

Big  Idea
CONNECTpreneur

SUMMERFEST NETWORKING & PITCH EXTRAVAGANZA



JUNE 12, 2025

8 AM - 12 NOON



TYSONS CORNER, VA



Fairfax County
Economic Development Authority



Agenda

8:00 - 9:15 am - REGISTRATION / NETWORKING

9:15 - 9:45 am - WELCOME REMARKS

TIEN WONG, CEO, Opus8; Founder, Big Idea CONNECTpreneur Forum

RAE STOTT, CEO, Refraction

ANNA NISSINEN, Senior Vice President, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority

CHRISTOPHER STEELE, Chief of Strategy and Business Development, Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC)

9:45 - 10:30 am - COMPANY SHOWCASE / ROCKET PITCH

Promising Early Stage Companies will be introduced by:

- SARA CLASPER, Associate Attorney, NEXT powered by Shulman Rogers
- DEBBIE CLINE, Founder and Chief of Customer Success, Buzzy Rocket

PRESENTING COMPANIES

AuraVax - Joseph Sullivan

Autonom - Romeo Catracchia

Cayuga BioTech - Damien Kudela

Dasion Corp. - Weiqing Gu

Propel IOT - Rick Burtner

World Tree - Doug Willmore

10:30 - 12:00 pm - NETWORKING

Speakers



TIEN WONG, CEO, Opus8, Inc.

Mr. Tien Wong is a tech investor, entrepreneur, and CEO. He is Chairman & CEO of Opus8, Inc., a private investment and advisory firm investing in exceptional life science and tech enabled services companies, as well as specializing in raising capital for promising tech companies and alternative investment fund managers. He is Founder of CONNECTpreneur, a global community of 25,000+ founders, investors, CEOs, and business leaders. CONNECTpreneur organizes the world's largest monthly virtual investor pitch events as well as in-person Forums with upwards of 500 attendees, featuring VIP guests, speakers, exciting presenting companies, and the best CXO to CXO networking on the East Coast. Since 2012, over 1200 companies have presented, half of whom have received funding from investors from the CONNECTpreneur investor network. Mr. Wong is also a Venture Partner in IronGate Capital Advisors, a VC and Fund of Funds manager investing in dual use technologies; Investment Advisory Board member of Virginia Venture Partners; and Chairman of Lumious, an ed tech company which provides learning & development services to Fortune 500 customers.



RAE STOTT, Co-Founder and CEO, Refraction

Rae Stott Co-founder and CEO of Refraction is a dynamic leader, working at the nexus of startups, culture and community. Rae has built a robust foundation in using culture and community to address complex challenges and wicked problems.

Her career began in Australia, where she first built a community and founded a charity to address gaps in the social services ecosystem. She then helped deploy this formula against the failings in disaster response efforts, before turning her attention to technology companies. Her subsequent position as Director of Culture at GoCanvas, helped her prove the hypothesis that culture and community were as valuable in business as they are in addressing social issues. As CEO at Refraction, Rae has returned to the organization she cofounded over a decade ago to understand how community and culture support the startup ecosystem and economy in post-COVID world. A challenge she relishes.



ANNA NISSINEN, Senior Vice President, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority

Anna Nissinen is the Senior Vice President of the Fairfax County (Va.) Economic Development Authority (FCEDA). Ms. Nissinen is responsible for growing the commercial tax base of the largest economy in the Commonwealth of Virginia to support a thriving community of 1.1+ million residents near Washington, D.C. At the FCEDA, Ms. Nissinen oversees the attraction and retention of domestic and foreign business investment working with more than 47,000 companies, including over 10,000 in the technology sector. She oversees FCEDA's global operations and leads a team that has secured approximately \$2.5 billion in earned media value through placements in national and international media. She also oversees a talent attraction and retention marketing program. To-date, more than 17,000 companies and 100 universities have been engaged, and more than 450,000 job seekers have been connected to opportunities in Northern Virginia.

Previously, Ms. Nissinen held leadership positions at Fairfax County Government; Loudoun County Government; the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C.; and private sector organizations including Ford Motors and AFFLINK. Her leadership has been recognized by entities such as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Ms. Nissinen is Cornell University-trained in real estate development, finance and investing. She holds an MBA from the University of Alabama and a bachelor's degree in international business from the Helsinki School of Economics (now Aalto University).

Speakers



CHRISTOPHER STEELE, Chief of Strategy & Bus. Dev., Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium

Christopher Steele serves as the Chief of Strategy at the Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC), where he leads strategic initiatives to advance biotech/medtech solutions that support dual-use (military and civilian) medical applications. In this role, Steele drives the non-profit organization's efforts to expand MTEC's program customer base, pursue & partner across federal opportunities, and strengthen MTEC's financial and reputational standing as the go-to "Other Transaction" mechanism for DoD medical product maturation and commercialization. His leadership ensures that MTEC remains at the forefront of medical innovation, while building a sustainable and diverse entity. With over 34 years of service in the Department of Defense (in the US Army and US Navy), Steele held key leadership roles in research and development. He directed the Military Operational Medicine Research Program (MOMRP) for Army and Defense Health Agency funding and was a Program Officer at the Office of Naval Research. Additionally, he played a pivotal role in joint R&D funding and Navy/Marine Corps prioritization efforts at the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. His experience includes overseeing +\$1Bn of R&D funding and hundreds of medical research projects (across 11 intramural DoD laboratories, several UARCs and FFRDCs, and many academic and commercial partners) aimed at improving the health, readiness, and performance of Servicemembers. He led numerous programs across topics that include environmental physiology, psychological health, musculoskeletal injuries, combat casualty care, radiation exposure, directed energy, rehabilitative medicine, performance nutrition, and circadian/sleep & performance optimization. Additionally, he led programmatic oversight of large DoD/VA partnership programs including the Consortium to Alleviate PTSD, the Military Suicide Research Consortium and the Millenium Cohort Program. A retired Navy Commander and circadian physiologist, Steele holds a Ph.D. from North Carolina State University.



SARA CLASPER, Associate, NEXT Powered by Shulman Rogers

Through the NEXT platform, she typically represents early-stage seed and emerging growth companies and helps position them for success. Sara advises local and national companies on private equity, venture capital transactions, mergers and acquisitions, compliance issues, capital raises, equity compensation and other general corporate matters.

Sara effectively balances efficiency with risk mitigation in her deal transactions. Prior to her work with NEXT, Sara spent 6 years as a persuasive litigator, honing her problem solving and negotiation skills and deepening her understanding of the type of contractual provisions that can eventually lead to disputes. This unique background for a transactional attorney enables her to anticipate the potential hurdles that a business transaction may encounter and foresee the importance and implications of each element of a deal during negotiations.



DEBBIE CLINE, Founder & Chief of Customer Success, Buzzy Rocket

Debbie is co-founder, chief of customer success at Buzzy Rocket and yellow lab lover. From LA to London, she is well known as an expert in creating that certain elusive magic that drives explosive growth at the intersection of companies and customers. She has proven strategic vision, and isn't afraid to get in the trenches. In fact, she's been doing this at companies big and small for 25+ years. Her background includes executive level positions at both public companies and startups where she has proven over and over again that her passion, drive and results oriented perspective get it done. She is tenacious, loves the game changer and loves to win.

What if one product treated and prevented multiple respiratory infections?

STAGE:	Seed Investment
FUND RAISE:	2025 SAFE with Valuation Cap
AMOUNT	\$4,500,000.00
INDUSTRY:	R&D Biotechnology
DISEASE:	Respiratory infections in the seasonal and biodefense markets
IP PARTNERS:	University of Houston Massachusetts General Hospital
TAM	\$20B to \$28B
Contact:	Joseph Sullivan (CEO) jsullivan@auravax.com

LEADERSHIP TEAM	Joseph Sullivan Chief Executive Officer
	Laurence Cooper PhD MD Founder /Chair of Board
	Navin Varadarajan PhD Founder & Lead Scientist
Board of Directors	Thomas Finn Former President P&G Healthcare
	John Shiver PhD Former SVP of R&D Sanofi Pasteur
SAB Chair	George Church Harvard University

Overview

Problem: Respiratory pathogens cause billions in annual health/security costs

Solution: Host-directed therapeutic (HDT) activating STING pathway

Benefit: Three in one applications

- Stop serious clinical disease from infection
- Stop upper respiratory infections after exposure
- Stop transmission between infected and uninfected

Validation: Extensive preclinical published data; Completed FDA pre-IND; BARDA partnership with clinical stage partner

Capital: Initial investment established manufacturing, regulatory pathway, safety, efficacy, partnerships, and non-dilutive funding

Team: Top-tier industry leadership & academic SAB experts

Inflection: First-in-human studies planned for 2026

Technology

Our NanoSTING platform is the first drug candidate to efficiently and safely activate the innate immune system in the respiratory tract, which is the first line defense for infections. It is designed to be administered before or after exposure to respiratory pathogens to prevent illness and transmission. When given after an infection it will be used to reduce the chance of developing serious illness. NanoSTING stands apart, as this one drug can be used to treat today's pathogens as well as tomorrow's threats.

Pipeline

NanoSTING-001: A standalone HDT being advanced for prevention and treatment of multiple respiratory infections. As a HDT, NanoSTING-001 activates the immune system rather than directly targeting the pathogen. Thus, NanoSTING-001 avoids becoming obsolete as pathogens mutate to become resistant to targeted medications.

NanoSTING-002: A mucosal adjuvant for intranasal vaccines. As an adjuvant, NanoSTING-002 enhances the immune response making to vaccines. While many of today's approved vaccines administered via needle injection are formulated with adjuvants, NanoSTING-002 would be the first to make needle-free intranasal vaccines more effective and widely available.

Go To Market Strategy

- Dual use provides multiple customer/product opportunities and de-risks development
- Leading with influenza HDT indication & leveraging biodefense HDT for proof of broad-acting efficacy
- Strategic partnerships as early as 2026
- Accelerated revenue with vaccine adjuvant/HDT biodefense

Overview

Surgical robotics has transformed operating room procedures—but most invasive medical interventions happen elsewhere. Everyday procedures like vascular access, nerve blocks, fluid taps, joint and spinal injections, and biopsies are typically performed outside the OR, often without general anesthesia. These technically challenging procedures are frequently painful and anxiety-inducing for both patients and providers. AutonomUS Medical Technologies brings robotics to these underserved interventions with **AI-GUIDE™**, a low-cost medical device that combines AI, portable ultrasound, and compact robotics to help clinicians perform complex procedures with precision and ease. Originally developed for military medics with DOD support, AI-GUIDE™ is poised to transform hundreds of millions of interventional procedures.

AI Powered Precision for Everyday Procedures

- Trademarked as **The Pocket Interventionalist™** for its portability and versatility, the AI-GUIDE™ (Artificial Intelligence-Guided Ultrasound Intervention Device) was developed by **MIT Lincoln Laboratory** and **Massachusetts General Hospital** with support from the U.S. Department of Defense.
- The AI-GUIDE™ recently received **FDA Breakthrough Device Designation** for its high novelty and lifesaving potential.

Huge Market Potential

- In addition to funding early development of our technology, the **U.S. Army and Air Force** have supported AutonomUS with **multi-million-dollar**, non-dilutive, **product development contracts**.
- By helping providers perform critical procedures quickly and reliably, **AI-GUIDE boosts efficiency** and **alleviates staffing challenges**, keeps care on schedule, improves outcomes, and enhances the patient experience.
- AutonomUS is currently advancing **vascular access and peripheral nerve block** applications—two high-value, high-demand procedures with **multi-billion-dollar markets** in military and civilian settings.
- AutonomUS sees **strong expansion potential in orthopedics**, where AI-guided joint injections, aspirations, and soft-tissue repair will improve care access and value.



Positioned for Strategic Value Creation

- AutonomUS sits at the intersection of **AI, ultrasound, and surgical robotics**, three of the highest-conviction MedTech themes. We target applications where **accuracy, productivity, staffing efficiency, and better healthcare outcomes** drive technology adoption.
- Our economic model is structured with a **razor-and-blade approach** that combines durable, low-cost hardware with single-use consumable cartridges to drive recurring revenue and high margin growth.
- AutonomUS holds strong **intellectual property** and has followed a **capital-efficient** development path.
- Our **highly differentiated AI-GUIDE™ platform** is designed to be deployed across hospital floors, emergency rooms, ICUs, pre-op suites, surgical centers, EMT vehicles, and military field units, **becoming the universal platform for automating common interventional procedures**.

For more information, please contact Romeo Catracchia, CEO, romeo@autonomus.ai (978 289 0472)

Executive Summary

Company Summary. Cayuga Biotech is developing novel therapies using polyphosphate (PolyP) to stop uncontrollable hemorrhage and save lives by reaching currently unmet patient populations.

Intellectual Property. Cayuga holds rights on both the composition of matter and methods of use of polyphosphate as a therapeutic for hemostatic applications.

Problem. Uncontrolled Hemorrhage causes 2 million deaths per year. Internal injuries, delay to control of bleeding, and patients with compromised clotting pathways are the main underlying factors that led to death.

Solution. Cayuga's lead candidate CAY001 delivers polyphosphate to the injury site to accelerate coagulation. This polyphosphate is based on naturally occurring polyphosphate that is produced by platelets during coagulation. Polyphosphate's role in coagulation is to catalyze the mass production of thrombin through Factors XI and V leading to strong clots that prevent further blood loss.

Nonclinical Data. In 3 models of life-threatening bleeding, CAY001 has reduced bleeding time 90 %, blood loss 59 %, and improved survival 36 %. GLP toxicology studies have shown that CAY001 has a wide safety window – no serious side effects were reported until 800x the effective dose.

Status. Cayuga plans to begin the first-in-human phase 1 trial of CAY001 later in 2025. We will demonstrate proof of concept in 2026. Cayuga has demonstrated the safety and efficacy of CAY001 in nonclinical models and has developed a manufacturing process that aligns with FDA guidelines and can be scaled for larger production.

Market and Competition. There are an estimated 3.5 million bleeding episodes that require treatment annually. These bleeding episodes are due to a wide variety of causes including surgery, blood thinners, and childbirth. Cayuga's plan is to target the treatment of bleeding for patients on the blood thinner Plavix as the first indication. Once successful with Plavix treatment, CAY001 will expand into larger markets such as surgery, particularly those patient populations by current standard of care. Cayuga will not enter markets with competitive therapies currently on the market until clinical data demonstrates the benefit of CAY001 use.

Initial Indication - Plavix Related Bleeding. Nearly 4 million Americans use Plavix to prevent heart attack or stroke. These patients often remain reliant on Plavix throughout their life. Plavix irreversibly bind to platelets, which are critical for proper clot formation. Platelet infusions are ineffective. CAY001 will use FDA precedent in approving treatments for other blood thinners to conduct clinical trials that are fast and capital-efficient. Once the first indication is secured, Cayuga will develop CAY001 for other unmet markets to expand sales.

Financial Forecast. Current FDA-approved drugs are designed to reverse a single class of blood thinners. Despite a single indication for use, one analogue drug has \$1B in annual sales. Cayuga's plan is to reach multiple, larger markets. In this field, demonstration of proof of concept in clinical trials is the most common trigger for a deal with pharmaceuticals. Cayuga has identified key pharmaceutical companies active in the hematology and cardiovascular spaces who have a need for CAY001 to augment their pipeline.

Funding. Cayuga has secured funding to conduct the phase 1 trial of CAY001. Cayuga is seeking additional \$500K investment via SAFE to enhance the phase 1 read-out and prepare Cayuga for the next fundraising round.

Team. CEO Andrea Ashford-Hicks has 20 years of pharma experience including 9 commercial launches and 6 deals totaling over \$6B. CSO and founder Damien Kudela is an expert in drug delivery who invented CAY001. The remaining team members are highly experienced. Several team members oversaw approval of analogous clotting drugs by the FDA.

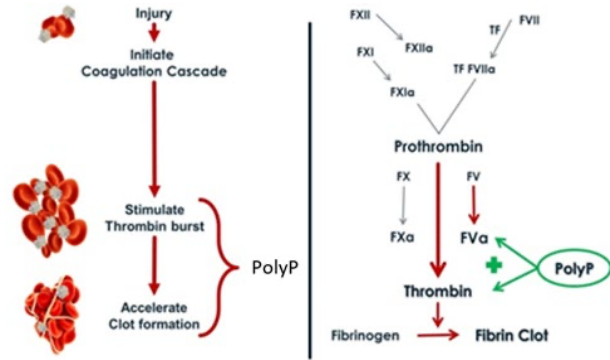


Figure 1. Coagulation cascade. Short-chain polyP (middle) binds to thrombin and enhances the rates of activation of FV and FXI leading to an earlier thrombin burst. Rapid thrombin generation leads to improved clot formation.

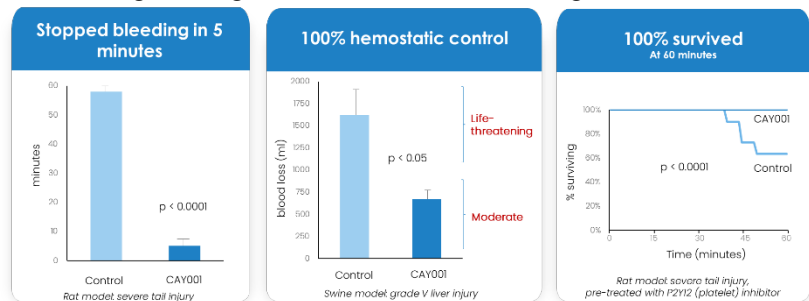


Figure 2. Across 3 studies of life-threatening hemorrhage, CAY001 reduces bleeding time, reduces blood loss, and improves survival.

DASION

*Transforming Healthcare with
Voice-Based AI*

**Noninvasive. Explainable.
Always Listening.**

 **DATA TO
DECISION**



THE PROBLEM

- **Seniors** lack affordable, continuous health monitoring.
- Existing AI solutions are **costly, opaque,** and **difficult to deploy.**

OUR SOLUTION

DASION: 24/7 Voice Companion for Seniors

- **Conversational anomaly detection** to monitor well-being in real-time
- **Immediate alerts** to caregivers or family
- **Smart follow-ups:** schedule check-ins or trigger 911 if needed
- **Physician-ready reports** summarizing key observations
- **No hardware required** — just voice

TRACTION

- **NSF SBIR Phase I & II funded**
- **Department of Defense**
- backing for depression detection
- **Pilot programs & Letter of Intent**
- with eldercare providers

GO-TO-MARKET & FDA STRATEGY

- **Years 1–3: Deploy as a Monitoring & Alerting Platform**
- **FDA Clearance Path: One disease at a time** — starting with depression
- **Self-learning system improves with every interaction**

THE ASK

Raising \$3M to scale:

- 40% Product & Engineering
- 30% Go-to-Market Execution
- 15% Business Development
- 15% Operations

18-Month Milestones:

- 1 FDA clearance
- 10x proprietary health data
- \$1M ARR

Dr. Weiqing Gu , CEO
Bo Hartman, Sales Director



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With Our Series A Growth Funding Pivot: Unique Attributes That Separate Propel From its Competitors & Offer Affordable Solutions for Customers / Epic Investor Return

Presentation Talking Points – Next 3 Yr. Pivot Plan 2025-2027

I. What We Do – Unicorn Investment Opportunity

- A. Current Market Events with AI, New Modularized Software Programming, etc. are Creating a “Landgrab Type Opportunity” to Rethink the Tech Status Quo in All Areas for Those Who Can Transform to Adapt & Be First Movers in an Agile Manner.
- B. For SMB Customers (70-80%) of Our \$2.2TR Market with a 10% CAGR, We Provide Needed:
 - 1. Affordable Real Time Moveable Asset Location Tracking & Sensor Monitoring for Efficiency, Security & Compelling ROI.
 - 2. Latest Technology with AI Capability & Product Features to be Competitive & Cyber Secure.
 - 3. 40+% Savings Over Other Competitors
 - 4. Avoid Heavy IT Spend to Create Their Own In-House Capability.

II. Our Ask: Seeking \$500K of Angel Investment as Part of Our \$3.5-\$4.0M Series A Growth Rd. of Which \$3M Institutional is Already Committed

- A. For This \$500K New Investment Portion Ahead of the \$3M, a 3X Return Guarantee Exists. If at 3 Yrs., the Stock Value Does Not Equal This Return, Additional Company Shares Will be Issued.
- B. The Initial New \$500K Allows Us to Start Bringing 4 of the 10 Added Team Onboard to Pursue & Close Revenue Potential Deals Created
- C. Having the Team and This Initial Capital Will Result in \$1+M New Annualized Revenue Generated Within 3 Months.

III. Emphasize Key Aspects for Reduced Investor Risk & Maximized Return.

- A. The Team & I Have Built 3 Other \$100+M EV Co's From Early Stages. We Have a “Dream Team” Board, Advisory Board and Management Team Ready to Join.
- B. Lean Flat Organization with Large Global Business Partners for Scale
- C. Proven Model with a Repeat Agile Team for Fast Profitable Growth.
- D. Realistic Targets for 3 Yr. Plan Demonstrated by Past Performance.

*World Tree Technologies Inc.***Company Address:**

2447 Pacific Coast Highway
2nd Floor
Hermosa Beach, CA, 90254

Web address | www.worldtree.eco

Industry: Sustainable Lumber

Fundraising Needs:

\$3-4M additional in Series A Equity Round

Current Investors:

\$3.5M raised in Family and Friends round of Series A

\$17M in Eco-Tree Program

Use of Capital:

The capital will be invested in development of new institutional projects and acceleration of lumber sales. Over the next four years, we will scale our forestry assets from 7,900 to 22,000+ acres, earn \$7.5M from Empress Lumber, and become cash flow positive.

Investment Thesis:

Scale the only regenerative sustainable lumber company in North America.

Business Description: World Tree is a sustainable lumber company headquartered in California, with operations in five countries. We believe that nature-based solutions are key to solving issues like global warming, soil degradation and biodiversity loss. Our regenerative farm projects capture carbon, restore the soil and generate jobs while addressing the market gap in greener lumber. We aim to produce long-term financial returns while promoting a transition towards a more resilient and sustainable economy.

Company Background: World Tree currently has approximately \$300M of net assets planted across 375 farm locations in the United States, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Mexico. We have planted and supervised Empress farms for the last nine years.

Management:

Doug Willmore – CEO: Doug led the growth of a start-up pathology laboratory's revenue, increasing it by 20x in just four years, leading to a successful exit. He was also City Manager of Rancho Palos Verdes, Bell and El Segundo, CA and Chief Administrative Officer at Salt Lake County, UT managing thousands of staff and multi-million-dollar budgets.

Nathan Donohoe – CFO: Nathan has spent his career supporting start-ups in media, entertainment, manufacturing and design by building robust yet agile systems that scale. He holds a BBA with a focus in Accounting and a MS in Marketing from Texas A&M.

Drake Swezey – COO: Drake is an operations specialist dedicated to regenerative agroforestry and natural resource management. He holds a BS in Environmental Science from Santa Clara University and an MBA from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Investment Update: World Tree is thrilled to announce the successful completion of our Friends and Family raise, surpassing our target with a total of \$3.5M. This outstanding response reflects the confidence our network has in our mission and the strong results we have delivered to our investors. We are deeply grateful for this support, which fuels our continued growth and impact.

Technologies/Special Know-how: Nine years of experience growing Empress Trees in hundreds of locations; a collection of 18 exclusive non-GMO trees for superior growth and site-specific performance; designers of Empress-based farm systems that integrate Empress trees with food crops and livestock.

Wood products are a massive market with long-term growth prospects and a supply problem.

The high-end North American wholesale market alone is \$170BN and is expected to grow threefold by 2050. In parallel, traditional lumber sources, including pine, swamp ash, redwood, and Western cedar, have been devastated by climate change-induced pest outbreaks, drought, and wildfires. World Tree focuses on the subsector of veneers, furniture, cabinetry, marine use, and musical instruments in which these legacy species are commonly used.

Sustainable tree farms address growing lumber demand, climate crisis, and social issues.

Sustainable tree farms are intrinsically resilient to global climate change. Our farms address the root cause of deforestation, produce lumber and annual crop revenue, deliver high-value carbon credits, create wildlife and biodiversity sanctuaries, and provide myriad ecosystem services.

Empress trees have a competitive advantage to win in the lumber market.

The Empress Splendor, known as the aluminum of lumber, is non-invasive, grows extremely fast, has an abnormally high strength-to-weight ratio, and is highly workable into durable use cases, in addition to providing ecosystem services. It is a more economically efficient and ecologically healthy tree relative to other common lumber species, and regenerates after harvest up to five times.

Competition: Other companies growing Empress include Paulownia Germany, IPaulownia and WeGrow. These companies are primarily based in Europe. In North America, our target customers are using birch, ash and redwood, which have similar characteristics to Empress wood. These species are endangered, and Empress is a sustainable, fast-growing alternative.

World Tree is the only experienced developer of regenerative Empress farms in North America.

Over the last nine years, we have tested over 30 varieties to optimize genetic material, growing conditions, and maintenance plans. Any competitor must repeat the learning journey to manage Empress farms effectively, especially in complex agroforestry systems. We are already selling Empress lumber to name-brand clients and will scale rapidly once large ETP harvests begin in December 2026.

The entire 2026/2027 harvest will be going to to a major U.S. zero carbon footprint, closed product lifecycle, manufacturing plant that will break ground in 2026.

Financial Projections:	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Revenue (in millions)	\$3.0	\$5.9	\$8.4	\$16.0	\$24.8	\$33.7
Total Acreage (in thousands)	7.9	10.2	14.2	22.9	33.2	42.1

Our Partners



REFRACTION @refractionpt

Refraction is a leading nonprofit innovation hub in Northern Virginia, that provides mentoring, programs, and office space for startups and high-growth companies to help create jobs in the greater Washington region. In five years, more than 300 member companies have collectively raised over \$350 million in capital. Refraction's partners include Amazon, Cox, Dominion Energy, MITRE, Fairfax County, Arlington County, Loudoun County, Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, and Virginia Tech.



FAIRFAX COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) provides a wide array of free and confidential services and information to assist new, expanding and relocating domestic and international businesses. FCEDA's mission is to promote the competitive advantages of Fairfax County and influence the growth of a diverse and innovative business ecosystem that enhances the tax base, creates demand for commercial space, and supports an extraordinary and equitable quality of life. Headquartered in Tysons, Fairfax County's largest business district, the FCEDA also maintains offices in major business hubs around the world: Bangalore/Mumbai, Berlin, London, Los Angeles, Seoul, and Tel Aviv. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcountyeda.org.



NEXT powered by SHULMAN ROGERS

NEXT disrupts the legacy legal industry by offering a broad range of fixed fee solutions (stand-alone products and annual legal plans) delivered by senior attorneys with valuable business expertise. NEXT solves the problem that startup and emerging growth companies face when launching their business as well as scaling: lack of access to predictable legal fees, seasoned attorneys, the latest technology and key business services. We use cutting edge technology platforms to deliver real efficiencies, transparency and a collaborative environment for clients, attorneys and investors. NEXT partners with its clients to de-risk their business and get to the NEXT level, together reaching each milestone of success. NEXT is powered by Shulman Rogers, a full-service law firm with nearly 100 attorneys offering superior services across a wide range of practice areas. The firm also offers robust personal services such as residential closings and trust and estate planning. Shulman Rogers has earned its reputation for providing quality representation, business insight and client value, serving as a highly attractive alternative to larger, higher-priced firms and smaller, less diverse firms. Learn more at ShulmanRogers.com.



MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE CONSORTIUM (MTEC)

FORVIS MAZARS has the scale and scope of a dynamic, top 10 professional services firm—but we'll continue our legacy of Unmatched Client Experiences with remarkable care, expertise, and drive. Our clients benefit from a single organization with the enhanced capabilities of an expanded national platform, deepened industry mastery, greater resources, and innovative advisory services. Our aim is to help you succeed today while preparing you to forge ahead into a clear future.



NORTHERN VIRGINIA TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

NVTC is the trade association representing the Northern Virginia technology community. One of the nation's largest and oldest tech councils, NVTC convenes regional tech companies from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies, government contractors, service providers, academic institutions, and nonprofits who are committed to innovating to improve how we live, work, and learn.

Our Partners



JENNIFER TAYLOR, CEO, Northern Virginia Technology Council

Jennifer Taylor serves as the President and CEO of the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC), a leading trade association representing the National Capital Region's expansive tech community. With a membership of 500 organizations spanning various tech sectors, service providers, academic institutions, and nonprofits, NVTC has thrived under Taylor's leadership since 1991. Jennifer has significantly increased membership, engaged over 15,000 tech professionals through events, and implemented a five-year strategic plan impacting over 20 key performance indicators. Prior to NVTC, she played a crucial role at the Consumer Technology Association (CTA) as VP of Industry Affairs, launching initiatives focused on closing the skills gap and promoting diversity in the tech sector. Jennifer's extensive career also includes leadership roles at AARP, where she developed a smart tablet for seniors, and various positions at the American Red Cross, RTCRM, and KSK Communications.



BUZZY ROCKET

Buzzy Rocket was founded 12 years ago with the mission to help startups grow and scale their businesses. Debbie and Victoria do this with their decades of marketing experience combined with their first hand experience founding, growing and scaling successful startups. They only work with 6 startups at any given time so they can provide 1:1 attention to you and your team. The Buzzy Rocket team is also made up of web developers, graphic designers and copywriters so they can help you easily execute the marketing strategy they create. Learn more about their services at BuzzyRocket.com.



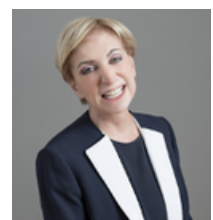
AEG

AEG is a values-based membership organization that creates personal and business growth through trusted relationships. As a "Time Machine" for business leaders, AEG accelerates trust and facilitates peer relationships to drive business development and personal growth. We connect three communities of midmarket CEOs, elite business advisors, and regional centers of influence. Through regular programs, education and community facilitation, AEG cultivates deep personal and business relationships, enabling fast, impactful connections, collaboration, and personal and business referrals.



MARK HAAS, CEO, AEG

Mark Haas is Co-founder and CEO of AEG (Association for Enterprise Growth), responsible for strategy, operations, and expansion of its communities to 30 cities nationally. He was previously President of ROM a strategy and operations management consulting firm, advising CEOs and boards to include leadership training for Tanzanian energy executives, developing curricula to train consultants in 40 countries for an international bank, crafting strategy and innovative business models for \$120 million nonprofit, merging two scientific associations, re-organizing a biomedical research agency, facilitating development of WWIV military strategy, and of facilitating a global R&D strategy for the US Navy.



INES LEBOW, Founder and Principal, Enterprise Transformation Solutions

Ines LeBow is the Founder and Principal Startup Consultant at Enterprise Transformation Solutions (ETS), which advises entrepreneurs on how to position themselves for funding. Over the course of her 30+ years in the industry, Ines has helped companies secure more than \$800M in funding, led start-ups and turnarounds for companies with up to \$500M in revenue, managed 11 M&A transactions, and guided 9 companies to a successful exit. With expertise spanning Operations, Executive Leadership, and Mentoring, Turnarounds, Revenue implementation, Engineering, as well as Communications, Ines has helped many companies prepare for VC and angel investment.



June 12 Attendees As of 06 12 25

SPEAKERS			
First Name	Last Name	Title	Company
Tien	Wong	Founder and Host	CONNECTpreneur
Rae	Stott	CEO	Refraction
Anna	Nissinen	Senior Vice President	Fairfax County Economic Development Authority
Christopher	Steele	Chief of Strategy and Business Development	Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC)
PRESENTERS			
First Name	Last Name	Title	Company
Joe	Sullivan	CEO	AuraVax Therapeutics Inc.
Romeo	Catracchia	CEO	AutonomUS Medical Technologies, Inc.
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Rick	Burtner	President and CEO	Propel IOT
Doug	Willmore	CEO	World Tree
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