

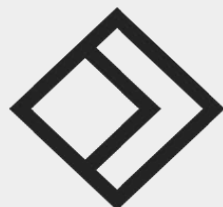


# 2026 CyberTech|X Accelerator

## Recap Report



Supported By



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Potomac Law

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Tampa Bay Wave's 2026 **CyberTech|X Accelerator** reflects our sixth year hosting this program that we launched in 2021, thanks to the unwavering support of A-LIGN as our inaugural supporter. This accelerator continues to blend Wave's world-class resources from our nationally-recognized programs with industry-specific expertise and strategic connections to support the growth of the cyber technology sector for the Tampa Bay region and beyond.

Fifteen (15) exceptional startups were selected for this cohort. Collectively they have already raised nearly \$55M in funding and are generating over \$6.5M in annual revenue. Their innovative technologies are addressing: data security, vendor risk management, fraud prevention, supply chain risk reduction, encryption and tracing tools, threat exposure identification plus social engineering and malicious content attacks protection, among others.

The 2026 CyberTech|X Accelerator was made possible, thanks to the continued support of A-LIGN, along with contributions from Potomac Law Group and Thoropass, plus our newest supporter Get Dynasty. The program provided these emerging technology companies with a broad spectrum of 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 our CyberTech|X Advisory Council, a carefully chosen group of sector-specific advisors in the cybersecurity, financial, data management, risk, compliance and governance sectors.

The 2026 CyberTech|X Accelerator was another resounding success! We are also proud to announce that one of these cohort companies, SafeHill, have now made plans to relocate from Chicago to the Tampa Bay region after being impressed by our region's cyber technology community and welcoming business environment.

Wave is grateful to all those who contributed to this successful cohort, and thus support our mission to build a stronger, more-resilient innovation-driven economy in the Tampa Bay region, in Florida and across the U.S. The follow pages outline some of the highlights from this year's program.

We look forward to hosting CyberTech|X again in 2027.



**Linda Olson**  
CEO, Tampa Bay Wave

# Thank you to our CyberTech|X Accelerator Sponsors

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Tampa Bay Wave, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, expresses sincere gratitude to the generous sponsors of our 2026 CyberTech|X Accelerator. Their support is vital in enabling us to continue our mission of fostering cutting-edge startups and driving the growth of Florida's innovation economy!



Thoropass™

 GetDynasty

**PLG**  
Potomac Law



## Petar Besalev

EVP Cybersecurity & Compliance Services

*“A-LIGN is proud to be a sponsor since the inaugural 2021 CyberTech|X Accelerator, honored to continue our support for more than five years, championing Tampa Bay Wave's mission to advance cybersecurity innovation.”*



*This long-standing partnership reflects our deep commitment to mentoring the next generation of cyber leaders and strengthening the broader cybersecurity ecosystem here in Tampa Bay.”*

# 2026 CyberTech|X Accelerator Cohort Companies



# 2026 CyberTech|X Cohort Companies



*Thank you for such an incredible accelerator experience. The program provided me with so much valuable information and practical knowledge that I truly needed to continue building and running a successful business. More importantly, it gave me greater confidence and clarity about the next steps, both in the short term and longer term. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to be part of this cohort and proud to be affiliated with Tampa Bay Wave. You've built a truly impressive supportive and thoughtful community of founders, mentors, and leaders.*

*Ayelet Biger-Levin Founder & CEO*

## **ANCILE** (Durham, NC)

ANCILE is an AI-powered platform that unifies Data Security Posture Management (DSPM) and Governance, Risk & Compliance (GRC) to help regulated organizations continuously protect sensitive data and maintain audit readiness.

Founder(s): Han Kanthi

Website: [ancile.ai](https://www.ancile.ai)

## **ARMAI Technologies** (Charlotte, NC)

ARMAI helps regulated companies (banks, Credit Unions, Insurance carriers) and their innovative vendor partners (fintechs) realize ROI faster by increasing effectiveness of risk and compliance due diligence and monitoring.

Founder(s): Sandip Bhatlawande

Website: [armani.ai](https://www.armani.ai)

## **BestDefense, Inc.** (Clearwater, FL)

We're a Cybersecurity SaaS platform that leverages automation and AI to identify and fix vulnerabilities for our customers.

Founders(s): Daniel Baddeley JR, Derek Foster, David Jongko

Website: [bestdefense.io](https://www.bestdefense.io)

# 2026 CyberTech|X Cohort Companies - cont'd.

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## **Confidential** (Menlo Park, CA)

Confidential.io is redefining enterprise data security for the AI age with a data-centric, proactive protection platform that embeds cryptography, governance, and intelligence directly into data itself via automated end-to-end and selective encryption, continuous usage tracing inside and outside the enterprise, and truly data-blind workflows across documents and AI pipelines.

Founder(s): Karim Eldefrawy

Website: [confidential.io](https://confidential.io)

## **Flowchestra** (Chicago, IL)

Flowchestra is a Secure AI Operations platform that enables businesses to adopt everyday AI with built-in governance, intelligent orchestration, and real-time ROI visibility.

Founder(s): Raum Sandoval, Henry Steele, Matthew Fitzgerald

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

## **FrOntierX** (Brooklyn, NY)

FrOntierX's Polaris Secure Containers enable trusted execution of open-source software in hardware-backed enclaves with end-to-end encryption, remote attestation, and CI/CD integration to reduce supply chain risk and ensure Zero Trust compliance.

Founders(s): Andrew Gilbert, Jens Albers, Jonathan Begg

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

## **ProSentra, Inc** (Gulfport, MS)

ProSentra is the AI-decision system CISOs need for real cybersecurity transformation, risk reduction and budget optimization.

Founder(s): Troy Vennon, Brian Preston

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

## **RangersAI** (Boca Raton, FL)

RangersAI helps financial institutions empower their customers to stay safe from online scams using AI-powered technology.

Founder(s): Ayelet Biger-Levin

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

# 2026 CyberTech|X Cohort Companies - cont'd.

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## **RevEng.AI** (London, UK)

RevEng.AI is building foundation AI models for detecting security threats and malicious content inside software supply chains.

Founder(s): James Patrick-Evans

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

## **RTScale AI** (Pinecrest, FL)

RTScale AI is building the real-time Behavioral Trust Layer that modern financial institutions need to combat the surge in APP-fraud and social-engineering attacks.

Founder(s): Peter Walker, Vivek Iyer, Matthew Walker

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

## **SafeHill** (Chicago, IL)

SafeHill is a next generation cybersecurity company built by ethical hackers to help organizations take control of their threat exposure landscape. We turn noise into action.

Founders(s): Mike Pena, Nicholas Gonzalez, Hector Monsegur

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

## **Signet** (London, UK)

Signet provides observability and security for agentic payments, allowing financial institutions to launch agentic payment features without introducing new risk.

Founder(s): Ali Haider, Rafal Zacher

Website: [getsignet.xyz](https://getsignet.xyz)

## **ThreatMate** (Tampa, FL)

ThreatMate enables MSPs to deliver enterprise-grade cybersecurity at scale by automating pentesting, exposure management, and security assessments across client networks and cloud environments.

Founder(s): Anup Ghosh, Stan Ivanov, Mike Phelan

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

# 2026 CyberTech|X Cohort Companies + Media & News

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## **Zecurity Technology Corporation** (Houston, TX)

Zecurity's Hardwall® and its Zero-Write Environment solutions stop web-borne and AI attacks before they enter your system preventing attempts to take control of your infrastructure systems or scramble or change your data.

Founder(s): David Ronn, Vic Friday

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

## **Zepo Intelligence** (New York, NY)

AI-powered cybersecurity platform to protect companies against the fastest-growing threat in security: social engineering.

Founder(s): Antonio Munoz Villanueva, Enrique Holgado de Frutos

Website: [zepo.app](https://zepo.app)

## Media & News

Stories about this year's CyberTech|X Accelerator were posted in

Tampa Bay Business Journal: TBBJ: [How Tampa Bay became Florida's fastest-growing fintech and crypto hub in 2026](#)

Yahoo Finance: [Yahoo Finance: The Future of Cybersecurity is in Tampa Bay](#)

Wave's Pitch Night presentation video can be accessed at [this link](#)

# 2026 CyberTech|X Cohort Spotlight Companies



**Anup Ghosh**  
*Co-Founder & CEO*  
*Tampa, FL*

**ThreatMate**, co-founded by CEO Anup Ghosh and based in Tampa, joined the 2026 CyberTech|X Accelerator to scale its AI-powered attack surface management platform designed to bring enterprise-grade cybersecurity to small and mid-sized businesses through Managed Service Providers.

During the program, ThreatMate leveraged its \$3.2 million seed round – raised prior to joining the cohort and led by Top Down Ventures, Runtime Ventures, and Blu Ventures – to accelerate product development and deepen integrations across the MSP ecosystem, building on Ghosh's track record of cybersecurity exits exceeding nine figures.



**Mike Pena**  
*Co-Founder & CEO*  
*Tampa, FL*

**SafeHill**, co-founded by CEO Mike Pena, joined the 2026 CyberTech|X Accelerator to advance SafeHill SecureIQ™, its Continuous Threat Exposure Management platform that combines AI-driven automated penetration testing with expert human validation to help enterprises expose attack paths before hackers can exploit them.

During the program, SafeHill built on its \$2.6 million pre-seed round led by Mucker Capital and Chingona Ventures to expand its enterprise customer base and deepen its roots in the Tampa Bay region, with the company announcing its relocation to Tampa in late April.

# CyberTech|X Advisory Council



**Farshad Abbasi**



**Petar Besalev**



**Vong Chau**



**Bill Falk**



**Ernie Ferraresso**



**Mike Fraser**



**Jennifer Graham**



**John Graham**



**Ricardo Johnson**



**David Lapsley**



**Eric Littlejohn**



**Chuck Lobsenz**



# CyberTech|X Advisory Council



Amanda Milligan



Asim Murad



Will Robus



Cathy Ryan  
Reneer



Ted Sanders



Jon Schipp



Eric Spaulding



Rolando  
Torres



Corey White



Larry  
Whiteside



Chester Wisniewski



# 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 2026 CyberTech|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 \$1.7B raised, Wave ranks among the top five nonprofit startup accelerators nationwide.

# Programming

The 2026 CyberTech|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
- PSG Equity
- Roo Capital
- Channel Angels
- Data Tribe

## Industry Experts

- Rocket Proforma
- Thoropass
- Cyber Florida
- JP Morgan Chase
- Trofeo
- Responsible Government Contracting
- Cyvatar
- Gunderson Dettmer
- HyperProof
- Dynasty
- Potomac Law Group

## Sessions

- Getting to Audit-Ready: Security and Compliance for Startups
- State of Venture Capital
- Financial Projections and Modeling Best Practices
- Building with an Exit in Mind
- SBIR/Government Contracting
- Selling Through the Channel
- Funding Hacks
- Joe Panettieri Sales Channels
- Alumni Panels
- Corporate Partnerships in Cybersecurity
- Board Dynamics
- Thoropass Compliance 101
- Strategies to Oversubscribe your Round
- Dynasty: How to pay zero taxes when you exit
- Maximizing Enterprise Sales and Revenues
- Founder Journey Craig Unger (Hyperproof)
- Founder Journey Sam Li (Thoropass)
- Leveraging AI tools to Maximize Outbound Sales
- A New Model for the Modern Enterprise



# 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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UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA

the  
florida  
high tech  
corridor



CYBER  
FLORIDA  
at the UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA



Tampa Bay

edc St. Petersburg Area  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION



# Curriculum Days



Session with Hyperproof CEO & Founder  
Craig Unger



Session with Thoropass CEO &  
Founder Sam Li



Bending the J Curve with Jake Halusic &  
Zach Eikenberry



Cohort Dinner



Session with Hillsborough County  
EDC Jennifer Whelihan

# 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.



Jon Schipp from Rapid7



Troy Vennon (Prosentra), Larry Whiteside (Confide), Han Kanthi (Ancile),



CyberTech|X Cohort & Wave Team Photo



CyberTech|X Welcome Reception Audience Photo

# Signature Events – Pitch Night



Linda Olson kicks off Pitch Night



City of Tampa Mayor Jane Castor



Sam Li CEO & Founder Thoropass



Andrew Steioff with A-LIGN

# 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



**Penny Parks**  
Board Chair



**Santo Cannone**  
Immediate Past  
Chair



**Linda Olson**  
President/CEO



**Catherine Wilhelm**  
Treasurer & Finance  
Committee chair



**Lew Jolly**  
Program Strategy  
Committee Co-Chair



**Kailah Matyas**  
Program Strategy  
Committee Co-Chair



**Rob Brown**  
Fundraising  
Committee Co-Chair



**Andrew Smith**  
Fundraising  
Committee Co-Chair



**Nick Outman**  
Seed Fund  
Committee Chair



**Cathy Ryan-Reneer**  
Branding and Strategic  
Communication  
Committee Co-Chair



**Shane Needham**  
Branding and Strategic  
Communication  
Committee Co-Chair



**Tom Cockriel**  
Governance and  
Ethics Committee  
Co-Chair



**Amanda Milligan**  
Governance and  
Ethics Committee  
Co-Chair



**Petar Besalev**



**Jennifer Bryk**



**Jose Fourquet**



**Taylor Johnston**



**Brian Model**



**Jack Murray**



**Miraj Patel**



**Greg Pierce**



**Kathleen Shanahan**



**Elizabeth Urbanski**



**Lauren  
Weiner**



**Aaron White**

# ECONOMIC IMPACT

BUILDING FLORIDA'S TECH ECOSYSTEM

SINCE OUR PROGRAMS LAUNCHED IN 2013



**650**

STARTUPS SUPPORTED



**\$1.7B**

CAPITAL RAISED



**7,100+**

NEW JOBS CREATED



**28**

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



**26** 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



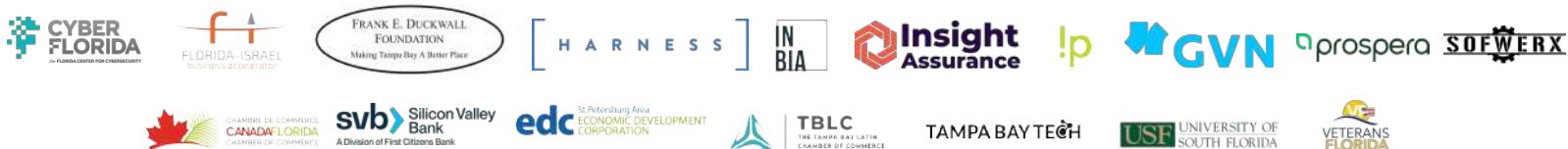
## Tidal Wave Sponsors



## Corporate Friends of Wave

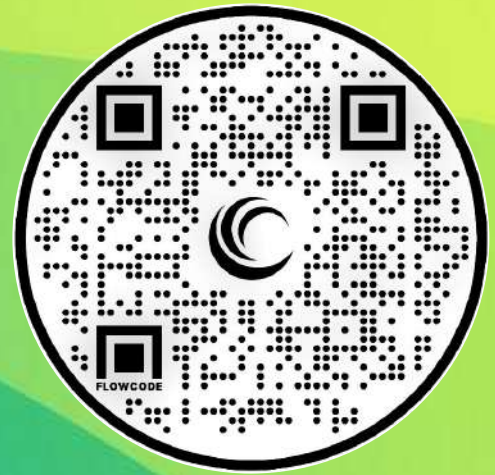


## Partners



# THANK YOU!

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



Follow Wave on social media:



SCAN TO  
LEARN MORE

