder leadership:** Proven ability to convene cross-functional, cross-institutional teams and build trust across academia, startups, corporates, and investors—especially within the Houston ecosystem.
- **Program & operations savvy:** Project management in active lab/build environments (SOPs, safety/quality awareness), vendor/partner coordination, and progress reporting against timelines.
- **IP/regulatory awareness:** Practical understanding of IP pathways, university-industry agreements, and relevant standards/regulatory considerations; knows when to pull in counsel.