Tampa Bay Wave Launches Inaugural CyberTech|X Accelerator, Announces Startup Cohort

Tampa Bay Wave launches new CyberTech|X Accelerator to promote the region for cybersecurity talent and innovation, with backing from Bellini Better World, A-LIGN, KnowBe4, Ernst & Young (EY) and more.

TAMPA, FL (January 19, 2021) - Cybercrime is growing at an eye popping pace, with damage related to cybercrime projected to hit $6 trillion in 2021 alone (Cybersecurity Ventures).

Nonprofit startup accelerator, Tampa Bay Wave (Wave) is rising to the challenge by kicking off its inaugural CyberTech|X Accelerator program today, comprising fifteen promising cybersecurity technology companies from across the United States and United Kingdom.

Formed with the vision of establishing Tampa Bay's reputation as a nationally-recognized hub for cybersecurity talent and innovation, the new cybersecurity program was created with help from a $100,000 gift from local entrepreneur and ConnectWise founder, Arnie Bellini and his wife, Lauren Bellini, through their foundation, Bellini Better World. Other key funding partners include A-LIGN, KnowBe4 and EY; plus strategic partners: Aditum, Bank of America, Cyber Florida, Jabil, Raymond James, SYKES Enterprises and University of South Florida's Muma College of Business.

The 2021 CyberTech|X Accelerator is a virtual 90-day program and offers companies access to key resources such as a dedicated Cohort Director, one-on-one mentoring with notable tech founders, sales training, pitch coaching and investor introductions in an environment designed to support high-scale growth. Companies in the accelerator program will also participate in Wave's Demo Day at the conclusion of the program on April 23 to pitch their companies to an audience of accredited investors, venture capitalists and other cybersecurity industry leaders.

The program will also serve as a link between the region's tech startup community and other cybersecurity workforce development efforts, such as the University of South Florida cybersecurity degree programs and Cyber Florida.

Beyond the 90-day program, accelerator participants will also receive ongoing support through Tampa Bay Wave's virtual CORE membership which provides year-round critical mentorship, strategic introductions to investors and customers, and other valuable services to further accelerate company development.

"Tampa Bay Wave is proud to launch this new accelerator program that will not only provide support to innovative cybersecurity startups throughout the US and beyond, but also showcase the growing cluster of cybersecurity firms already in the region." said Linda Olson, president and founder of Tampa Bay Wave. "Programs like the CyberTech|X Accelerator can go a long way to further cultivate and develop tech and cybersecurity talent here in Tampa Bay. "

The CyberTech|X Accelerator is the newest accelerator program offered by Tampa Bay Wave, the only Florida-based accelerator program accepted into GAN (gan.co), a network of the most respected accelerators around the world.

Startups selected for this inaugural cohort are geographically diverse, with thirteen companies headquartered outside of Florida, including one located in London, England. While some of the startups are in the early revenue stages, others are currently generating more than 1 million in annual recurring revenue (ARR). Many of the founders include serial entrepreneurs with previous exits, former C suite executives and doctorate program graduates.

The fifteen companies participating in the 2021 CyberTech|X Accelerator cohort include:

Arcanum Technology
Arcanum Technology uses patented, knowledge-based authentication technology that allows users to create a 4 character password that never has to be changed, regardless of a data breach.
CEO: Brian Finnan
Location: Athens, GA

Arch Access
Arch Access delivers simple cybersecurity and supply chain risk management within a marketplace of resources needed to achieve compliance.
CEO: Martin Shepard
Location: Pittsburgh, PA

Castle One
Castle One offers a practical cybersecurity suite for startups that protects devices, emails, and passwords for a simple monthly fee.
CEO: Noon Eggenberger
Location: Madison, WI

Cervais, Inc
Cervais, Inc. develops products designed to provide endpoint protection to Internet of Things (IoT) devices.
CEO: James Austin
Location: Ashburn, VA

Elroi
Elroi provides consumers with data visualization and a centralized location to exercise their privacy rights and helps companies meet compliance requirements through a data ecosystem.
CEO: Rachel Cash
Location: Detroit, MI

EveryKey
EveryKey is the world's first universal smart key that wirelessly unlocks your phone, computer, tablet, door, car, and more, and automatically logs you into your online accounts when you're nearby, then locks everything down when you walk away.
CEO: Chris Wentz
Location: Cleveland, OH

Foretrace
Foretrace assesses the exposure of your infrastructure, third-party vendors, and clients with the Foretrace platform, using the same tools and techniques as cyber adversaries.
CEO: Nicholas Ascoli
Location: Woodbine, MD

Gridlock
Gridlock uses multi-party computations (MPC) to secure cryptocurrencies and other high-value digital assets. We protect what matters from both attackers and mistakes by eliminating any single point of failure. It's professional asset management that keeps owners in full control.
CEO: Derek Rodriguez
Location: London, UK

Hook Security Inc
Hook Security trains people to recognize technology-based manipulation through the latest in psychological security training techniques.
CEO: Zachary Eikenberry
Location: Greenville, SC

Outpost Security
Outpost Security modernizes security alerting for Fortune 500 companies, reducing alert fatigue, freeing up time and resources, and enabling security defenses to mature rapidly to meet the dynamic challenges of the constantly evolving internal and external threat landscape.
CEO: Will Robus
Location: Madison, WI

Phylum, Inc
Phylum, Inc is creating the next generation of software supply chain security products - providing fully automated risk analysis of software dependencies.
CEO: Aaron Bray
Location: Evergreen, CO

Refactr
Refactr is a low-code DevSecOps automation platform for everyone. Refactr's mission is to empower Developers, Security, and Operations to collaboratively operate at the speed of DevOps.
CEO: Michael Fraser
Location: Seattle, WA

SmarterD
SmarterD automates building and managing a Cybersecurity Program through our Next-Gen Cybersecurity Program Management and Analytics Platform.
CEO: Vijay Sundhar
Location: Santa Clara, CA

Tauruseer
Tauruseer is an integrated risk management platform that provides leadership visibility and control into the risk performance of their IT workforce. In a single place, enable continuous security, governance, and compliance throughout the DevOps lifecycle.
CEO: Jeremy Vaughan
Location: Jacksonville, FL

Tenacious
Tenacious' CySkor® technology gives employers a private, third-party solution they can provide as a benefit to their employees, thereby reducing corporate cyber risk and securing personal devices and other employee-owned endpoints in an ethical and legal manner.
CEO: Andrew Adams
Location: Tampa, FL

Participating companies will benefit from the Tampa Bay Wave's new CyberTech|X Advisory Council, made up of cybersecurity experts from Wave's Mentor Network, as well as other representatives from the program's funding partners and other strategic partners. Current members of this inaugural advisory council include such notable experts as:

- Petar Besalev, SVP Cybersecurity and Privacy Services, A-LIGN
- Erich Kron, Cybersecurity Expert and Evangelist, KnowBe4
- Scott Margolis, Managing Director, Data Privacy & Protection; RegTech, Ernst & Young
- Christopher Rogers, Chief Security Officer and Deputy CIO, SYKES Enterprises
- Asim Murad, SVP, Technology Partnership & Business Development, Bank of America
- Kishen Sridharan, Cybersecurity Partnership and Outreach Executive, Office of the CISO, Raymond James
- Jed Young, Vice President & CISO, Jabil
- Vince Rocca, CIO, Digital Hands
- Lee Gray, Brigadier General (Retired), U.S. Army
- Ernest Ferraresso, Associate Director, Cyber Florida

To learn more about the CyberTech|X Accelerator Program, visit: https://www.tampabaywave.org/cybertech/ .

ABOUT TAMPA BAY WAVE:

Tampa Bay Wave, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing entrepreneurs with facilitated access to the resources, expertise, and capital they need to grow vibrant technology-based companies in Tampa Bay. Since March 2013, Tampa Bay Wave has supported more than 300 tech startups thanks to grant funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), plus support from its economic development partners Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa. Tampa Bay Wave also receives support from Bellini Better World, as well as from corporate partners such as the Nielsen Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, A-Lign, Bank of America, EY, Hancock Whitney, Florida Blue, Foley & Lardner, KnowBe4, SYKES Enterprises, Tampa Bay Rays, Tampa Electric, Trenam Law, and Valley Bank. For more information, visit www.tampabaywave.org. Tampa Bay Wave is also a member of the GAN network of accelerators.

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