

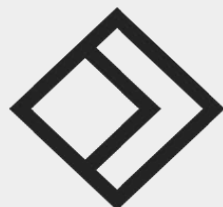


2026 CyberTech|X Accelerator

Recap Report



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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!



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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

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

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

2026 CyberTech|X Cohort Companies - cont'd.

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

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

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

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

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

2026 CyberTech|X Cohort Companies - cont'd.

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

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

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

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

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

2026 CyberTech|X Cohort Companies + Media & News

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

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

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 Ferrarresso



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

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



Tampa Bay



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

Media & News

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Wave Staff



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



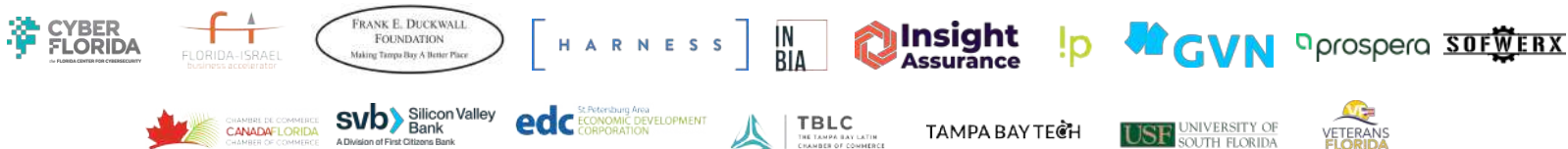
Tidal Wave Sponsors



Corporate Friends of Wave

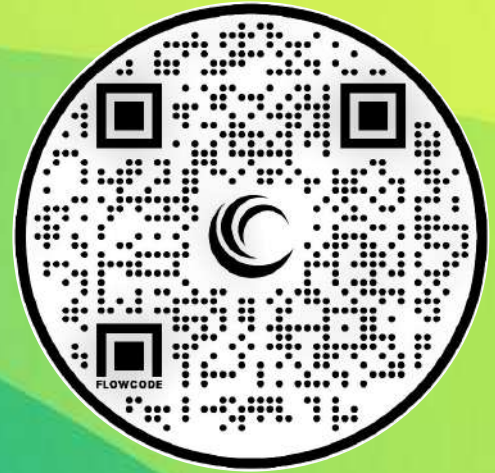


Partners



THANK YOU!

For questions, please reach out to:
Linda Olson,
CEO, Tampa Bay Wave
linda@tampabaywave.org



Follow Wave on social media:



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE

