



# 2025 BlueTech|X Accelerator Recap Report



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Tampa Bay Wave's inaugural **BlueTech|X Accelerator** is an innovative new accelerator launched in 2025 that blends Wave's world-class resources from our nationally-recognized programs with industry-specific expertise and strategic connections to support the growth of an emerging technology sector for the Tampa Bay region: the Ocean Economy.

Six (6) exceptional startups were selected for this first cohort; collectively they have already raised nearly \$10M in funding and are generating over \$4M in revenue annually. Their innovative technologies aim to improve ocean health, enhance resource management in the maritime and relevant applications, and strengthen coastal community resilience. Through the program, we connected startups with strategic partners and advisors from various industries including marine transportation, logistics, control systems, energy, tourism, software development, as well as leaders from non-governmental organizations and the military.

The 2025 BlueTech|X Accelerator was made possible, thanks to a \$14 million four-year federal grant awarded by the **U.S. Department of Commerce** and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**. This grant was awarded to a collaborative partnership, called The Continuum, of which Tampa Bay Wave was one of seven partner organizations that span across Florida and the U.S with the goal to provide comprehensive support to these emerging technology companies with a broad spectrum of year-round programs along with industry expertise, strategic connections, mentorship, and access to private investment capital.

Collectively, well over 100 hours of mentoring and other support were provided to this year's cohort companies from Wave's Mentor Network as well as Wave's new BlueTech|X Advisory Council, a carefully chosen group of sector-specific advisors, each playing a vital role in the Ocean Economy. Tours of several maritime facilities were incorporated into the curriculum, as well as sessions with University of South Florida's Marine Sciences researchers and the Duke Energy head meteorologist.

In all, the 2025 BlueTech|X Accelerator was a resounding success! Wave is grateful to all those who helped make it so successful, and we look forward to providing updates on these startup companies as they progress. We also look forward to hosting BlueTech|X again in 2026, strengthening Tampa Bay's reputation for maritime-related technology and building a stronger, more-resilient innovation-driven economy in Florida and across the U.S. for years to come.



**Linda Olson**  
CEO, Tampa Bay Wave

# Thank you, NOAA!

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In December 2024, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) awarded a \$14 million federal grant to The Continuum, a partnership of seven (7) organizations, including Tampa Bay Wave (the prime/fiscal agent).

The Continuum represents a network of accelerators, economic development organizations, academic institutions and professional industry and ocean networks who will use this funding to run a total of twelve (12) accelerator cohorts supporting innovative tech startups in the ocean enterprise industry, with four (4) of those cohorts being run by Tampa Bay Wave’s under our new BlueTech|X Accelerator.

Tampa Bay Wave is extremely grateful to the U.S. Department of Commerce and NOAA for this generous support, as well as for their leadership in supporting emerging technologies and innovation-driven economic development.



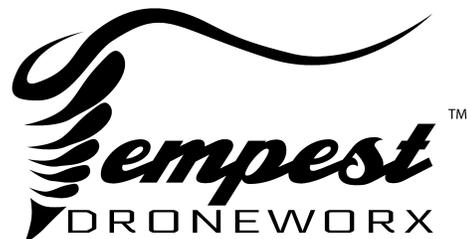
**Allison Barlow**  
Chief Executive Officer

*“The BlueTech|X Accelerator is part of The Continuum’s coordinated network of ocean enterprise accelerators. This program is of particular importance in Florida, where the ocean economy contributes nearly \$40 billion to the state’s gross domestic product (GDP).”*

*The program equipped the startups with critical insights and connections—enabling them to adapt their innovations to deliver the ocean related data and intelligence critically needed across industries.”*



# 2025 BlueTech|X Accelerator Cohort



# 2025 Cohort Companies

**eSkudad.**

*I want to thank the Tampa Bay Wave team that made this possible. It was an amazing experience and I'm deeply grateful for the knowledge share, collaboration, and support. Secondly, I'd like to give a shout out to all of the founders! You all are remarkable and exceptionally talented people with incredible insights into your businesses.*

**Max Echeverria -Founder & CEO**

## **EMPEQ** (Ithaca, NY)

EMPEQ is an AI-powered infrastructure intelligence company that transforms how organizations capture, verify, and manage asset and parts data. With a single photo, our platform identifies equipment and components, extracts critical metadata, and cross-references it against the world's largest curated critical equipment and parts library to deliver trusted, structured intelligence.

Founder(s): Herbert Dwyer, Derek LaClair

Website: [empeq.ai](https://empeq.ai)

## **Eskudad** (Tampa, FL)

Eskudad is a mobile-first data platform built for field workers who operate in areas with limited or no connectivity. Their offline-capable solution lets teams across the supply chain, collect, access, and sync data from anywhere, saving time and resources without relying on traditional communication networks.

Founder(s): Max Echeverria

Website: [eskuad.com](https://eskuad.com)

## **Seagate Space** (St.Petersburg, FL)

We're building offshore spaceports from the keel up-with modular platforms engineered for orbital cadence and mission readiness.

Founders(s): Michael Anderson, Sean Fortener

Website: [seagatespace.com](https://seagatespace.com)

## 2025 Cohort Companies - cont'd.

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### **Sensfix** (Tampa, FL)

Sensfix is a service lifecycle management platform that uses IoT, AI, and mixed reality to automate maintenance and repair operations. Their solution enables devices to self-diagnose issues and automatically schedule, dispatch, and ticket their own service needs, eliminating manual workflows for Operations & Maintenance managers.

Founder(s):

Website: [sensfix.com](https://sensfix.com)

### **SkyTL** (Tampa, FL)

SkyTL is the core operating system for emergency response teams, delivering operational depth and measurable savings without needing more staff or unpredictable costs in the face of weather driven disasters.

Founder(s): Rocio Frej Vitalle

Website: [skytl.com](https://skytl.com)

### **Tempest Droneworx** (Houston, TX)

Tempest Droneworx is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned software company whose flagship product agnostically aggregates disparate sources of data and presents it as a 3D multi-layered interactive map in real-time to provide contextual insight and speed time to action.

Founders(s): Ty Audronis, Dana Abramovitz

Website: [tempestdroneworx.com](https://tempestdroneworx.com)

# 2025 BlueTech|X Cohort Spotlight Companies



**Michael Anderson**  
*Co-Founder & CEO*  
*Tampa, FL*

**Seagate Space**, co-founded by CEO Michael Anderson and COO/President Sean Fortener, joined the 2025 BlueTech|X Accelerator to scale its revolutionary offshore launch infrastructure addressing the critical bottleneck in U.S. orbital access.

During the program, Seagate Space achieved a historic milestone by securing Approval in Principle (AIP) from American Bureau of Shipping for its Gateway-S platform—the first offshore asset in the world to receive AIP under ABS's newly published Requirements for Offshore Spaceports—and established strategic partnerships with multiple launch providers and defense contractors.



SkyTL, founded by CEO Rocio Frej Vitale, joined the 2025 BlueTech|X Accelerator to scale its AI-powered decision intelligence platform designed to predict and prevent natural disasters and environmental threats through real-time data fusion from satellites, drones, and sensors. During the program,

SkyTL won first place at the ACCIONA North America Innovation Awards for its water quality prediction pilot with Tampa Bay Water, which provides 2+ hours advance warning for turbidity, salinity, and red tide events at critical desalination infrastructure.

SkyTL is protecting coastal communities, critical infrastructure, and emergency responders across wildfire management, water security, and climate resilience applications.



**Rocio Frej Vitale**  
*Co-Founder & CEO*  
*Tampa, FL*

# BlueTech|X Advisory Council



Isabelle Bart



Paul Sohl



Andy Bennett



Marc Gibbs



Greg  
Ross-Munro



Alison Barlow



David Bly



Michael Kahle



# Mentor & Investor Networks

## Advisory Council + Mentor Network

Participating companies tapped into a network of 260+ volunteer mentors passionate about supporting early-stage startups. Some offer expertise in areas like HR, go-to-market strategies, or trademark law, while others provide ongoing CEO coaching. Various programming is designed to facilitate mentor introductions and relationship building between the startups and mentors. On average each participating startup gained 20–30 direct connections and received 100+ hours of hands-on guidance.



## Investor Network & Demo Day

Startups in the 2025 BlueTech|X Accelerator tapped into Tampa Bay Wave's national network of 600+ investors through a high-touch, curated matching process. Rather than blanket outreach, Wave's investor team reviewed each investor's thesis and made targeted introductions based on fit, an approach made possible by the cohort's focused size of six companies.

Wave continues to expand its investor reach in key markets like NYC, Austin, and San Francisco while providing hands-on support with investor readiness and non-dilutive funding through SBIR/STTR programs. With portfolio companies surpassing \$1.6B raised, Wave ranks among the top five nonprofit startup accelerators nationwide.

# 2025 BlueTech|X Accelerator Partners - The Continuum

Tampa Bay Wave is a proud member of **The Continuum**, a partnership of seven (7) accelerators, economic development organizations, academic institutions and professional industry and ocean networks who also includes: Seaworthy Collective, St. Pete Innovation District, Braid Theory, the University of South Florida, Ocean Exchange (recently merged with Marine Technology Society), and World Ocean Council.

# Programming

The 2025 BlueTech|X cohort companies had access to **mentoring and support, including workshops and training sessions** featuring an impressive lineup of expert speakers. Founders also benefited from numerous one-on-one coaching with our Mentor Network of over 260 professionals.

## Venture Capital

- Raymond James
- Tampa Bay Ventures
- DeepWork Capital
- Grand VP
- Pulse Fund

## Industry Experts

- Rocket Proforma
- Thoropass
- St. Pete Innovation District
- JP Morgan Chase
- The Continuum
- Responsible Government Contracting
- University of South Florida
- Florida Institute of Oceanography Research
- CMS Engineering
- Duke Energy
- Tampa Shipyard

## Sessions

- SBIR Funding, Process, and Hacks
- Exploring the US Government as a Customer
- State of Venture Capital
- Financial Projections and Modeling Best Practices
- Building with an Exit in Mind
- CMS Engineering Tour
- Navigating Ocean Enterprise
- Florida Institute of Oceanography Research Vessel tour
- Max Thompson - Lead Meteorologist, Duke Energy
- Tampa Shipyard Tour



# Mentor & Community Partner Networks

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Founders coming through Wave programs talk extensively about the connections they made by being in our Accelerators. Below are some examples of the networks they meet.

## Wave's Mentor Network

Wave member companies have access to a wide network of professionals in our 260+ all volunteer Mentor network. These professionals have a passion for helping early stage startups. Some offer their expertise on specific topics (such as HR or trademark laws), while others may coach a startup on an ongoing basis, depending on what support the founder(s) need. We host regular Mentor mixers to build strong trusted relationships. Startups receive at least 20-30 direct mentor connections during their time in the program resulting in easily 100+ hours of consulting help.

Here is the [link](#) to the page on Wave's website, showcasing our Mentor network.

## Wave's Community Partner Network

Wave has also built a strong community partner network, with both formal and informal agreements in place. We connect our member companies to a wide range of community partners, such as our economic development partners and others who can help our startups build their base in our community.

We also provide introductions to others ESO (entrepreneur support organizations) in the ecosystem to encourage their participation and to magnify their visibility and exposure. Logos from several of our community partners are shown below but more may be found under this [link](#) on our website.

## Notables from Tampa Bay Wave's Community Network

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Tampa Bay



# Media & News

## Former NOAA chief met with ecosystem partners and hosted a fireside chat about Tampa Bay's hurricane risks and bluetech potential



Dr. Richard Spinrad, who served as the 11th Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration visited with Tampa Bay Wave CEO Linda Olson and Tampa Bay EDC COO Michelle Bauer in August as one stop on his tour of the Tampa Bay region.



Tampa Bay Wave's Director of Investor Relations and Platform Operations, Amit Agrawal, was featured on WEDU PBS Florida This Week to discuss how the BlueTech|X Accelerator is helping position Tampa Bay as a national hub for ocean innovation.

## [Tampa Bay Wave becomes a national hub for ocean enterprise innovation - Florida Trend, 10/30/25](#)

# Curriculum Days



St. Pete Innovation District Tour



Session with Port of Tampa



Tour of Florida Institute of oceanography Research Vessel



Tampa Shipyard Tour



Session with Duke Energy lead Meteorologist Max Thompson

# Signature Events - Welcome Reception

Tampa Bay Wave opens every program with a Welcome Reception, and culminates with a Community Pitch Night. Both events serve to engage local business community and other partners.



EMPEQ Cohort member pitch



Amit Agrawal (Tampa Bay Wave), Paul Saul (Florida), Max Echeverria (Eskud),



Linda Olson (CEO Tampa Bay Wave)



BlueTech|X Welcome Reception Audience Photo

# Signature Events – Pitch Night

**TAMPA BAY wave**

## 2025 BlueTech|X PITCH NIGHT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 2025  
5:30 - 7:30 PM  
The Tampa Firefighters Museum  
720 E Zack St, Tampa, FL 33602

In Partnership With: **The Continuum**  
Ocean Enterprise Association

Powered By:



# Signature Events – Pitch Night



# Wave Staff

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**Linda Olson**  
CEO & Founder



**Dr. Richard Munassi**  
Accelerator and CORE  
Managing Director



**Demelza Genest**  
Chief Operations Officer



**Dee Garcia**  
Director of Development  
& Strategic Partnerships



**Amit Agrawal**  
Director, Investor  
Relations & Platforms



**Jonathan Truong**  
Sr. Mgr, National Programs  
and Partnerships



**Michael "Mike" Lynn**  
Manager, Venture  
Center Operations



**Prat Reddy**  
Manager, CORE and  
Community Growth



**Matt Ymiolek**  
Investor Relations, Senior  
Associate



**Greg Pierce**  
Accelerator Associate



**Laura Davenport**  
Marketing Associate

# Wave Board of Directors



**Santo Cannone**  
Board Chair



**Linda Olson**  
President/CEO



**Alfred Goldberg**  
Vice President



**Catherine Wilhelm**  
Treasurer



**Kailah Matyas**  
Program Strategy Committee Chair



**Rob Brown**  
Fundraising Committee Chair



**Diana Hayes**  
Gov. & Ethics Committee Chair



**Marcus Adolfsson**



**Kathy Chiu**



**Taylor Johnston**



**Aaron White**



**Lew Jolly**



**Amanda Milligan**



**Brian Model**



**Jack Murray IV**



**Shane Needham**



**Nick Outman**



**Penny Parks**



**Miraj Patel**



**Lance Raab**



**Cathy Ryan Reneer**



**Inga Schmitzer**



**Kathleen Shanahan**



**Andrew Smith**



**Elizabeth Urbanski**



**Lauren Weiner**

# ECONOMIC IMPACT

BUILDING FLORIDA'S TECH ECOSYSTEM

SINCE OUR PROGRAMS LAUNCHED IN 2013



**630+**

STARTUPS SUPPORTED



**\$1.6B+**

CAPITAL RAISED



**7,000+**

NEW JOBS CREATED



**26**

EXITS

## ACCELERATING FLORIDA'S INNOVATION ECONOMY

- AI
- DefenseTech
- MedTech
- FinTech
- EdTech
- CyberTech
- IoT
- SaaS
- eCommerc
- Hospitality
- HealthTech
- MarTech
- CleanTech
- BlueTech
- InsureTech

## BUILDING BETTER FOUNDERS



STARTUP FOUNDERS FROM  
**30** COUNTRIES SHOWCASED TAMPA  
AS AN INNOVATION HUB



**22** COMPANIES RELOCATED  
TO TAMPA BAY

## ANNUAL REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT



**1,248**

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



**1,300**

HOTEL ROOMS



**450**

FLIGHTS THROUGH TPA



**500**

MENTORING HOURS



**2,500+**

TRAINING HOURS

# Tampa Bay Wave Sponsor & Partner Community

## Federal Support



## Economic Development Partners



## Pillars of Innovation



## Tidal Wave Sponsors



## Corporate Friends of Wave

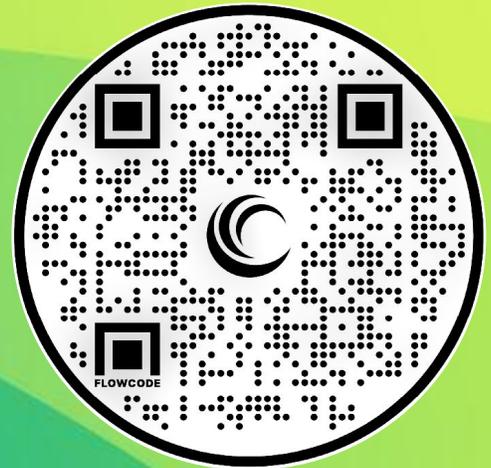


## Partners



# THANK YOU!

For questions, please reach out to:  
**Linda Olson,**  
**CEO, Tampa Bay Wave**  
[linda@tampabaywave.org](mailto:linda@tampabaywave.org)



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