



Built for
FOUNDERS,
fueled by
COMMUNITY

**2024
IMPACT REPORT**



TAMPA BAY WAVE, consistently ranked as Florida's premier accelerator, continues to transform the innovation landscape by combining cutting-edge, industry-specialized programs with comprehensive support for early-stage ventures. For over eleven years, we've cultivated a thriving ecosystem that empowers founders while preserving their equity. Our strategic initiatives have accelerated economic growth, creating meaningful impact across both our regional community and global markets.

Strengthened by our expanding network of seasoned mentors, strategic investors, and corporate partners, and sustained through increased sponsorships, competitive grants, and dedicated community investment, we remain the cornerstone of innovation and entrepreneurial opportunity. Tampa Bay Wave doesn't just develop startups—we energize the entire innovation economy throughout Tampa Bay and beyond. Our mission remains steadfast: built for founders, fueled by community, delivering results that matter.



“ The Wave team and leaders bring their wealth of experience as entrepreneurs, along with their extensive network of Investors, decision makers, and key stakeholders, to offer invaluable support for founders as they build, launch, and grow their companies. ”

Dr. Richard Munassi, MD MBA
Tampa Bay Wave Accelerator Managing Director

MISSION

We help entrepreneurs transform innovative ideas into real-world solutions and scalable businesses, fueling important social and economic change in Florida and elsewhere.

Tampa Bay Wave is recognized for world-class programs and world-class startups that are driving Tampa Bay's national reputation for tech, innovation, and opportunities.

VISION



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

It is a pleasure to share with you that Tampa Bay Wave ("Wave") has had another milestone year, thanks to the efforts of a strong team, Board and valuable partnerships from across the Tampa Bay community and beyond. Our region and state continue their reputational growth as top-tier innovation tech hubs, building upon a strong ecosystem that enriches the economy and creates jobs.

As of year-end 2024, we are proud to announce that we have supported 600+ tech startups in our programs over the past twelve years. Thanks to the coaching, mentoring and over 1,600 strategic connections made by the Wave team, Advisory Councils, Mentor and Investor networks, these startups have created just under 6,000 well-paying jobs, for an annual economic impact that exceeds \$350 Million. In aggregate, these startups benefitted from more than 2,500 hours of educational training. We were excited to celebrate and announce that our portfolio companies have surpassed \$1 Billion in investor capital raised, a milestone virtually unheard of for a nonprofit Accelerator, like Tampa Bay Wave, placing us among the top five Accelerators nationally, thus securing our status as Florida's #1 Accelerator.

Wave ran five accelerator programs in 2024, drawing deep community support for our inaugural LatinTech Accelerator, followed by the fourth year for CyberTech|X, a second year for HealthTech|X, a third year for FinTech|X and a seventh year for Tech|X, thanks to the support of academic, public and private funding partnerships.

Wave led the pursuit of a multi-year grant from the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) and celebrated success as a key member of The Continuum (Coordinated Ocean-Based Climate Resilience Network of Accelerators). The Continuum will redefine commercialization programs by creating a coordinated network of ocean enterprise accelerators to fast-track innovative technologies and data, prioritizing sustainable development, economic growth and innovation leadership to leverage Florida's position as a coastal and ocean resilience innovation hub. Building upon the work started in 2024, we look forward to implementing a new seed fund in 2025, bolstering our ability to support early growth-stage companies. And we will add BlueTech to our three industry-focused programs in cybertech, fintech and healthtech. We hope you enjoy reading the details and narratives provided in the following pages of our annual impact report. We are grateful to all who are part of our efforts to accelerating Florida's innovation economy. We hope you follow us for news as we continue to provide updates throughout the year. We look forward to reporting Wave's efforts as an ecosystem builder with world-class programs, world-class startups and world-class results.

With gratitude,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aida Q".

WAVE IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

600+



STARTUPS SUPPORTED

22



EXITS

\$1B+



IN CAPITAL RAISED

6,000+

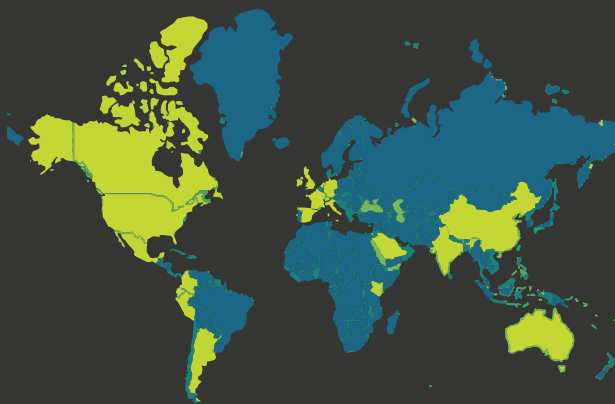


JOBS CREATED

2,500+



ANNUAL TRAINING HOURS



STARTUP FOUNDERS FROM
30 COUNTRIES SHOWCASED TAMPA
AS AN INNOVATION HUB

ACCREDITED BY



GLOBAL
ACCELERATOR
NETWORK

2024 LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$350MM+



ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT



22

COMPANIES
RELOCATED TO TAMPA BAY



1300

HOTEL ROOMS



450

FLIGHTS
THROUGH TPA

2024 WAVE ACCELERATOR PROGRAMS



657

TOTAL APPLICANTS



75

APPLICANTS ACCEPTED
(HIGHLY SELECTIVE)



9.6

NET PROMOTER
SCORE

600+



INVESTOR COMMUNITY
MEMBERS

250+



MENTOR COMMUNITY
MEMBERS

THE HUMAN SIDE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

STORIES OF PASSION AND PURPOSE

In 2024, more than 60 startups joined our **CyberTech|X**, **Tech|X**, **HealthTech|X** and **FinTech|X** cohorts. The success stories in the pages that follow represent just a fraction of the achievements and inspiring journeys from this year's diverse and talented groups.



GuardianSAT exemplifies the innovative spirit of Tampa Bay Wave's CyberTech|X program with its groundbreaking space security solutions. This Florida-based company is pioneering transformative technologies to address critical challenges in orbital safety—eliminating collision risks from Earth-orbiting satellites and orbital debris, defending against anti-satellite weapons, and delivering high-precision space domain awareness.

Founded by Chris Rohe, a U.S. military veteran and Harvard-educated aerospace strategist, GuardianSAT was inspired by Rand McNally's legacy of making travel safer through mapping. Recognizing the urgent need to protect our increasingly congested orbital environment, the company developed proprietary technology that autonomously detects, maps, and responds to threats in real-time. As Rohe explains, "Just as McNally's work transitioned from wall maps to GPS and now digital maps essential for self-driving cars, GuardianSAT is charting the orbital environment with technology that autonomously detects and responds to space threats in real-time, critical to securing a resilient future for space operations."



Venteur (TX' 22) represents a standout success from our portfolio, revolutionizing employee benefits with its AI-powered marketplace platform. Co-founded and led by CEO Stacy Edgar, Venteur enables businesses to provide superior health insurance options at reduced costs. By shifting away from traditional group health insurance models, the company allows employers to offer tax-free funds for employees to purchase individualized health coverage—creating cost savings for businesses while improving employee satisfaction and healthcare outcomes.

Since graduating from the program, Venteur has achieved significant traction, expanding its customer base and forming key partnerships across multiple states. Their innovative model has not only drawn attention from forward-thinking employers but has also attracted Tier 1 investors such as GSR Ventures. With continued growth and a clear mission to modernize healthcare benefits, Venteur exemplifies the kind of scalable, high-impact company Tampa Bay Wave is proud to support.



OVUM

Among the standout innovators in our 2024 Accelerator cohorts, Ovum Health has emerged as a pioneering force in reproductive healthcare. Founded and led by CEO Alice Crisci, the company's comprehensive fertility telehealth platform seamlessly integrates a clinical network with insurance benefits to address a critical healthcare gap—improving maternal and neonatal outcomes for individuals struggling with conception and pregnancy maintenance.

The company's innovative use of technology to create personalized care journeys has not only attracted additional funding during their time with us but has also established them as a thought leader in the fertility technology space.

As Ovum Health continues to scale their impact, they remain committed to the vision that brought them to Tampa Bay Wave: ensuring that quality fertility care is accessible, affordable, and effective for all who need it—regardless of geography, socioeconomic status, or background.

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES IN 2024

\$1 BILLION RAISED



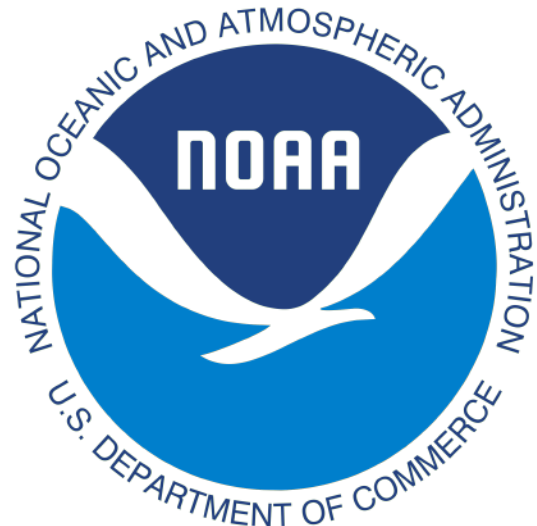
Tampa Bay Wave's portfolio companies have collectively raised over \$1 billion in investment capital. This milestone positions us among the top five nonprofit accelerators in the United States, highlighting the extraordinary success of our region's startup ecosystem.

This achievement reflects more than just numbers – it represents the culmination of our commitment to being “By Entrepreneurs, For Entrepreneurs.” But our impact extends beyond the startup community. We are equally proud to be “By Community, For Community,” working hand-in-hand with local leaders, mentors, and partners who share our vision of making Tampa Bay a premier destination for innovation and entrepreneurship.

NOAA GRANT

Tampa Bay Wave is proud to announce we will be launching a new BlueTech Accelerator in the winter of 2025 in order to help Florida develop a stronger BlueTech ecosystem. This program is made possible because of a new \$14 million grant from NOAA, awarded to Tampa Bay Wave and six other partners in a groundbreaking partnership called The Continuum. This partnership is a transformative national initiative funded by the recently awarded NOAA Ocean Enterprise Accelerators grant.

Wave is proud to partner with:



THE CORE PROGRAM

This year-long membership is ideal for startups looking for foundational support, investor access, networking, and access to essential resources

This is not a co-working space or another accelerator program.

It's an intimate membership into a tight-knit group of experienced founders, enjoying the process of scaling a startup together, with the assistance of Wave staff who create curated experiences that foster growth and connection.



PRIORITIZED SUPPORT

1-on-1 sessions with leadership, team, and board members around strategy, ops, and marketing

COMMUNITY NETWORK

Access to our mentor network and investor network for intros



PERKS

Access our community perkspage with exclusive discounts to SAAS products, services, hotels, and more.

CEO ROUNDTABLES

High intensity strategy and off-record honesty, moderated by Dr. Richard Munassi





The Continuum

A Coordinated Network of Ocean Enterprise Accelerators



In Partnership With:



The Continuum represents a groundbreaking collaboration designed to accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship within Tampa Bay's blue economy. As a pioneering public-private partnership, The Continuum brings together industry leaders, academic institutions, government agencies, and startup enablers to create a seamless pathway for maritime and blue technology innovation.

Our mission is to transform Tampa Bay into a globally recognized hub for blue economy solutions by connecting entrepreneurs with the resources, expertise, and capital needed to address critical challenges facing our oceans, waterways, and coastal communities. Through this integrated approach, The Continuum bridges gaps in the innovation ecosystem, ensuring promising blue technology ventures can move efficiently from concept to commercialization.

By fostering this collaborative environment, The Continuum aims to drive sustainable economic growth, create high-value jobs, protect marine resources, and position Tampa Bay at the forefront of the rapidly expanding blue economy sector.

BLUETECH|X

COMING IN FALL 2025

Born from the collaborative vision of The Continuum, Tampa Bay Wave proudly launches BlueTech|X – a first-of-its-kind accelerator program dedicated to advancing innovative solutions for our oceans, coastlines, and marine industries.

BlueTech|X represents a transformative opportunity for startups developing technologies that address critical challenges in the blue economy. This specialized accelerator provides a comprehensive platform where promising maritime ventures can access industry-specific mentorship, technical expertise, investor connections, and corporate partnerships essential for scaling breakthrough blue technologies.

The 90-day intensive program is strategically designed to accelerate the growth trajectory of early-stage companies working across various blue technology sectors, including sustainable aquaculture, coastal resilience, marine renewable energy, ocean data systems, port logistics, and maritime cybersecurity.

Through BlueTech|X, Tampa Bay Wave will leverage its proven acceleration methodology while incorporating specialized resources unique to the maritime innovation ecosystem. Participating founders gain access to an extensive network of industry veterans, research institutions, regulatory experts, and strategic funding sources specifically aligned with blue economy ventures.

As The Continuum's flagship acceleration initiative, BlueTech|X positions Tampa Bay as a catalyst for ocean innovation while creating a powerful commercialization pathway for technologies that will shape the sustainable blue economy of tomorrow.



“Tampa Bay Wave is proud to lead the charge in BlueTech innovation, helping startups develop cutting-edge solutions that protect our oceans and strengthen coastal resilience. With Florida’s coastlines at the heart of our mission, we’re not just supporting startups—we’re shaping a more sustainable future for generations to come.”

Linda Olson
President/CEO

GET INVOLVED. MAKE WAVES.

Your support makes a real difference for our startups and community.



INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Individual donations through Friends of Wave, Splash Club, scholarships, and more support the next generation of great tech startups and contribute to the overall tech ecosystem.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Corporate sponsors and partners grant our startups access to essential resources that allow them to grow and thrive, thereby building a stronger tech community.

MENTOR/ ADVOCATE

Lend your expertise and executive experience to tech startup founders by guiding them and introducing them to your Procurement Supplier Diversity contacts.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we reflect on the incredible milestones of 2024, we remain driven by our mission to build, launch, and grow innovative startups that shape the future. With the launch of BlueTech|X, the expansion of our seed fund, and continued national partnerships, 2025 promises to be a pivotal year for Tampa Bay Wave. We are more committed than ever to fueling the success of visionary founders and propelling Florida's innovation economy to new heights.

The best is yet to come—and we're just getting started.



SPONSORS & PARTNERS

PUBLIC SECTOR SUPPORT

FEDERAL SUPPORTERS



CORPORATE FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

A-LIGN
Appspace
Bank of America
BankUnited
CBIZ
Celestar
DCE Productions
Deepwork Capital
Delta Air Lines/Virgin Atlantic Airlines
Encore Bank/Smiley Technologies
EY
Florida Funders

Florida High Tech Corridor
Foley & Lardner
Hill Ward Henderson
Insight Assurance
KnowBe4
Kuducom
Levo Health
Morris, Manning & Martin
NextPath Career Partners
Nielsen Foundation
Potomac Law Group
Tampa Bay Rays/Rowdies Foundation

Shumaker, Loop, Kendrick, LLP
Skyway Capital Partners
Sourcetoad
Southwest Airlines
SouthState Bank
Tampa Bay Ventures
TECO, an Emera Company
Thoropass
Topmark Partners
Trenam Law
USF Health/CAMLS
USF Muma College of Business
Workscapes

INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Honorable Alex Sink
Andrea Graham & Geoff Simon
Andy Swenson
Brian Deming
Charlotte Baker
Chuck Papageorgiou
Elizabeth Urbanski
Frank E. Duckwall Foundation
Gerwai Todd
Greg Celestan
Hafer Family Foundation
Inga Schmitzer

Jack McCollum
Joanne LeBlanc
Joe Hodges
Kailah Matyas
Karla Dorsey
Kathleen Shanahan
Kostas Stoilas
Lance Raab
Lauren Ellerman
Madeline Dent
McIntyre Law

Mike Herdegen
Mike Prevatt/360 Advanced
Nancy Ward Holland Scholarship
Peerfit now FitOnHealth
Penny Parks
Robert Brown
Santo Cannone
Shane Needham
Tony DiBenedetto
Topmark Partners
Weiner Family Foundation

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

Abacode
AdventHealth
Baycare
Cyber Florida
Enterprise Florida
DEFENSEWERX / SOFWERX
Florida-Israel Business Accelerator
Hyatt House/Hyatt Place
INBIA
Latin Chamber of Commerce
MacDill Air Force Base
Moffitt Cancer Center
Florida Chamber of Commerce
MOSI - Museum of Science & Industry

OPSWAT
Pinellas County Economic Development
Prida & Garcia, CPAs
ProChile
Prospera
St. Petersburg Area Development Corporation
St. Pete Innovation District
Synapse Florida
TBBW - Tampa Bay Business & Wealth Magazine
Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce

Tampa Bay Economic Development Council
Tampa Bay Partnership
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Tampa Bay Tech
Tampa General Hospital
TGH Innoventures
TiE Tampa Bay
USF CONNECT
USF Health/CAMLS
USF Marine Sciences
USF Research & Innovation
Veterans Florida
Visit Tampa Bay