

## 2021 Tech 50 Finalist Bios

### **Category: Innovator of the Year: AI/ML/Robotics**

#### **Aurora**

Founded in 2017 by experts in the self-driving industry, Aurora is on a mission to deliver the benefits of self-driving technology safely, quickly, and broadly. To move both people and goods, Aurora is building the Aurora Driver, a platform that brings together software, hardware, and data services to autonomously operate passenger vehicles, light commercial vehicles, and heavy-duty trucks.

Aurora's talented and diverse 1,600-person team is focused on creating a transformative business for the long-term. Headquartered in Pittsburgh and with offices throughout the city, Aurora has more employees in Pittsburgh than in any other location.

#### **Gecko Robotics, Inc.**

Gecko Robotics pioneers robotic technology and software to enhance infrastructure integrity through comprehensive NDT inspections. Each year, over \$100B is spent to maintain the critical infrastructure that serves our world, inspections being a critical component. Using robots keeps workers away from hazardous environments and provides orders of magnitude better data coverage than traditional methods, especially in hard-to-reach areas. The data allows the owner to better diagnose equipment damage and predict future life. This results in better-targeted maintenance, lower costs, more up-time, and, most importantly, fewer deaths and injuries.

#### **Idelic**

Idelic is the creator of the most comprehensive driver management platform in the transportation industry. The Idelic Safety Suite<sup>®</sup> consolidates all fleet systems into a single driver management platform, giving fleets unparalleled visibility into their drivers' behavior and safety operations. With an industry-leading Driver Watch List that utilizes advanced Machine Learning (ML) technologies, the Idelic Safety Suite helps fleets prevent crashes, reduce turnover, and lower insurance costs.

#### **Locomotion**

Locomotion is re-engineering the world's supply chain for autonomy by developing a portfolio of AV products and a suite of proprietary tools, methods, and processes that enable our clients to implement an operating model designed specifically for autonomous vehicles. Launched in 2018 by veterans of Carnegie Mellon's National Robotics Engineering Center, the Locomotion team includes some of the world's foremost experts in robotics technology, artificial intelligence, trucking, freight optimization, safety, and automotive.

#### **Motional**

Motional is a driverless technology company making autonomous vehicles a safe, reliable, and accessible reality. Safety is the focus of and foundation of everything they do, and they have a long history at the forefront of the industry. Motional is working toward truly equitable transportation for everyone, everywhere, by developing and commercializing the world's highest performing and safest robotaxis.

### **RoadBotics**

RoadBotics helps you begin your digital twin with mapped visual data for collaboration, engagement, and evaluation. Using the power of artificial intelligence, these interactive maps empower you to make data-driven decisions about your environment and provide digital solutions for industries like civil engineering, utilities, insurance, construction, and the public sector.

RoadBotics started with an advanced artificial intelligence (AI) platform called RoadWay that automates road assessments and has enabled over 250 communities worldwide to objectively manage their road networks. The newest platform, AgileMapper, helps you manage your visual data with one collaborative enterprise mapping tool.

### **Innovator of the Year: Consumer**

#### **BlastPoint**

BlastPoint builds AI-powered, actionable customer intelligence solutions that help companies achieve business objectives and grow smarter, faster. Their updated customer intelligence platform is designed specifically for businesspeople and requires no data management expertise to get results. They make it easy for Sales, Marketing, and Customer Service teams to activate and operationalize insights. BlastPoint has empowered enterprises, utilities, retail companies, and non-profits across North America to understand their internal data, engage with customers more effectively, and save millions of dollars in revenue. Driven by a team of expert technologists, BlastPoint is dedicated to placing action-ready data at businesspeople's fingertips.

#### **Brand Holdings, LLC**

Brand Holdings, a holding company focused on acquiring existing DTC e-commerce companies and incubating e-commerce startups in the areas of health and wellness, sports nutrition, beauty and functional foods, and other categories, is backed by Kidd & Co. and T-street Capital.

Headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, Brand Holdings operates three e-Commerce brands—Dr. Emil Nutrition, Healthy Skoop, and Simple Botanics—while looking for additional acquisition and incubation opportunities.

#### **Digital Dream Labs, Inc.**

Digital Dream Labs is an edtechtainment company that develops engaging learning solutions for people of all ages. Through their innovative suite of interactive and hands-on video games and consumer robots, Digital Dream Labs is transforming the way science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) topics are taught in homes and classrooms around the world.

#### **NuMoola**

NuMoola is a family finance app that helps children build lifelong, positive money habits. They offer families, schools, and other program providers a digital tool to promote financial wellness while offering support to make a difference in the lives of youth. NuMoola helps individuals learn how to effectively earn, save, spend, and give while also preparing them to be active members of the workforce. Along the way, NuMoola wants to inspire and expose individuals to various jobs, support them in reaching their full potential, and strive to support youth as entrepreneurs.

### **Tech Elevator**

Tech Elevator is an intensive educational provider helping individuals and companies acquire in-demand technology skills for the modern workforce.

Through their 14-week, full-time, in-person coding bootcamps, Tech Elevator teaches students with a variety of backgrounds to become software developers while helping them build necessary career readiness skills and career connections through the Pathway Program™ to land a meaningful job.

### **Innovator of the Year: Life Sciences**

#### **Ariel Precision Medicine, Inc.**

Ariel is an innovative precision medicine company, transforming genetic and clinical data into new insights for the diagnosis, management, and advanced therapeutic development for complex health conditions. Ariel's initial focus is pancreatic diseases including pancreatitis, diabetes, and pancreatic cancer, and they are developing the first therapeutic indicated for patients with pancreatitis.

Ariel strives to go beyond genetics, helping clinicians make more informed decisions about the treatment of complex chronic diseases. Their team of professionals is dedicated to removing the complexity from genetic testing results, giving actionable information to prevent, mitigate, or reverse disease progression.

#### **CytoAgents**

CytoAgents is a privately held, clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on the development of innovative pharmaceutical products for the treatment of life-threatening symptoms associated with Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS), an overreaction of the immune system causing systemic inflammation. Their mission is to develop a broadly accessible treatment for multiple indications of high unmet need, including oncology CAR T-cell therapy, COVID-19, and respiratory epidemics. They are committed to developing first-in-class, best-in-class products that meet a major medical need now and into the future.

#### **NeuEsse Inc.**

NeuEsse's mission is to enhance outcomes and quality of life for patients who have suffered wounds, burns, skin disrupting ulcers, and other skin/epidermal injuries. Currently pioneering a novel human skin substitute derived from soy protein, the pipeline includes readily available sheets and, later, a no-touch liquid skin applied at a patient's bedside. The products offer greater efficacy, healing with minimal scarring at a lower cost, and greater cultural acceptance.

#### **Tobii Dynavox**

Tobii Dynavox is a global team that works to help people with communication and mobility challenges live richer, more meaningful lives. As the leading provider of touch- and eye-tracking based assistive technology hardware and software for those with communication and mobility impairments. For over three decades, Tobii Dynavox has stood at the forefront of assistive technology and continues to push the boundaries of what is possible for delivering the most advanced, effective, and empowering communication and computer access tools available.

## **Innovator of the Year: Manufacturing – The Kurt J. Lesker III Award for Excellence**

### **Eaton**

Eaton is a power management company made up of approximately 85,000 employees, doing business in more than 175 countries. Their mission is to improve the quality of life and the environment through the use of power management technologies and services. Their energy-efficient products and services help customers effectively manage electrical, hydraulic, and mechanical power more reliably, efficiently, safely, and sustainably. By giving people tools to use power more efficiently, helping companies do business more sustainably, and by encouraging every employee to think differently, Eaton makes what matters work.

### **Intervala, LLC**

Intervala tailors intelligent manufacturing solutions to each customer's unique requirements. They are a full-service manufacturer of complex, high-performance printed circuit board assemblies, electromechanical systems, and cable and harness assemblies for global customers in the industrial, medical, transportation, and defense markets. Their team draws on decades of experience to bring a fresh approach to problem-solving by combining turnkey manufacturing capabilities, a full suite of engineering expertise, new product introduction, supply chain management, and global fulfillment services to deliver smart, innovative solutions.

### **MSA Safety Inc.**

MSA, the global leader in sophisticated safety products and technology, is fully committed to protecting the health and safety of workers worldwide. They've developed thousands of products, own hundreds of patents, and have a global reach into the millions to keep in motion their mission that began over 100 years ago. Since 1914, MSA has grown to include more than 5,200 employees across the world, protecting workers in over 140 countries against hazardous or life-threatening situations. MSA's comprehensive safety products integrate a combination of electronics, mechanical systems, advanced materials, and new technologies with applications in a broad range of markets.

### **PittMoss**

PittMoss manufactures revolutionary products from organic, recycled paper. Carefully and locally sourced, their products are the result of decades-long research into the use of recycled paper fibers. The result? The best performing, most environmentally friendly gardening mixes on the market, that also require less water!

### **PPG Industries Inc.**

PPG is a leading global supplier of paints, coatings, and specialty materials—manufacturing and pioneering innovations for a variety of industries including transportation, aerospace, and industrial coatings. Throughout the company's 138-year history, PPG has maintained a long-standing tradition of developing leading-edge technologies, achieving the highest quality standards, and exceeding customers' requirements. This is evidenced by the company's more than 30 R&D® 100 Awards, which honor the industry's most innovative technologies and services.

### **Safe Space Technologies**

Safe Space Technologies (SST) is a revenue-generating start-up that was spun out of a Pittsburgh-based manufacturer that has been designing and building automated machinery for 30+ years. Utilizing 200 years of cumulative experience in the product development and automation industry, SST leverages its core competencies to design, develop, and deploy leading-edge, highly innovative solutions for the technology-based disinfection industry. They believe in a smarter-not-harder approach to disinfection. By harnessing the power of UVC technology and robotics, SST offers products that require less time and labor at lower overall costs compared to manual cleaning methods with harsh chemicals.

### **Innovator of the Year: Medtech/Health IT**

#### **ConnectiveRx**

ConnectiveRx was founded with a single mission to simplify how people get on and stay on therapy, connecting patients with needed medication by taking the pain out of a typically entangled prescription process. They work to address the complexities facing patients, providers, and pharmaceutical manufacturers through technology innovation and compassion, and their teammates all work with one purpose in mind: help patients connect to a healthier future.

#### **Data Ideology**

Based in Pittsburgh, the team at Data Ideology consists of highly competitive individuals who are experts in the field and passionate about data and the value it can bring to organizations. They specialize in data warehouse modernization, data warehouse migration, eliminating data silos, data governance, data visualization, and enterprise deployment. Data Ideology brings data together, eliminates complexity, and provides top-notch training solutions.

#### **Rimsys**

Rimsys is bringing regulatory order to the Medtech industry. The Rimsys Regulatory Information Management (RIM) platform digitizes and automates regulatory activities, freeing teams from inefficient administrative work and helping them confidently establish and secure global regulatory compliance. Unlike complex spreadsheets or expensive consultants, Rimsys centralizes all regulatory information, automates submission processes, and monitors relevant expirations, standards, and global regulations. Overburdened regulatory affairs teams struggle to keep pace with the increasingly complex global landscape. Rimsys streamlines all regulatory activities in an integrated platform, helping Medtech companies get to market more quickly and reduce risk of non-compliance, product recalls, and unexpected expirations.

#### **TeleTracking Technologies, Inc.**

For every hour a patient waits for care, they face objectively worse outcomes—during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is more relevant than ever. TeleTracking believes it is unacceptable that patients can't access the care they need—when they need it—due to operating inefficiencies and unnecessary cost barriers. Their mission is to ensure no one waits for the care they need. For three decades, TeleTracking has pioneered the management of patients from admission through discharge and, most recently, has led the development of NASA-like health system command centers that provide critical, real-time information, and transparency across all hospitals.

## **Innovator of the Year: Non-Profit/Education/Community**

### **412 Food Rescue**

Driven by the belief that good food belongs to people, not landfills, 412 Food Rescue redirects healthy food from the waste stream to households and non-profits that serve people experiencing food insecurity. A growing team of 12,000+ local volunteer drivers, mobilized by the Food Rescue Hero® technology platform, has redirected more than 19 million pounds of food in western Pennsylvania, equating to 15 million meals and mitigating 10 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the process. Now, the Food Rescue Hero movement has spread to 11 cities across North America, serving one million people annually.

### **Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Institute**

Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Institute is a Manufacturing Innovation Institute (MII) funded by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The Institute leverages a unique, robust, and diverse ecosystem of consortium members and partners across industry, academia, and government. ARM works to make robotics, autonomy, and artificial intelligence more accessible to U.S. manufacturers of all sizes, train and empower the manufacturing workforce, strengthen the economy and global competitiveness, and elevate national security and resilience.

### **Carnegie Science Center**

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspirational learning and draws real-world connections to how science and technology play an integral part in everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center's goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

### **Commonwealth Charter Academy**

Commonwealth Charter Academy (CCA), a K through 12 public cyber charter school, provides a flexible, customizable education to students across Pennsylvania at no cost to families. Founded in 2003, CCA is the third largest public school in Pennsylvania. What makes CCA unique is its service and commitment to families; its proprietary, online relationship management system, edio; and its career readiness programs, including the CCAWorks initiative, which consists of TechWorks at CCA; AgWorks at CCA; and MedWorks at CCA, which will open soon. Each facility houses hands-on, state-of-the-art equipment to prepare students for high demand industries throughout the state.

### **Pittsburgh Technical College**

Pittsburgh Technical College (PTC) celebrates 75 years as a leading regional educator preparing students for professional success. Degree-seeking students experience internships, clinical rotations, or employer-partnered capstone projects before graduation, resulting in a high, five-year in-field placement rate of 93%.\*

A private, non-profit, and regionally accredited institution, PTC's hallmark is academic excellence supporting each student's professional and personal journey. The education combines theory with applied-learning, and state-of-the-art curriculum is advised by the region's top employers.

With more than 30 total programs, PTC focuses on technology in information systems, computer programming, design, electronics, energy, and trades.

*\*Showcases 2016-2020 PTC graduates.*

### **Schell Games**

Schell Games is the largest full-service education and entertainment game development company in the United States. Since 2002, they have created interactive experiences that engage and inspire players of all ages across all platforms. Projects in their award-winning portfolio range from mobile, desktop, and virtual reality games to interactive installations and theme park attractions...and everything in between.

Their leaders are industry veterans who understand the value of a diverse and cohesive organization, and they empower their team to create meaningful experiences to help make the world a better place.

### **Innovator of the Year: Solutions Provider – Innovative Tech**

#### **Aspinity**

Aspinity is pioneering analog machine learning (ML) processors that enable the industry's most power-efficient edge processing solution for battery-operated, always-on sensing devices. Aspinity's programmable and trainable analogML™ core drops into today's always-on designs to dramatically extend battery life in voice-enabled and other always listening devices, preventative-maintenance sensor networks, and biometric-monitoring wearables.

#### **Deeplocal**

Deeplocal is an award-winning creative technology and experience design company. They invent interactive experiences for global brands, helping them tell stories and connect with audiences in new and unexpected ways.

A spin-off of Carnegie Mellon University, Deeplocal is home to experts in engineering, design, and creative strategy—blurring the boundaries between marketing, art, and technology. Their work bridges the physical and digital worlds and includes events and experiences, retail innovation, interactive product demos, and permanent installations.

#### **GrayMatter**

GrayMatter is Industrial Intelligence. Since their founding in Pittsburgh in 1991, they have been dedicated to transforming operations and empowering people through consulting, technology curation, and implementation services. They help people and industrial assets become smarter, more visible, and secure.

GrayMatter prioritizes OT services by starting with presented problems and applying design thinking and agile practices to help solve them. They focus on curating the best processes and technologies to strengthen cybersecurity and drive industrial intelligence transformations in manufacturing, steel, water/wastewater, food and beverage, CPG, and many other industries.

#### **Hamiltonian Systems, Inc.**

Hamiltonian Systems provides cutting-edge and comprehensive software solutions that enable manufacturers to digitally transform the way they do business. They believe that data are the lifeblood of any business and that getting data right takes innovative solutions, rigorous planning, and experienced professionals. That is why Hamiltonian's clients, across industries, are using their AI-powered software solutions to collect, build, and learn from data.

### **Meter Feeder**

Cities have been losing billions of dollars trying to price the curb for shared vehicles. Meter Feeder enables traditional and autonomous vehicles to pay for parking with no human interactions, so cities can make money and fleets can remain compliant. Their mission is to provide a low-cost payment and enforcement solution for authorities of all sizes. Meter Feeder's state-of-the-art technology is ready and available for even the most budget-minded municipality.

### **Optimus Technologies**

Optimus Technologies is a green tech company based in Pittsburgh. Optimus manufactures the Vector System, an advanced fuel system technology that enables medium- and heavy-duty vehicles to operate on 100% biodiesel, regardless of ambient temperature, cutting carbon emissions between 75-100%. The Vector System integrates into existing operations to facilitate a seamless transition to low-carbon fuels. At Optimus Technologies, their goal is to help fleets reduce operating costs, eliminate carbon emissions, and meet long-term sustainability targets in a cost-effective way.

### **Innovator of the Year: Solutions Provider – Services**

#### **Aspirant**

Aspirant is a global management and technology consulting firm based on a different approach. They utilize integrated expertise across lean, experienced teams to deliver sustainable results for their clients. Aspirant remains committed to raising awareness about and helping prevent domestic violence through their Connection of Hope campaign.

#### **CAI**

CAI is a leading business technology services firm committed to helping private and public organizations drive value, improve productivity, and enhance customer experience. The firm specializes in digital transformation services including application management, strategy and consulting, intelligent automation, contingent workforce solutions, IT service management, and business analytics. Founded in 1981 and headquartered in Allentown, PA, CAI is a privately held company with offices throughout North America and the Asia-Pacific region. They make up a diverse and innovative global team known for providing right-sized strategies, solutions, and ongoing support for their customers.

### **River Point Technology**

River Point Technology helps enterprises tackle their most aspiring Cloud & DevOps projects with transformative capabilities, redefining what is possible for their organization. River Point Technology was founded to support clients through strategic vision, the ability to execute, and creation of successful Day 2 Readiness & Adoption outcomes. The River Point Technology Teams bring a broad range of business and technical domain knowledge to enable success for organizations across the entire Cloud & DevOps lifecycle.

### **Rivers Agile**

Rivers Agile is a technology consulting company that has built an excellent reputation for technical innovation, superior engineering, and a regular cadence for building and deploying software solutions to the market. Since 2008, Rivers Agile has fulfilled the need for first-rate Quality Assurance services in Pittsburgh and has matured into an end-to-end software solutions provider. Whether defining new software or refining an existing application or website, they work with clients throughout the entire product lifecycle to help them achieve their strategic vision. Based in North Shore, Rivers Agile's highly skilled team works with recently funded startups through Fortune 50 clients.



### **SDLC Partners, L.P.**

SDLC Partners is an essential leader of the Pittsburgh technology and business ecosystem. As a consultancy, they focus on empowering organizations to accelerate performance through smarter solutions. SDLC Partners is part of CitiusTech, a major provider of healthcare technology services and solutions, with over 4,000 professionals worldwide. CitiusTech's offerings include healthcare software development, healthcare interoperability, regulatory compliance, BI/analytics, consumer engagement, care coordination, and population health management.

### **The Machine**

The Machine is a brand and marketing consulting company having worked with iconic household brand names like Giorgio Armani, Ferrari, Jameson, and TUMI as well as tech startups like GiftCards.com, Compass, and PerfectGift.com. Their services include Brand Strategy (positioning, storytelling, architecture), Creative (logo, design, naming, tagline), Performance Marketing (paid search, SEO, social media, display/retargeting), and Production (websites, content, ads, radio, animatics). They are focused on providing disruptive tech companies with Fortune 500-caliber brand services in a model that makes financial and business sense for firms of any size.

### **TiER1 Performance**

TiER1 Performance is an employee-owned consulting firm that activates strategies through people. As a Certified B Corporation®, they are passionate about consulting, designing, building, and enabling people-centered business solutions that deliver meaningful, long-term success. They meet clients where they are and solve human performance challenges by bringing together learning experts, visual designers, change strategists, communicators, researchers, and technologists to deliver holistic solutions. TiER1ers believe that the potential for any organization lies within its people. By unleashing the best of both, they will change the world.

### **Innovator of the Year: Start-up Company Confirmed LLC**

Confirmed has created Confirmed Strategic Scheduler, which combines cognitive science and learning-enabled data (AI/machine learning/expert systems) to enhance meeting attainment results for sales teams, including better meeting acceptance rates, enhanced prioritization, easier scheduling, and better time management throughout the work week.

Confirmed enhances the usefulness of data for business development tasks and to provide insights for salespeople, sales ops, and sales leadership to help the entire team succeed at a higher level. Confirmed integrates with the most common tools including Outlook, Salesforce, Google Calendar, and Hubspot to allow users to adhere to best practices without additional overhead or burden.

### **ERIN**

ERIN is an employee referral platform that engages employees to participate in recruitment while completely automating administration of bonuses, engagement, and more. By allowing employees to easily participate in recruitment, ERIN increases referral hires by over 5X, decreases admin overhead, and cuts the time to fill a position in half. ERIN's web and mobile app is used by over one million referring employees in 18 different countries.

## **HIKE2 LLC**

HIKE2 believes there's no such thing as cookie-cutter advice or solutions—they thrive on change and love going from blank slate to truly innovative ideas and creative breakthroughs. By focusing on Salesforce solutions, design and strategy guidance, change management and training, software implementations, and data integrations, HIKE2 helps clients utilize today's leading technology to solve their everyday challenges.

As a collaborative, diverse, and action-oriented group of consultants who work iteratively to capture client mindsets and solve the most complex business problems, HIKE2 develops solutions from their deep, cross-discipline functionality shaped by senior advisors and practical experience.

## **My BFF Social LLC**

My BFF Social is a full-service marketing agency that specializes in helping brands and businesses develop and execute their social media, marketing, and advertising strategy. Today, mobile and social media are how you connect and communicate with customers, prospects, and friends. My BFF Social's goal is to help clients develop a social media strategy that works for their business. My BFF Social takes a creative, collaborative, and consistent approach to developing marketing and advertising strategies that achieve business goals. Their business model identifies and executes on a continuous improvement cycle that reduces costs and enhances return on marketing investment.

## **NextLink Labs**

NextLink Labs is a boutique digital transformation company focusing on custom software solutions, cybersecurity, and DevSecOps consulting services. NextLink Labs implements robust, scalable cloud-native solutions following best practices of DevOps, data management, cybersecurity, and agile software development. They combine consulting, technical execution, and DevOps best practices to ensure a successful digital transformation and solutions for each client.

## **Seiso LLC**

Seiso is an information security consulting company focused on creating simple, effective security programs designed to evolve and mature within organizations over time. Seiso delivers cloud, enterprise, and application security solutions; builds and operates security programs for the most challenging, fast moving, and heavily regulated environments; and provides expert guidance and advice. Seiso's approach focuses on harmony with the business, ensuring that security does not hinder organizational goals, and that its partners are able to make informed, risk-based decisions.

## **CEO of the Year**

### **CytoAgents: Teresa Whalen, CEO**

With more than 20 years in the healthcare industry as a biotech innovator, health technology leader, life sciences investor, and clinical pharmacist, Teresa Whalen has a successful track record of bringing life-changing healthcare products to market.

As the CEO of CytoAgents, Teresa leads a team of world-renowned clinical drug development experts and scientific advisory board members who are at the forefront of groundbreaking solutions to combat cytokine release syndrome. She serves as a Board Member at St. Clair Hospital and as Co-chair of the Investment Committee for the Next Act Fund.

**Deeplocal: Nathan Martin, CEO & Founder**

Named "Willy Wonka with a toolkit from Mythbusters" by Forbes, Nathan isn't your typical CEO. Since spinning Deeplocal out of CMU in 2006, Nathan has become one of the most recognized leaders of innovation and invention in advertising, creating custom solutions that are often world's firsts. He has received global recognition for his work in art, music, and technology and has been featured in Wired, Fast Company, Communication Arts, Adweek, and at SXSW and CES. Nathan has grown Deeplocal's portfolio to include work for top brands and has led the team in launching award-winning interactive experiences around the world.

**Ethical Intruder: David Kane, CEO**

David Kane founded Ethical Intruder in 2009 and has been the primary driver behind their services and innovations. David started the company when cybersecurity had very limited understanding or mindshare. Under his leadership, he continues to position the company on the leading edge of cybersecurity services. Recent focus around less mature or start-up organizations came at the realization that there is limited support for small teams to navigate this complicated space, and it was a major barrier for their business success. David still maintains a relationship with every client to assure expectations are met and exceeded.

**GrayMatter: James Gillespie, CEO**

GrayMatter co-founder and CEO Jim Gillespie has been leading industrial digital transformations for more than 30 years. Jim has founded or co-founded two Pittsburgh-based companies: GrayMatter in 1991 and LifeWhere in 2016, which was sold in 2019 to Resideo Technologies, Inc., a spinoff of Honeywell.

Jim focuses on curating technology and guiding the digital process which enables assets and people to become smarter and more visible. GrayMatter co-innovates with companies in manufacturing, water/wastewater, power, and oil and gas markets to deliver custom-fit operational technology programs and solutions including process control, MES, predictive analytics, and other trends.

**Idelic: Nick Bartel, Co-founder & CEO**

After graduating Carnegie Mellon University, Nick Bartel founded Idelic with Hayden Cardiff and Andrew Russell with the goal of revolutionizing the safety of our nation's roadways. Since then, Nick has helped grow Idelic to over 70 employees and bring over \$30 million dollars of capital infusion to the Pittsburgh region. After joining Idelic as the Founding COO, his leadership throughout the pandemic led the Board of Directors to appoint him Co-CEO and later CEO, a role he fills today. His impact on the city's economy and the transportation industry has brought value to everyone with whom he's had the pleasure of working.

**NextLink Labs: Jordan Saunders, Founder & CEO**

In 2017, Jordan Saunders founded NextLink Labs, with the mission of helping companies become lasting successes through adoption of best-in-class technology. By combining best practices and innovation, Jordan envisioned NextLink Labs as the services provider helping companies mature, become better, scale, and secure.

Through NextLink Labs, Jordan sought to help companies achieve their goals by delivering world-class DevSecOps and Security consulting services as well as custom software development solutions. As the company's clientele grew, so did its number of employees and NextLink spent time and effort identifying the best and brightest people to accommodate the growing needs of their partners.

**NuMoola: James Haluszczak, CEO/Founder/Board Member**

James Haluszczak is the Managing Partner & Co-Founder of SteelBridge Laboratories and is the CEO & Founder of NuMoola. James has a rich history of fostering entrepreneurship, both in the financial services sector and the early-stage FinTech space. James works to grow and support NuMoola and each portfolio company under the SteelBridge Laboratories umbrella, assists in revenue generation and later-stage investing rounds, and ensures that companies are well positioned for success. He also has a passion for financial literacy and educates youth to ensure a better financial future.

Additionally, James holds roles on the following boards: Pittsburgh Venture Capital Association, NuMoola, Exchangelodge, and GivSum.

**Pittsburgh Technical College: Dr. Alicia B. Harvey-Smith, President & CEO**

As President and CEO of Pittsburgh Technical College (PTC) since 2019, Dr. Alicia B. Harvey-Smith has executed tremendous strides in increasing the college's exposure to the public, government officials, business leaders, community partners, and numerous other constituents in a manner that had not before been initiated by a leader in this position. As the college's first President since becoming a non-profit organization, her guidance has opened new doors for PTC to the community, access to funding, and enrollment opportunities.

**Rivers Agile: Ben Wilson, Founder & CEO**

After more than a decade helping organizations strengthen their SDLC through QA, Ben Wilson founded Rivers Agile in 2008. The mission was simple: build an innovative, elite QA consultancy. Today, a significant portion of the company's portfolio is repeat business as clients trust Ben's expertise for their technology endeavors. He's grown the company into a recognizable force in Pittsburgh by providing a full range of solutions from product design and QA to training and software development. Ben remains as passionate as day one and feels lucky to work alongside a talented team of developers, testers, strategists, and innovators.