

LEADERS of INFLUENCE in TECHNOLOGY 2025



MARK ALBRIGHT
Tri-City Medical Center



SHIRIN ALIPANAH
San Diego Homes & Estates



MICHAEL ANG
JobElephant



ASAF ASHKENAZI
Verimatrix



ASOKAN ASHOK
UnfoldLabs



SOFIA BABANOVA
Aquacycl



ROBBIE BEYER
RSM US LLP



MIRANDA BIVEN
Wilson Sonsini
Goodrich & Rosati



ORIANNA BRETSCHER, PH.D
Aquacycl



CHARLES BROWN
CLICS



JEFF CARMICHAEL
XiFin



LOGAN CARTER
Ivy Energy



VINCE CASTELLANO
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MICHAEL CHAGALA
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Cyber Center of Excellence



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ANDY HAASS
Booz Allen Hamilton



LAZARO HERRERA
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HANSOL HONG
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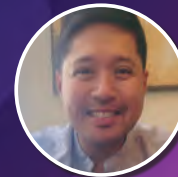
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Creating Coding



MARI RODISH
EVOTEK, Inc.



MIGUEL ROMERO
San Diego Gas & Electric



ROMEL ROMERO
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Airspace



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ALYSSA THORNTLEY
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KRI VIRTUE
Qualcomm



DOUG WINTER
Seismic



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Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP



SCOTT ZOLDI
FICO

LEADERS of INFLUENCE in TECHNOLOGY 2025



MARK ALBRIGHT
Chief Information Officer
Tri-City Medical Center

Mark Albright serves as the Chief Information Officer (CIO) at Tri-City Medical Center, a role he assumed in 2023 after serving as Vice President of Information Technology since 2017. With over two decades of experience in healthcare information technology, Mark has been instrumental in advancing the organization's technological capabilities. Notably, he led our organization through a cybersecurity attack and had systems back online within days. He also spearheaded comprehensive infrastructure upgrades, ensuring the medical center remains at the forefront of technological advancements. Mark holds a Master of Science in Systems Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management from Regis University. His unique background in nursing and healthcare information management positions him to drive innovation in healthcare IT. As CIO, Mark continues to leverage technology to enhance patient care and streamline operations at Tri-City Medical Center.



Tri-City Medical Center



SHIRIN ALIPANAH
Global Real Estate Consultant
& Technology Leader
San Diego Homes & Estates

Shirin Alipناه is a trailblazing leader at the forefront of real estate and technology, driving transformative change in San Diego County and beyond. With over 20 years in technology and 21 years in real estate, she has seamlessly integrated both industries, creating innovative solutions that set new standards. As the Co-founder of Premier Property Partners and a key figure within San Diego Homes & Estates, Shirin leads with a bold vision, leveraging AI-driven marketing, virtual tours, and smart home integrations to enhance client experiences. Her leadership has redefined operational efficiency, expanded market reach, and positioned her as a sought-after industry expert. She is a dedicated mentor and advocate, empowering entrepreneurs through workshops and leadership roles in organizations like the Women Impact Network and VillageCore. Shirin recently spoke at the CAR REImagine Conference on AI, sharing insights on leveraging technology to revolutionize real estate operations.



MICHAEL ANG
Founder & CEO
JobElephant

Michael Ang is the CEO and Founder of JobElephant, a San Diego-based recruitment advertising firm that uses research and data-driven technology solutions to streamline recruitment for job seekers and recruiters. Ang's work in recruitment advertising tech connects job seekers to ideal opportunities and helps recruiters attract top talent. With over two decades of experience in advertising and graphic design, Ang grew JobElephant from a startup to a leader in higher education and government recruitment. He led the creation of Horton, an AI-powered engine that uses predictive analytics to optimize ad placements. This innovation in talent acquisition tech changed how many organizations find top talent, and JobElephant now serves over 900 colleges and universities nationwide. Ang's tech innovations and strategic approach position JobElephant as a leader in recruitment advertising, using technology to maximize the effectiveness of every hiring campaign.



ASAF ASHKENAZI
CEO
Verimatrix

Asaf Ashkenazi is a renowned cybersecurity expert and CEO of Verimatrix. His global experiences — from serving in the Israeli military to keynoting at prestigious forums like the Cyber Research Center at Tel Aviv University — inform his perspective on technology and security. His career features contributions at major tech firms, including Qualcomm and Rambus, where he developed and led security strategies and earned 10 U.S. patents. At Verimatrix, Asaf has spearheaded the shift toward innovative new security solutions, embodying the company's ethos of "Friendly Security" — a concept that blends robust protection with user-friendliness. This philosophy is reflected in his various talks and written works, which cover a broad array of topics such as the vulnerabilities of IoT devices, the risks of malicious software, and the security of connected vehicles and healthcare devices. Asaf holds an engineering degree from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.



ASOKAN ASHOK
CEO
UnfoldLabs

Asokan Ashok, CEO UnfoldLabs, brings over 30 years of expertise, blending technology leadership with a deep understanding of business dynamics. His passion for innovation & creating disruptive solutions has driven UnfoldLabs to new heights, focusing on future-proof technologies. Recognized for his visionary work, Ashok has earned prestigious accolades & is a regular contributor to platforms like Forbes, LinkedIn, etc. where he shares thought leadership with industry peers. He electrifies events & webinars, inspiring the next wave of tech leaders & serves as a Board Advisor, guiding startups toward success. Ashok's leadership goes beyond his technical prowess - his ability to connect with people & mentor professionals. His empathy, integrity & clear communication empower teams, creating an environment where innovation & success flourish. Through his transformative influence, Ashok continues to shape the future of technology for mankind that brought him 50+ awards in the past 5 years.



SOFIA BABANOVA
Co-founder & Chief Technology Officer
Aquacycl

Dr. Babanova graduated from the University of Sofia in 2002 with a MS in organic and analytical chemistry. After being a chemist - chief expert and quality control manager at Regional Inspection of Public Health Protection and Control in Bulgaria for 5 years, in 2012 she received a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry (Electrochemistry) at the South West University, Bulgaria. Later in the same year Dr. Babanova obtained an MS in "Measurement Science in Chemistry". In 2015 she became a part of J. Craig Venter Institute and the Electromicrobiology group headed by Dr. Orianna Bretschger. In November 2016, Dr. Babanova supported Dr. Bretschger in establishing Aquacycl LLC (formerly Aquam). She is an inventor of 12 patent applications five of which have been issued. She is a recipient of 2015 STC UNM Innovation Award. Dr. Babanova's research and development work has resulted in 48 journal publications and one book chapter.



ROBBIE BEYER
Director Data Analytics & AI
RSM US LLP

Robbie Beyer is a Director of AI and Data Analytics at RSM US LLP, where he leads strategy, product development, technical delivery, sales growth, and talent development for the firm's Data Science and AI team. With a passion for innovation, Robbie helps businesses harness AI and data-driven solutions to optimize decision-making, improve efficiency, and uncover new opportunities. His expertise lies in translating complex challenges into scalable AI solutions, guiding executive leaders through AI adoption, and ensuring technical excellence in solution development. Under his leadership, the team has expanded its market presence, developed cutting-edge AI products, and driven measurable business impact for clients. Beyond his role at RSM, Robbie is a recognized thought leader, speaker, and mentor, frequently sharing insights on AI and technology. He is also committed to giving back, mentoring at his alma mater, USD, and supporting community initiatives.



MIRANDA BIVEN
Partner
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Miranda Biven, a partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, is the go-to technology transactions attorney for life sciences companies, counseling them in strategic partnering and licensing arrangements, M&A deals, and other transactions, and serving as a true strategic advisor on both legal and business issues. Within the last year, she advised life sciences clients on high-profile technology transactions, including: Aadi Bioscience on the \$100 million sale of its commercial drug product FYARRO® to KAKEN Pharmaceutical; its \$100 million PIPE financing; and an exclusive license agreement for a portfolio of pre-clinical, next-wave antibody-drug conjugates. Borealis Biosciences, a next-generation RNA medicines company, on its \$150 million Series A financing and strategic funding from Novartis. Terray Therapeutics on its strategic collaborations with Gilead Sciences and Odyssey Therapeutics to discover and develop novel small molecule therapies across multiple targets.



ORIANNA BRETSCHGER, PH.D
Co-founder & CEO
Aquacycl

Dr. Orianna Bretschger received a B.S. in Physics and Astronomy at the University of Northern Arizona; and after a career in aerospace and government consulting, she completed a Ph.D. in Materials Science at the University of Southern California. Bretschger launched Aquacycl with her partners after 12 years of technological development and validation. Dr. Bretschger is a 2021 Cartier Women's Initiative Science and Technology Pioneer Laureate, a 2019 Fellow in the National Academy of Sciences New Voices in Science, Engineering and Medicine Program, a 2022 Unreasonable Fellow, and Aquacycl was a Finalist for the 2023 Earthshot Prize for their work to decarbonize wastewater treatment. Aquacycl was founded in November 2016 and the company provides industrial wastewater treatment as a service to help companies support healthy watersheds and communities world-wide with offices in the United States and Aquacycl Europe B.V. in the Netherlands.



CHARLES BROWN
CEO
CLICS

With a career spanning over 10 technology firms, Charles Brown has been at the forefront of innovation. From building MILNET for the U.S. military to launch the first commercial email service, MCI Mail, his expertise has shaped the digital landscape. He went on to develop many other groundbreaking solutions, including financial services for events, and the first commercial Internet VPN for banks and ISPs. Now, as CEO of CLICS, Charles applies his deep technological and business acumen to revolutionize the professional hair salon industry. His leadership has driven the development of the first AI-powered, internet-connected dispenser that precisely predicts, AI learns, and dispenses hair color formulations. CLICS solves critical industry challenges in precision dispensing, waste reduction, and inventory management. By bringing cutting-edge technology to professional salons, Charles is transforming the future of hair color, empowering stylists, and redefining industry standards.



RANK HARVEST

seo & digital marketing

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Michael Chagala

Founder & CEO, Rank Harvest



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Michael Chagala

Founder & CEO, Rank Harvest

LEADERS of INFLUENCE in TECHNOLOGY 2025



JEFF CARMICHAEL

SVP, Engineering & Analytics
XiFin

Jeff Carmichael is the Senior Vice President of Engineering and Analytics at XiFin, Inc. He brings over 20 years of engineering leadership experience across networking, security, and healthcare software and systems. At XiFin, he oversees the engineering, data, and analytics teams, driving the development of cutting-edge technology, analytical solutions, and artificial intelligence (AI) that enhance efficiency and innovation for XiFin Empower, the company's powerful healthcare technology infrastructure that combines automation, data analytics, and AI to facilitate end-to-end connectivity and workflow optimization. With a career-long focus on data-driven insights and predictive modeling, Jeff leads the development of the company's analytics initiatives, including XiFin's Lab Volume Index (LVI) and Pay-or-Rate Transparency Monitor (PRTM), empowering healthcare organizations with actionable intelligence.



LOGAN CARTER

Co-founder & Chief Commercial Officer
Ivy Energy

Logan Carter is a trailblazer in clean energy technology, transforming how multifamily real estate benefits from solar power. As Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer of Ivy Energy, he leads the company's sales growth, strategic partnerships, and corporate operations, driving the adoption of virtual grid solar billing to make solar energy profitable and scalable for property owners. With a Bachelor's in Engineering and an MBA from the University of San Diego, Logan blends technical expertise with business acumen. Before co-founding Ivy Energy, he launched a solar company focused on multifamily housing and worked closely with a California municipal utility during its transition from NEM to Post-NEM billing. His extensive experience in energy markets, project finance, and utility collaboration has helped position Ivy Energy as a leader in decarbonizing multifamily and commercial real estate and advancing San Diego's clean tech innovation ecosystem.



VINCE CASTELLANO

Sr. Director, Technology Services
SpotLink

Vince Castellano is SpotLink's Director of Technology Services. He has been in the IT industry for over 20 years, and software development for over 18 years. He has experience designing and maintaining cloud and virtualized infrastructure to support organization's business needs. He is also proficient in Python, C#, and JavaScript/TypeScript programming language, and has experience with Java, Ruby, and Visual Basic. He graduated from National University and earned his B.S. in Computer Science.



MICHAEL CHAGALA

CEO
Rank Harvest

Michael Chagala is a pioneering technology leader and CEO of Rank Harvest SEO, one of San Diego's top digital marketing agencies. With a 16-year legacy in enterprise-level search engine optimization, Michael has transformed Rank Harvest from a solopreneur venture into a thriving firm employing 15 full-time and 20 part-time experts, serving over 5,000 customers. His innovative vision and strategic leadership have earned the agency Inc. verified status, and Michael has a membership in the Forbes Agency Council. He continuously redefines digital marketing by integrating AI, advanced SEO strategies, and SEM/PPC insights. He spearheaded a \$30K investment in premium virtual real estate within Decentraland, paving the way for a groundbreaking interactive metaverse experience. Michael's contributions extend through educational YouTube tutorials and national business articles, solidifying his reputation as a forward-thinking influencer in today's evolving technology landscape.



CARRIE CRAIG

Sr Director, Global Application Delivery
Bose Corporation

Carrie Craig joined Bose Co and quickly took the lead in implementing a Digital Experience Technology application ecosystem roadmap. She oversaw the technical implementation of multiple Salesforce clouds and supporting application tools to enhance the company's 360 customer journey. Following this success, Carrie's team continued to optimize the Salesforce ecosystem, establishing a sustainable support structure and renegotiating key contracts to align with the company's strategic vision. Her team's efforts contributed to meeting and exceeding revenue targets, leading to the highest growth in the company's history. Carrie's application leadership continues to grow within the company. She has been asked to assist with transformative changes in application ecosystems for supply chain, manufacturing, automation, integration, and Workday. Her aim is to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and improve quality. Asking her team to adopt a growth mindset helps them achieve significant returns!



COLIN CRAIG

Director of Technology
RICK

The RICK 75 Strategic Plan sought 'Transformation Through Technology' and Craig stepped up to the challenge as a new leader at RICK. Through 2024 he led a strategic transformation of the Technology department, restructuring roles and communication to improve service consistency, transparency, and user satisfaction, boosting departmental efficiency. Craig spearheaded the integration of multiple acquisitions, leading seamless transitions and minimal downtime by optimizing system integrations and addressing unique technical needs. "As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited to lift our heads and focus on building stronger relationships across all RICK business units and departments," says Craig. "Colin's passion, expertise and coaching philosophy was obvious from the beginning and are keys to his and RICK's success now and tomorrow," says Brian Laird (transformation leadership) Here is to a successful and prosperous 2025!



MARITZA DIAZ

CEO
ITJ

Maritza Diaz is the founder and CEO of ITJ, a leading firm dedicated to establishing Software Centers of Excellence in Latin America, specializing in Life Sciences, Biotechnology, Medical Devices, and Pharma. With 25+ years of leadership in technology and software engineering, she has driven large-scale digital transformations and built high-performing teams worldwide. Before ITJ, Maritza was Senior Director at Thermo Fisher Scientific, overseeing the digital and agile transformation of an 850-member global software organization. Under her leadership, ITJ has created nearly 1,000 jobs and was ranked among Inc. Magazine's top 18% fastest-growing US companies. Maritza serves on the Head Office Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, is a Forbes Technology Council member, and has been recognized as San Diego's Top Business Leader (SD500) and Woman of Influence in Technology. Passionate about women in tech, she actively contributes to global initiatives driving innovation.



LISA EASTERLY

President & CEO
Cyber Center of Excellence

Lisa Easterly serves as President and CEO of Cyber Center of Excellence (CCOE), a San Diego-based non-profit dedicated to growing the regional cyber economy and creating a more secure digital community for all. She helped stand-up and manage CCOE since inception, helping grow San Diego's cyber ecosystem from 100 to 1,000 cyber companies and more than doubling the industry's total economic impact to \$4 billion annually in just 10 years. She is passionate about leading CCOE and the San Diego cyber community in heeding the call to develop the next generation of cyber warriors, defenses, and innovations. Prior to joining CCOE, she was the Vice President of Marketing for San Diego Regional EDC, Business Development Manager for Latham & Watkins LLP and Founding Board Member of CleanTech San Diego. She has an MBA and B.S. in Finance and Economics from the University of Florida.



CESAR ENCISO

Founder & CEO
EVOTEK, Inc.

Cesar Enciso, CEO of EVOTEK, is a technology veteran with over 30 years of experience. His bold vision and transformative leadership have positioned EVOTEK as an industry leader, recognized for its performance, culture, and philanthropy. Under Cesar's guidance, EVOTEK has earned spots on Inc. Magazine's 5000 Fastest Growing Companies and Best Workplaces lists, along with CRN's Solution Provider 500, Tech Elite 250, and Fast Growth 150 awards. His customer-first philosophy and strategic foresight drive EVOTEK's success. In 2021, Cesar was named Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year for his contributions to business and innovation. As EVOTEK celebrates its 10th anniversary, its growth is set to surpass \$500 million in revenue in 2025, solidifying its position as one of the fastest-growing cybersecurity integrators worldwide.



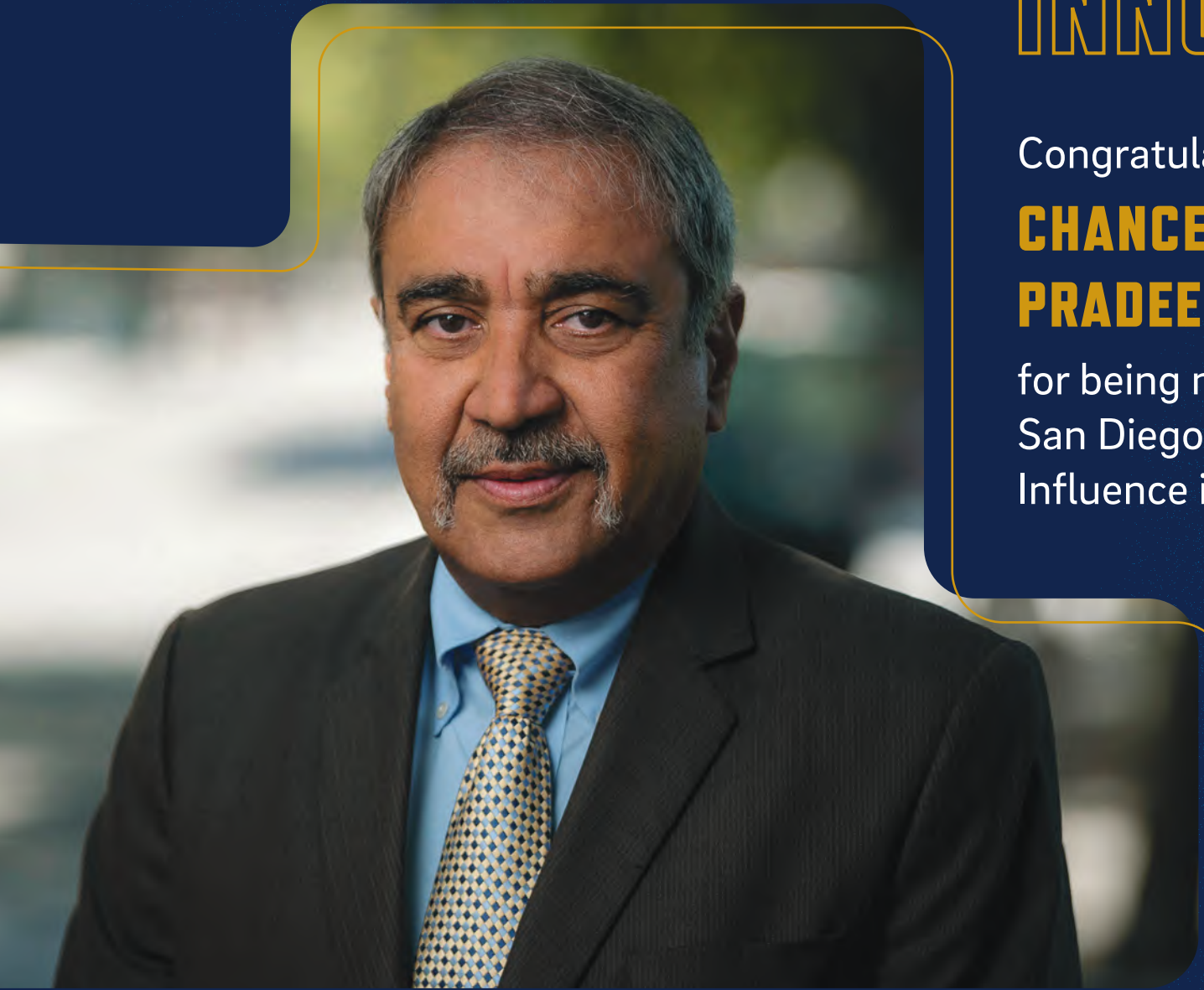
ED ESQUENAZI

CEO
Sirenas

Ed Esquenazi, PhD, is a chemical biologist and entrepreneur. He dedicated his career to developing sustainable approaches to uncovering nature's potential to address human health issues and translating them into applications. Ed is committed to shaping a future where science, technology and nature converge to promote well-being. In 2012 he founded Sirenas, which rose to prominence following its success leveraging computational metabolomics for "natural product" drug discovery. This approach unleashes advanced computational algorithms, including machine learning, on proprietary metabolomic and bioassay datasets to uncover new discoveries. Ed is also the founder and CEO of Terns, which leverages proprietary insights to craft consumer products that mitigate the effects of overexposure to the elements. His entrepreneurial work is complemented by his position as a Professor of Practice at the Center for Marine Biotechnology and Biomedicine at The Scripps Institution of Oceanography.



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION



Congratulations to

**CHANCELLOR
PRADEEP K. KHOSLA**

for being named one of
San Diego's Leaders of
Influence in Technology.

Under Khosla's leadership, UC San Diego has redefined what's possible — driving breakthroughs in AI, advancing interdisciplinary research and shaping the future of innovation and technology. His vision continues to propel UC San Diego as a global innovation powerhouse and one of the nation's top ten public universities.

Chancellor Khosla's bold leadership, unwavering commitment to discovery and dedication to building a smarter, more innovative world continue to make a lasting impact.

UC San Diego

LEADERS of INFLUENCE in

TECHNOLOGY 2025



JUSTIN FORTIER
Partner
Fractal Group

Justin Fortier is a tech entrepreneur with a proven record of building and scaling successful companies. As the founder of Fractal Group, a consortium specializing in technology services, software startups, and angel investing, he is a recognized industry leader. Starting with FYC Labs, a boutique design agency, Justin led its growth to attract high-profile clients like PepsiCo and Budweiser. In 2020, the agency's acquisition marked his reputation for spotting and capitalizing on market opportunities. Justin's ventures include Accru, Attaq Vector, DealSend, Spellbox, and Wonderus. Named a "40 Under 40" Business Leader and 2024 Mentor of the Year, he holds advisory roles at Open Grants, Edvo, and others. Through organizations like San Diego's Small Business Advisory Board, Justin volunteers to support emerging entrepreneurs.



BRIAN FRIEDMAN
Global Vice President
SoftClouds

As a visionary leader in digital transformation, Brian J Friedman focuses on shaping the future of CRM & Customer Experience through innovation & strategic foresight. As GVP at SoftClouds, Brian drives groundbreaking strategies that empower Fortune 500 companies & global enterprises. Brian's commitment to blending technology with business needs has enabled organizations to enhance customer interactions & streamline operations. Brian fosters a continuous learning & adaptation culture, which is essential in today's fast-paced digital landscape. Brian helps clients optimize their customer engagement processes by leveraging data-driven insights & the latest technologies, resulting in improved satisfaction & loyalty. Brian has extensive experience & dedication to excellence that enable him to lead teams that are not only focused on meeting KPIs but also on delivering exceptional value to clients. We aim to set new standards in digital transformation and customer-centric solutions.



JAY GARCIA
President
Jay Garcia Group

Jay Garcia is a leader in technology education, workforce development, and talent transformation. With 15+ years of experience, he has designed programs bridging education and industry, equipping individuals with in-demand tech skills. At Fortinet, Jay launched award-winning cybersecurity talent initiatives, leveraging expertise from his 20-year military career. He later led the SparkED Data Analytics Education Program at Alteryx, expanding analytics training across the U.S.-West and LATAM, while managing Alteryx's DoD SkillBridge and Military & Veterans Affairs programs. Jay advises CSU Long Beach (CPACE) and Loyola Marymount University on technology education strategies. A Forbes Coaches Council Member, 4X LinkedIn Top Voice, and George W. Bush Institute Scholar, he continues driving innovation in tech education, ensuring students, veterans, and professionals gain critical digital skills.



CHERYL GOODMAN
Co-founder
AskTuring.AI

Cheryl Goodman is co-founder of AskTuring.AI, the patented vertical SaaS platform delivering revenue-driven closed-loop AI solutions to legacy industries. Her book, "How to Win Friends and Influence Robots," and "Mind the Machine" podcast series have cemented her status as a resource for leaders looking to optimize resources through new developments in AI. Goodman's 20-year career includes leadership roles at Qualcomm and Sony, shaping the global narrative in emerging tech, open-source code, hardware introductions ranging from smartphones to robotics, and the often misunderstood world of AI. A noted tech tastemaker, Goodman is exceptionally skilled at decoding convoluted technologies, making her a sought-after corporate speaker and workforce trainer for Fortune 100 companies. She is a founding member of the Applied AI Association, the global hub for artificial intelligence research standards, and has led Eastern Asia delegations as part of her mission to make AI accessible to all.



BEN GORDON
SVP, Chief Information Officer
& Chief Digital Officer
San Diego Gas & Electric

Ben Gordon is the senior vice president, chief information officer and chief digital officer for San Diego Gas & Electric. Since joining the company in 2018, Gordon has spearheaded policy and strategic initiatives in information and digital technologies, including cybersecurity, customer experience and big data analytics. His leadership has driven corporate innovation, culture change and rapid technology adoption. Under Gordon's guidance, his teams have launched numerous cloud-based innovations leveraging AI, machine learning and virtual-twin technology to tackle climate change, wildfire prevention and decarbonization. Customers now enjoy improved service reliability and efficiency through advanced digital solutions, such as deployment of a Gen AI virtual assistant and OCR solution - covering the customer journey, from initial requests for connection to invoicing, billing and issue resolution, providing thousands of hours of productivity gains and enhanced experiences.





CONGRATULATIONS

Jeff Carmichael

SVP, Engineering

XiFin, Inc. is proud to celebrate our colleague Jeff Carmichael for being named one of SDBJ's Leaders of Influence in Technology.

We join in recognizing Jeff's passionate and visionary leadership in AI-driven analytics and engineering, which is transforming revenue cycle management, enhancing efficiency, and empowering XiFin customers with data-driven insights. We're proud to have Jeff on our XiFin team.

Learn more at www.XiFin.com



 XiFin

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RYAN GRANT
VP, Sales & Marketing
ESET North America

Ryan Grant is a seasoned technology sales and marketing executive with experience in SaaS, distribution, and reseller organizations. Today, he serves as Vice President of Sales and Marketing at ESET North America. One of the top cybersecurity vendors in the world, ESET protects one billion users worldwide from bad actors, including Fortune 500 companies, SMBs, governments and consumers. Grant has a proven track record of driving business growth through market identification, strategic planning, product launches, and sales execution. Prior to joining ESET, he spent over two decades at Ingram Micro leading VMware, Dell, and Integrated Solutions business units. He most recently served as vice president, advance solutions, with responsibility for more than \$2B in annual revenue 125 associates focused on sales, vendor management, marketing and purchasing. He is based out of ESET's North America headquarters in San Diego.



ANDY HAASS
Principal
Booz Allen Hamilton

Andy Haass is a Principal at Booz Allen Hamilton, where he directs the company's cybersecurity and engineering capabilities provided to NIWC Pacific and leads a cross-functional team of cybersecurity engineers, analysts, and testers supporting programs across NAVWAR and NIWC Pacific. Haass has a proven track record of innovation and people development in cybersecurity and engineering, creating new approaches that drive change in processes, techniques, and legacy perceptions of cybersecurity. Haass has served on the Board of Directors of Cyber Center of Excellence (CCOE) since 2017 and currently serves as Co-Chairman of the Board. He has engaged with local businesses, academia, and government to grow the regional cyber economy and create a more security digital community for all.



LAZARO HERRERA
Principal Systems Engineer
Northrop Grumman

Lazaro, with 24 years of engineering experience, exemplifies the Community Service Award criteria through his dedication to fostering inclusivity in STEM. As a Principal Systems Engineer at Northrop Grumman, he combines professional excellence with impactful service. Actively involved with SHPE, he founded SUCCESS INNOVATION and leads groups like ADELANTE, connecting underrepresented students with opportunities. His work with SHPE chapters and events like Noche de Ciencias has inspired countless students to pursue engineering. Lazaro's mentorship and advocacy continue to shape a more diverse and inclusive engineering community.



HANSOL HONG
CEO
Robolink

Hansol is the CEO and Co-founder of Robolink, an EdTech company located in San Diego. He and the Robolink team have taught over 20,000 students how to build robots and program drones. Robolink's kits are used in over 4,000 schools worldwide. Robolink's drone, CoDrone, is used for the Aerial Drone Competition, the largest educational drone competition with 2,000 teams across the nation. Hansol graduated from UC San Diego with a degree in Management Science, B.S.



ROBERT HOOD
CEO & Founder
SpotLink

Robert Hood is the CEO & Founder of SpotLink with over 40-years of high technology engineering and management experience. His passion is providing business enhancing technology solutions to clients, with impeccable customer services, support, and integrity. After spending several formative years with an award-winning customer service organization, he went on to work in software engineering, product management, then delivering highly effective IT services. His experience covers multiple platforms, delivering customized as well as productized software, and designing multi-site, high-availability, highly secure business systems. He specializes in understanding the client's business needs, then designing systems that increases the profitability by improving productivity, reliability and security, while also minimizing the total-cost-of-ownership. Robert has a BS in Physics with a Minor in Economics from Harvey Mudd College, and an MBA in Management from San Diego State University.

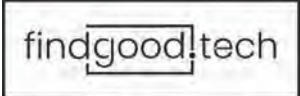


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Mind the Machine Congratulates CEO,
Cheryl K. Goodman of **FindGood.tech**
for her technology leadership in
practical AI Education



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Scott Painter
MBA

SDBJ 2025 Leader of Influence
in Technology

Navy veteran, entrepreneur, and innovator
transforming industries with cutting-edge
drone technology solutions, job creation,
and community impact.

LEADERS of INFLUENCE in

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DOVER JANIS
Founder & CEO
Ivy Energy

Dover Janis is a pioneering leader in clean energy technology, reshaping how multi-tenant properties adopt and benefit from solar. As CEO of Ivy Energy, he spearheaded the development of a patented virtual grid solar billing system, enabling property owners to maximize solar value while ensuring fair and transparent savings for residents. His innovative approach to energy allocation led to securing a U.S. patent, solidifying Ivy Energy's role as an industry trailblazer. This technology accurately distributes solar savings across multi-tenant properties, transforming how real estate integrates clean energy solutions into financial and operational strategies. With a deep commitment to technological innovation and sustainability, Dover is driving the future of scalable, data-driven solar solutions. His work is redefining the real estate energy landscape, turning solar into a powerful economic advantage that creates lasting value for property owners and residents.



GRANT JORDAN
CEO
SkySafe

Grant is a leader in drone security, with over 16 years of experience in defense and cybersecurity. As CEO of SkySafe, he drives the development of advanced drone detection and mitigation technologies, trusted by the U.S. Department of Defense, Homeland Security and critical infrastructure operators. He uses his expertise in reverse engineering, security, and encryption to ensure SkySafe's products are robust, reliable and resilient. He holds multiple patents and has published research and is a sought-after speaker, he has presented at top conferences including DEFCON and the Commercial UAV Expo. Under his leadership, SkySafe continues to innovate, ensuring reliable solutions to protect airspace from unauthorized drones. He serves on the board of the Commercial Drone Alliance, advocating for safe and responsible drone integration. His expertise and vision shape the future of drone security, advancing technology to safeguard airspace and maintain secure, drone-friendly environments.



THOMAS KENAYA
Principal, Assurance
Baker Tilly

Thomas Kenaya, CPA is a principal at Baker Tilly's assurance practice with over 20 years of experience in both public and private sectors, serving companies in technology and life sciences. He offers a comprehensive perspective on conducting audits, providing invaluable insights from both sides of the table. Thomas has been instrumental in guiding companies through capital raising transactions, initial public offerings and the implementation of compliance frameworks. He advises companies on complex accounting topics impacting the technology industry and advises technology startups on financial strategies and risk management, ensuring their growth and sustainability. Within Baker Tilly, Thomas has led projects to implement innovative technology solutions to streamline audit processes, enhance efficiency and improve quality. Thomas is also dedicated to his profession and community through his active membership in national and local accounting societies in San Diego.



PRADEEP KHOSLA
Chancellor
UC San Diego

As UC San Diego's chief executive officer, Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla provides vision and strategy, leading a campus of more than 45,000 students within 11 academic, professional and graduate schools and eight undergraduate residential colleges; a preeminent health system; and the prestigious Scripps Institution of Oceanography. A renowned leader with a background in computer science and a career-long commitment to advancing AI research and its applications, Khosla has pioneered advancements in robotics, surgical instrumentation, and open-architecture controllers. As chancellor, his dedication to innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration has elevated UC San Diego's reputation as a hub for technological advancement. Under Khosla's guidance, UC San Diego has solidified its position as a top-10 research institution, with a strong focus on developing groundbreaking technology and interdisciplinary AI research.



LOUIS LANDRY
Chief Technology Officer
Teradata

Louis Landry, Chief Technology Officer at Teradata, leads the company's technological vision and innovation strategy for artificial intelligence and generative AI. His team incubated groundbreaking projects such as silicon independence (to enable diverse processors /architectures) and semantic mapping (to make unmodeled data useful). Landry oversaw the project that became Teradata AI Unlimited and the Vectors-at-Scale initiative, which leads to agentic AI while adding performance and scale to Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) applications. Previously, Landry held leadership roles at MicroStrategy, Sears Holdings, and eBay. He significantly contributed to the open-source community as Project Leader/Development Coordinator for Joomla! from 2005-2011, helping it become one of the most popular content management systems, powering millions of websites. Landry holds a BS in Computer Science from Louisiana Tech University and a Rethink Strategy Certificate from Harvard Business School.



Congratulations

Mike Roberts, CEO and Founder of **Creating Coding Careers**, for being chosen as a Leader of Influence in Technology!

Innovative companies don't just hire talent—they develop it. **Mike Roberts** is pioneering earn-and-learn pathways that help build more sustainable and dedicated teams.

Struggling to find and retain top talent?

Mike Roberts equips businesses with apprenticeship programs that build loyal, skilled teams—without the hiring headaches. Learn how apprenticeships can power your workforce and grow your business.



Congratulations

Ali Montazer

Chief Technology Officer
Midland Credit Management



Midland
Credit
Management™



Midland Credit Management proudly celebrates Chief Technology Officer, **Ali Montazer**, for his leadership, vision, and impact. His dedication to innovation is transforming technology and enhancing consumer experiences every day.

Thank you, Ali, for shaping the future of MCM!

LEADERS of INFLUENCE in

TECHNOLOGY 2025



JASON LIEBRECHT
Chief Technology Officer
Radicle Science

Jason Liebrecht has been in technology and startups for the last 25 years and has made impacts in a number of different industries including nootropics, pharmaceuticals, defense, and wearables. He sees technology as a tool to solve problems and applies his team's combined experience to solve those problems. His early career started in Army Intelligence and he worked on several high profile technical projects. Since then he has been involved in the startup industry applying his knowledge of data analytics, development, and technical team leadership to get quality solutions to the market. His experience delves into pharmaceutical, customer relationship management, enterprise tools, and social platforms. Since 2022, he has been the CTO for Radicle Science—recognized by KPMG as one of America's Top 10 Tech Innovators—leading a team of developers and data scientists supporting application architecture, source code management, security, product development, Dev Ops and machine learning.



YINYIN LIU
Vice President, AI
Seismic

Yinyin Liu, Ph.D., is an artificial intelligence (AI) technologist and entrepreneur with over 15 years of experience building AI products for consumers, enterprises, and open-source AI communities. Currently, she leads the AI team at Seismic, focusing on infusing AI into transformative enablement solutions for enterprises. At Seismic, Yinyin and her team led the release of Aura Copilot, which drives go-to-market (GTM) efficiency for enablement teams by speeding up and simplifying the creation of lessons, playbooks, and more. With AI-generated analytics, GTM leaders can ask Aura Copilot questions about their data and sellers can get in-the-moment access to the insights they need to close a deal. Prior to Seismic, Yinyin co-founded and served as Chief Technology Officer of XOKind, a seed-stage, venture-backed AI startup. Before XOKind, Yinyin was the Head of Data Science at Intel AI, where she established and led a global team of data scientists and AI researchers.



LEILANI MACEDO
President
CLICS

Leilani Macedo's passion for hair began in childhood, driving her to pursue cosmetology despite all advice. She climbed the ranks from receptionist to stylist, educator, and salon owner, gaining firsthand insight into the industry's biggest challenges. One major frustration was inconsistent hair color. Clients wanted repeat looks, but traditional mixing methods lacked precision. As a salon owner, she also saw waste and inefficiencies in outdated color systems. With no solution available, Leilani created one. She assembled engineers and industry leaders to develop CLICS—the first AI-powered, internet-connected dispenser that predicts and dispenses precise hair color formulations. This innovation ensures accuracy, reduces waste, and transforms salon operations. Through vision and technology, Leilani is reshaping the beauty industry, empowering stylists, and revolutionizing professional hair color.



CHRIS MCKEWON
Founder & CEO
Xceptional

As a seasoned IT professional with over 30 years of experience, Chris' deep understanding of the IT industry and passion for innovation have driven successful digital transformations for numerous organizations since founding Xceptional in 2007. Chris started the company to empower businesses to leverage technology to its fullest potential, and his commitment to building value and sustaining strong client relationships remains Xceptional's guiding principle. Under his leadership, Xceptional has been transformed from a Value Added Reseller into a growing, award-winning, premier technology solutions partner. Initially rooted in Southern California, Chris led Xceptional to its first acquisition in 2022, bringing Altitude Integrations into the fold. This strategic move expanded the company's reach to Colorado, where it now serves as a trusted technology partner for businesses in the Longmont region and beyond, with plans to extend its impact even further.



ELIZABETH MCKEWON
Director, Sales and Marketing
Xceptional

Betsy is a dynamic sales and marketing leader with a proven track record of driving revenue growth and building strong client relationships. With a deep understanding of the role technology plays in businesses, she brings a strategic approach to helping organizations achieve their goals. Her unique blend of legal expertise from her prior career as a lawyer and business acumen enables her to navigate complex deals and develop innovative marketing strategies. Betsy has been instrumental in Xceptional's success, driving consistent year-over-year revenue growth since joining the company. She has actively contributed to Xceptional's development into an award-winning, premier technology solutions partner. As the top-producing salesperson since 2019, Betsy is responsible for managing large, strategic client relationships and fostering significant company growth.



Congratulations



FICO is pleased to congratulate **Scott Zoldi** for being selected as a Leader of Influence in Technology by the San Diego Business Journal



To learn more about FICO's Responsible AI, visit: FICO.com or scan code

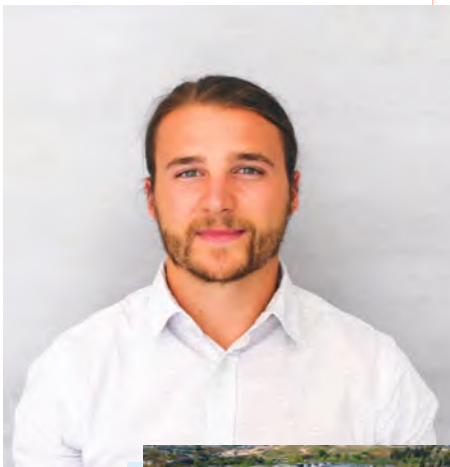


Dr. Scott Zoldi
Chief Analytics Officer, FICO



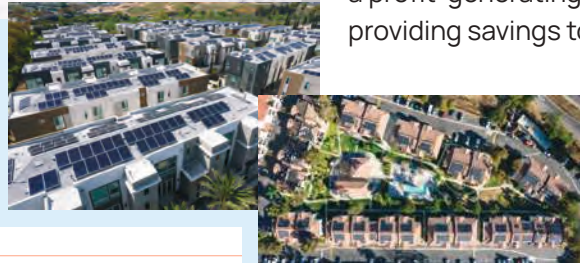
Congratulations to Technology Visionary

Dover Janis



Trailblazing Onsite Energy Solutions for Multi-unit Real Estate

Under the leadership of CEO and founder **Dover Janis**, Ivy Energy has recently secured a first-of-its-kind U.S. patent. Ivy's virtual grid solar billing technology empowers San Diego property owners to turn solar energy into a profit-generating asset while providing savings to tenants.



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LEADERS of INFLUENCE in

TECHNOLOGY 2025



ALI MONTAZER
Chief Technology Officer
Midland Credit Management

Ali Montazer, Chief Technology Officer at Midland Credit Management (MCM), is a visionary leader in San Diego's technology sector. Since joining MCM in 2019, he has spearheaded innovative solutions that enhance consumer experiences, emphasizing empathy and respect in every interaction. Under his guidance, MCM has implemented seamless, omnichannel platforms tailored to individual needs, setting new standards in the financial services industry. Before MCM, Ali led engineering and product management at SleepScore Labs, where he advanced sleep technology solutions. At ResMed, he directed global digital commerce initiatives, contributing to the company's digital transformation. Beyond his professional roles, Ali serves as an Advisory Board Member at IntelePeer, influencing the development of cutting-edge communication technologies. His commitment to innovation and excellence has solidified his reputation as a transformative leader in San Diego's tech community.



DINA MOSKOWITZ
Founder & CEO
PartnerOptimizer, Inc.

Dina Moskowitz is CEO, Founder of PartnerOptimizer, Inc. which is setting the new standard for AI-driven channel partner discovery, intelligence and market research in the B2B tech sector. Their Partner Intelligence Platform for Ecosystems ("PIPE") is the most comprehensive, fresh global source of truth for technology and tech-enabled services companies who go-to-market through partnerships. It's efficiency and affordability is democratizing partner discovery for B2B tech suppliers of all sizes. Dina has been leading B2B tech companies and partnership teams throughout her career. In 2024 she was a recipient of Women in Cloud's "Top 100 Women B2B Tech Founders". She is the host of the LinkedIn Live Webcast Series "Ecosystem Chronicles", featuring conversations with partnership leaders that center around partner ecosystem intelligence. Prior to PartnerOptimizer, Moskowitz was CEO and founder of the SaaS company Critical Digital Data. She is an strong advocate of girls in STEM and tech.



STEVEN PAGAN
Director, Technical Services
Xceptional

Steven has been a driving force in the IT industry for over two decades. His career has spanned various roles, from infrastructure engineering to global IT project management. He has extensive experience in cloud technologies, network administration, cybersecurity, and IT operations. Steven is particularly skilled in leveraging platforms like AWS, Azure, and Microsoft 365 to deliver innovative and effective solutions. Steven believes in building strong, collaborative relationships with clients. He is committed to providing exceptional service through proactive communication, transparency, and a focus on understanding and meeting clients' unique needs. His goal is to deliver reliable, efficient, and secure IT solutions that empower businesses to succeed. As the Director of Technical Services, Steven oversees a team of engineers in multiple national locations, working to optimize service delivery and refining service operations to align with Xceptional's standards for client satisfaction.



SCOTT PAINTER
Co-owner
Birds Eye Aerial Drones

Scott Painter, MBA, is a Navy veteran, entrepreneur, and technology innovator reshaping industries through drone solutions. With over 23 years of military experience, he served as an in-flight engineer and collaborated with Lockheed Martin on unmanned systems, developing expertise in advanced drone technology and operations. In 2014, he founded Birds Eye Aerial Drones (BEAD) to provide cutting-edge solutions in agriculture, infrastructure, and environmental monitoring. A recognized thought leader, Scott speaks at industry events, contributes to professional organizations, and champions the use of drones for efficiency and sustainability. His MBA strengthens his strategic vision, driving BEAD's growth and fostering opportunities for veterans. A passionate advocate for community service, workforce development, and educational partnerships, Scott also volunteers as an emergency drone responder, combining his love for technology and aviation with a commitment to making a lasting impact.



CHERI PIERRE
CEO
Computers 2 Kids

Cheri Pierre has been a driving force in technology access and innovation for over 18 years as CEO of Computers 2 Kids, San Diego (C2K). Under her leadership, C2K has become a leading organization in digital inclusion, providing over 250,000 refurbished computers, connecting 100,000+ families to affordable internet, and equipping thousands with tech skills for sustainable careers. Cheri has made it her mission to ensure low-income families, individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness are not left behind in the digital world. She believes technology isn't just about having a computer—it's about education, employment, and a better future. By building strategic partnerships with schools, corporations, and workforce programs, she has expanded access to education, jobs, and innovation. Through her vision, leadership, and commitment to equity, Cheri continues to transform communities and drive lasting technological change.



Congratulations
Mark Albright!
Chief Information Officer

Tri-City Medical Center along with
the Tri-City Hospital Foundation
wishes to recognize our CIO,
Mark Albright, as one of San Diego
Business Journal's 2025 Leaders of
Influence in Technology!

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LEADERS of INFLUENCE in

TECHNOLOGY 2025



SANJIV PRABHAKARAN
President & CEO
Bytes, Inc.

Mr. Prabhakaran is a seasoned executive with over 20 years of leadership experience across a wide range of industries and technologies, which he applies to bring the latest technology to his clients. His background includes solving operational challenges for small to large companies through the development and implementation of custom software solutions aimed at process management and technology architecture targeting fleet management and business management within the IoT, FinTech, healthcare, landscape, property management, business cleaning, and financial industries. In early 2002, Mr. Prabhakaran founded Bytes, Inc. to provide low cost and rapid software outsourcing, resource augmentation, quality assurance and project management services. He holds nine U.S. patents under his belt for mapping and fleet management. He was winner of SDBJ Innovation awards in 2012 & 2013. He was nominated for San Diego Top Tech awards for several years and was a winner in 2022.



BEN REGNIER
Design Technology Leader
Gensler

Ben is an accomplished architect renowned for his expertise in leveraging advanced technologies in architectural design. With a background in BIM implementation, integrated project delivery, and computational design, Ben's career spans significant contributions across commercial and residential sectors in New York, Los Angeles, and San Diego. A graduate of Rice University and Harvard, where he researched computational methods in architecture and big data visualization, Ben currently excels at Gensler, leading transformative projects for educational, civic, and commercial clients. His leadership extends to chairing the AIA Technology and Practice Committee, speaking at national conferences on VR/AR and generative AI, and pioneering technology on award-winning projects like IQHQ RaDD and SDIA Terminal 1. Ben's dedication to innovation and excellence is evident in his role in advancing tools for data analysis, VR/AR, and AI, setting benchmarks in design technology and project execution.



KEVIN RISONCHU
Co-founder & CTO
Stratus10

Kevin RisonChu, Co-Founder and CTO of Stratus10, is a distinguished leader with 25 years of experience spanning systems engineering to cloud computing. His journey began in 1997 at ConAgra Foods as a systems engineer working in Unix and Linux. During his 11-year tenure at Mirum Agency, Kevin led the systems and infrastructure engineering teams, pioneering cloud adoption for global clients. He spearheaded multiple digital transformations, including cloud migrations from traditional data centers, subsequently playing a pivotal role in the agency's acquisition. In 2017, recognizing the demand for cloud expertise, he co-founded Stratus10, an Amazon Web Services (AWS) Consulting Partner. As CTO, Kevin specializes in solutions architecture, AWS migrations, DevOps, and security, guiding businesses through cloud transformations. His visionary leadership has positioned Stratus10 as a trusted San Diego partner for businesses seeking innovative and cost-effective cloud solutions.



CARLO RAVIS
CEO
Innovation Discovery

Carlo Ravis is a Visionary, Strategist & Innovation enabler who aids and guides Leaders to drive the future of technology. In a world where technology evolves at lightning speed, he stands at the crossroads of vision and execution. With over 20 years of experience guiding inventors, startups, venture studios, and Fortune 500 companies, he specializes in accelerating innovation execution, turning complex ideas into effective strategies and roadmaps that make a meaningful impact.



MIKE ROBERTS
Founder & CEO
Creating Coding Careers

Mike Roberts is a Software Engineer by trade with over three decades of experience programming. In 2019, he founded Creating Coding Careers (CCC), an innovative non-profit organization that creates opportunities for individuals pursuing a career in technology through apprenticeships. He is passionate about helping people break into tech and supporting companies in building high-performance engineering teams out of often overlooked talent. Mike has launched hundreds of student careers and has grads working at ServiceNow, IBM/RedHat, Apple, Walmart Labs, Sony, AWS, Meta, Deloitte, Trust&Will, and many more amazing tech companies.



CONGRATULATIONS
ASAF ASHKENAZI

Chief Executive Officer, Verimatrix

Congratulations to Asaf Ashkenazi for being selected as a Leader of Influence in Technology by the San Diego Business Journal.



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Chris, Elizabeth, and Steven** for being recognized as Leaders of Influence in Technology! Your expertise and dedication make a lasting impact, and our Xceptional clients are lucky to have you as trusted partners by their side.



Chris McKewon



Elizabeth McKewon



Steven Pagan

Partner with Xceptional for scalable IT solutions that reduce risk, resolve issues faster, and drive superior business outcomes.



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LEADERS of INFLUENCE in TECHNOLOGY 2025



MARI RODISH
COO & CFO
EVOTEK, Inc.

Mari Rodish is an accomplished COO/CFO at EVOTEK, Inc. with over 20 years of experience in the technology sector. Known for her strategic financial and operational leadership, she has played a pivotal role in guiding her company through rapid growth. Mari has a proven track record of enhancing organizational performance, increasing productivity, mitigating risk, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement ensuring that her organization remains financially resilient and operationally sound in the fast-paced technology industry. With primarily enterprise customers, Mari understands the criticality of strong security posture for the organization in serving both our internal and external customers. She has a proven ability in leading cross-functional teams inclusive of Finance, Legal, IT, Sales/Service Operations and HR to deliver excellent customer service across internal and external customers.



MIGUEL ROMERO
SVP & Chief Commercial Officer
San Diego Gas & Electric

Miguel Romero, senior vice president and chief commercial officer at SDG&E, has been a pivotal force in driving innovation through technology integration, significantly benefiting over 3 million customers in SDG&E's service territory. Since joining the Sempra family of companies in 2004, Romero has spearheaded numerous initiatives in renewable energy, energy storage, clean transportation, hydrogen and other advanced clean energy technologies. His leadership in commercial growth and clean energy strategies has been instrumental in SDG&E's progress toward net-zero emissions. Romero's visionary approach and commitment to sustainability have not only advanced SDG&E's clean energy portfolio but also set a benchmark for the industry. Holding degrees from the University of San Diego and the University of California, San Diego, Romero also contributes to the broader clean energy community through his roles on the boards of Veloz and Clean Tech San Diego.



ROMEL ROMERO
Founder
Ojt Connect

Romel Romero, a San Diego-based tech founder, philanthropist, and international faculty member at the highly ranked Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, is known for his extensive experience in mobile app and website development. He is the founder of Good Day Communications and Dipster Development, two ventures that reflect his passion for innovation and global impact. Romel is also the visionary behind OJT Connect, a pioneering platform designed to address the issue of job mismatch in the Philippines. OJT Connect connects college students undergoing on-the-job training, alumni, and career shifters with companies locally and abroad, enabling them to gain relevant work experience in their fields with the goal of securing employment that aligns with their career paths. Through this platform, Romel aims to transform the Filipino workforce, unlocking hidden talent and showcasing the Philippines' vast potential to the global market.



RYAN RUSNAK
Chief Technology Officer
Airspace

Ryan Rusnak is the Chief Technology Officer and co-founder of Airspace, a leader in tech-enabled freight forwarding that leverages AI and machine learning to move critical shipments—ranging from organs to semiconductors—with unmatched speed and visibility. Ryan leads a team that has created proprietary route optimization technology and has been awarded 12 patents. He holds a master's degree in Human-Computer Interaction from Carnegie Mellon University and has an extensive background in software engineering. Before launching Airspace in 2016, Ryan developed software solutions for the Federal Government and worked at Dell and Mobomo. His passion for innovation extends beyond logistics; he has built robots and other cutting-edge projects featured in Popular Science, Discovery Channel, NBC, BBC, WIRED, and more. Recognizing the inefficiencies in time-sensitive shipping, he partnered with Nick Bulcao to revolutionize the industry through technology-driven transparency and speed.



NIMER SAIKALY
Business Owner & President
Ciprus Consulting

Nimer Saikaly is a recognized technology leader in San Diego's non-profit sector, known for his dedication to strengthening IT infrastructure for mission-driven organizations. A past honoree of the Leaders of the 2023 Top Tech Executive of the Year recognized by Cox Communication and the San Diego Union Tribune, he has spent over two decades transforming how nonprofits leverage technology to maximize their impact. As an advocate for the nonprofit community, Nimer has helped organizations streamline operations, enhance cybersecurity, and reduce costs through strategic IT solutions. He serves on the advisory board of Alliant International University and contributes as a judge for the Top Tech Awards, further supporting technology excellence in the region. His unwavering commitment to nonprofits and community-driven innovation continues to shape San Diego's IT landscape, ensuring that organizations have the technological foundation to focus on their missions.



DINA SEGAL
Chief Legal Officer
Gusto, Inc.

Dina Segal is the Chief Legal Officer of Gusto, which enables over 400,000 entrepreneurs and small business owners to build successful businesses and take care of their teams. At Gusto, Dina is a member of the executive leadership team and leads the legal, compliance, and government affairs organizations. Dina joined Gusto from Intuit, where she also worked on technology solutions for small businesses. Prior to that, Dina worked at a venture backed fintech and at leading law firms, representing customers in areas of product compliance, M&A, litigation, taxation, corporate governance and strategic transactions. Dina was selected as a woman of influence, top 100 leader, business woman of the year and top 40 under 40 by the San Diego Business Journal. Dina is on the leadership team and the Board of SunLaw.org. She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from U.C. San Diego and a J.D. from University of Washington.



MUKESH SHAH
President
Zicali Inc

Zicali is on a mission to advance the future of the utilities and cities in creating sustainable technology utilizing renewable energy integrated with smart grids and distributed energy resources. Zicali is a vanguard of change, leading the way in Distribution engineering for grid modernization and fire hardening, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) systems for electric, water, and gas, Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Micro-grid and grid-edge behind-the-meter solutions, and visionary Smart City applications in automated monitoring of city ordinances, facility occupancy and safety, building climate control efficiencies, and smart parking. Zicali has been providing distribution engineering grid modernization services to SDG&E, PGE, FirstEnergy Ohio, and providing AMI and Smart City services to City of Palo Alto, City of Oceanside, and Riverside Public utilities.



MELISSA SWISHER
Chief Revenue Officer
SkySafe

As CRO at SkySafe, Melissa drives strategic partnerships, revenue growth, and customer expansion. She has secured high-profile deals that reinforce SkySafe's leadership in airspace security, including a two-year renewal with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a groundbreaking partnership with Fortem Technologies for an integrated drone detection and mitigation solution. Melissa has played key roles in two successful IPOs (SuccessFactors & Castlight Health) and multiple strategic acquisitions, including Socrates.ai's acquisition by Simplr. She excels in go-to-market strategy, global sales, and building high-performing teams. Beyond business growth, she is a thought leader raising awareness about drone threats, presenting on airspace security for industries like airports, stadiums, and critical infrastructure. Melissa's leadership and expertise continue to position SkySafe as an industry leader, ensuring cutting-edge solutions for evolving airspace challenges.



AMAR THAKUR
Leader, Technology & IP
Litigation Practice
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

As leader of Manatt's Technology and Intellectual Property practice, Amar is a highly sought-after trial attorney known for advising some of the nation's leading companies. He was an early adopter of alternative litigation funding strategies, paving the way for what is now a thriving and widely utilized tool to bring patent and IP litigation cases to bear for those who otherwise could not afford it. Amar currently represents Monticello Enterprises against Starbucks, Petco and Macy's in a complex 6-patent lawsuit relating to Apple Pay, Google Pay and Samsung Pay payments in their ecommerce websites, mobile apps and/or in-store point-of-sale terminals. He also represented CliniComp in a three-year suit asserting that athenahealth's cloud-based EHR system infringed CliniComp's patent covering operation of an enterprise health care management system that resulted in a multi-million-dollar victory. Amar defended medical device company DJ Orthopedics against claims of patent infringement by a Los Angeles-based hospital.



MELANIE THOMAS
VP, Cyber Security
Bridgepointe Technologies

Melanie Thomas is a seasoned professional with over 14 years of experience in the technology field. Ms. Thomas's deep passion for technology is what establishes her as a natural leader in her field. Currently, she is Vice President of Cyber Security at Bridgepointe Technologies. Her leadership role at Bridgepointe Technologies, the nation's leading technology advisory firm, enables her to leverage her expertise and have a tangible impact on the security posture of countless customers. In addition, she serves as an Adjunct Professor at the University of San Diego for the Master's in Cybersecurity Operations and Leadership (CSOL) program, where she imparts her knowledge to the current and next generation of cyber professionals. Melanie dedicates her time to volunteering for multiple non-profit initiatives in her free time. As a key member of the Board of Directors for BSides San Diego, Melanie plays a significant role in shaping the direction and impact of this influential organization.



LEADERS of INFLUENCE in TECHNOLOGY 2025



ALYSSA THORNLEY
Strategic Channel Partnerships
BILL

Alyssa Thornley specializes in helping businesses scale efficiently through technology, automation, and strategic alignment. At Bill, she consults with accounting firms in San Diego and nationwide, guiding them in leveraging tech to eliminate manual processes, centralize financial operations, and strengthen internal controls. Her work enables firms to scale with greater efficiency, accuracy, and compliance. Alyssa additionally supports San Diego startups in scaling sales and revenue operations. She helps founders develop and test messaging, optimize email engagement, and refine go-to-market strategies to drive sustainable growth. With a background in communication, change management, and cross-functional alignment, Alyssa implements technology-driven efficiencies that help businesses scale. Her ability to translate complex innovations into actionable strategies makes her a critical partner for businesses in rapid growth.



KRIS VIRTUE
VP, Cybersecurity
Qualcomm

Kris Virtue is Vice President of Cybersecurity at Qualcomm, where he oversees the organization's Cyber Security and Threat Management team. In this role, he has responsibility for incident response, threat intelligence, security monitoring, and application security. Over his 20-year tenure with Qualcomm, he has held numerous roles within IT, including leadership roles across all aspects of the information security program, middleware, and data integration teams. Virtue is a Founding Officer of Cyber Center of Excellence (CCOE) and currently serves as Co-Chairman of the Board. CCOE is celebrating 10 years of mobilizing industry, academia, and government to grow the regional cyber economy and create a more secure digital community for all. Together, we have helped San Diego's cyber industry grow from 100 to 1,000 cyber firms in the past decade.



DOUG WINTER
Co-founder & CEO
Seismic

Doug Winter is the Chief Executive Officer and cofounder of Seismic, the global leader in enablement. Under Doug's leadership, Seismic has grown from a small startup to an international organization, serving more than 2,200 businesses. This year, Seismic announced it now serves 85 customers with annual recurring revenue exceeding \$1 million, a testament to Doug's leadership and Seismic's growing value among large enterprises. Additionally, Seismic serves 8 of the top 10 U.S. banks and 400+ financial services firms globally. At the helm of Seismic, Doug has been recognized as a top CEO by the San Diego Union-Tribune, San Diego Business Journal, and Comparably. Named on Forbes Cloud 100 and SD500 lists, Seismic is well-known for its exceptional workplace culture with awards from Forbes, Fortune, and Newsweek. A veteran entrepreneur, Doug also cofounded Objectiva Software Solutions. Prior to Seismic, he served as COO and general manager at EMC Document Sciences.



TROY ZANDER
Partner
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips,

Troy Zander has extensive experience representing banks, private credit providers and companies across a wide range of sophisticated commercial lending matters and restructurings within technology, life sciences and middle-market sectors. As a "recovering bankruptcy attorney," he guides clients through traditional commercial credit transactions, venture debt financings, bridge loans and beyond. Troy represented Runway Growth Capital in connection with its \$20M growth capital commitment to Elevate, a top consulting, technology and services provider. He also represented Avenue Capital Group in connection with the closing of its \$30M life sciences venture debt transaction for Ocugen, a biopharmaceutical company. In addition to credit origination transactions, Troy also represents banks and private credit providers in work-out, work-through and other restructuring transactions, including consensual and nonconsensual asset sales, insolvency proceedings, foreclosures, and Assignments for Benefits of Creditors. In the past year, Troy has represented lenders in connection with more than \$250 million in loan restructurings.



SCOTT ZOLDI
Chief Analytics Officer
FICO

Dr. Scott Zoldi, Chief Analytics Officer at FICO, is a pioneering force in artificial intelligence (AI) and analytic innovation. With over 130 active patents and pending applications, Dr. Zoldi has been instrumental in advancing ethical and responsible AI practices. His patented use of blockchain for AI model development has positioned him as a visionary in the field. Dr. Zoldi has been recently named one of American Banker's Innovators of the Year 2024, received MachineCon's AI100 Chief Analytics Officer of the Year Award 2024, and accepted Corinium's Future Thinking Award 2022.



SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

CEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS

2025

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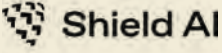
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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPANIES

Ranked by total amount of funding received

Rank	Company Address Website Phone		Total Funding Received	Est. Local Employees, Companywide Employees	Description	Headquarters	Top Local Executive, year established	
1	Shield AI 600 W. Broadway, Suite 450, San Diego 92101 shield.ai 619-719-5740		\$1.3 Billion	178 501-1000	Shield AI is a deep-tech company that focuses on developing AI-powered systems to enhance the safety of service members and civilians.	San Diego	Ryan Tseng 2015	
2	Seismic 11455 El Camino Real, Suite 350, San Diego 92130 www.seismic.com 855-466-8748		\$946 Million	151 1001-2000	AI-powered enablement software: content management, buyer engagement, analytics, training, coaching	San Diego	Doug Winter 2010	
3	ClickUp 350 Tenth Ave., Suite 500, San Diego 92101 clickup.com (888) 625-4258		\$537.5 Million	127 501-1000	ClickUp is an all-in-one AI productivity platform for task management, collaboration, and workflow automation.	San Diego	Zeb Evans 2017	
4	Netradyne 9171 Towne Centre Dr., Ste 110, San Diego 92122 netradyne.com 833-476-9663		\$325.1 Million	215 501-1000	Netradyne's advanced AI-powered solutions are transforming commercial fleet safety and driver performance.	San Diego	Avneesh Agrawal 2015	
5	Kneron 10052 Mesa Ridge Crt, Ste 202, San Diego 92121 kneron.com (858) 264-9183		\$226 Million	34 101-150	Kneron develops AI-powered edge computing solutions for secure, efficient, and scalable smart devices.	San Diego	Albert Liu 2015	
6	Iambic 5627 Oberlin Drive, Suite 120, San Diego 92121 iambic.ai (619) 330-5499		\$220 Million	57 51-100	Iambic is a clinical-stage AI drug discovery company accelerating the development of novel medicines	San Diego	Tom Miller 2019	
7	Brain Corp 10182 Telesis Court, Unit 100, San Diego 92121 braincorp.com (858) 689-7600		\$190 Million	175 101-250	BrainOS powers the largest fleet of AMRs, automating floor care and inventory management	San Diego	David Pinn 2009	

(N/A) Not available.

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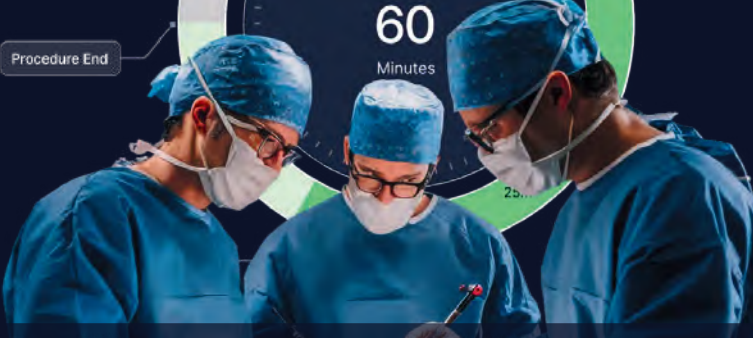
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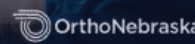


VIEW WHAT MATTERS

We believe surgical coordination should be as precise as the procedures themselves.

By eliminating manual processes and fragmented communication, the Ospitek platform shifts focus and energy back to where it belongs, the patient—while integrating seamlessly with existing systems to support **clarity, connection, and extreme efficiency** in every case.







Elevating Surgical Efficiency

Syncing directly with patient movement, Ospitek's AIoT platform delivers fully automated, live visibility and unified communication, coordinating every surgical stakeholder in real time.

Surgical teams, caregivers, and vendor representatives gain instant access to the information they need at every stage of care, improving efficiency and enhancing what matters most, the patient experience.



Radical Time Transparency

Ospitek converts live surgical workflows into structured, actionable intelligence, delivering real-time insight across cases, teams, and rooms.

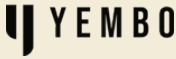
From benchmarking performance to identifying inefficiencies and optimizing OR utilization, the platform enables data-driven decision support that scales.



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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPANIES

Ranked by total amount of funding received

Rank	Company Address Website Phone		Total Funding Received	Est. Local Employees, Companywide Employees	Description	Headquarters	Top Local Executive, year established	
8	Gretel 8910 University Ctr Lane, Ste 400, San Diego 92122 gretel.ai (919) 475-0696		\$67.7 Million	9 51-100	Gretel AI enables secure, privacy-preserving data sharing with synthetic data and AI-powered anonymization.	Palo Alto	Ali Golshan 2020	
9	ForeSee Medical 11622 El Camino Real, Ste 100, San Diego 92130 foreseemed.com (833) 426-3348		\$49.5 Million	16 11-50	ForeSee Medical is a specialized software platform that leverages AI to increase the profitability of Medicare Advantage risk contracts.	San Diego	Seth Flam 2017	
10	VIE Technologies Inc. 10021 Willow Creek Road, Suite 200, San Diego 92131 vietechonologies.com (866) 784-4197		\$21.4 Million	7 11-50	VIE Technologies is revolutionizing transformer monitoring with AI-powered predictive analytics	San Diego	Rahul Chaturvedi 2017	
11	Blooma 850 South Coast Hwy 101, Encinitas 92024 blooma.ai (888) 521-2479		\$20.8 Million	15 11-50	Blooma empowers CRE lenders with AI via real-time insights and seamless automation, transforming complex lending processes into opportunities.	Encinitas	Shayne Skaff 2018	
12	Seasats 4901 Morena Blvd, Building 600, San Diego 92117 seasats.com (831) 732-7287		\$20 Million	35 11-50	Seasats creates practical & reliable autonomous surface vehicles for science and defense customers.	San Diego	Mike Flanigan 2020	
13	Verse.ai 550 W B St, #413, San Diego 92101 verse.ai (844) 372-3014		\$13.3 Million	28 51-100	Verse.ai converts leads with AI-powered SMS conversations. Automated SMS messages keep prospects engaged and increase conversion rates.	San Diego	David Tal 2014	
14	Yembo 4445 Eastgate Mall, #200, San Diego 92121 yembo.ai (833) 469-3626		\$12.9 Million	10 51-100	Yembo's virtual, AI-driven surveys provide content inventory, measurements, 3D models, floor plans, structure identification, and more.	San Diego	Siddharth Mohan 2016	

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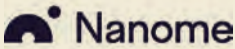
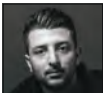
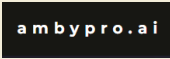


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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPANIES

Ranked by total amount of funding received

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15	ViaTouch Media 10505 Roselle St, #200, San Diego 92121 getvicki.com (866) 942-0804		\$10 Million	2 11-50	ViaTouch Media provides an IOT self-checkout solution for retail that's powered by artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies.	San Diego	Tom Murn 2014	
16	Tourmo 3655 Nobel Drive, Suite 660, San Diego 92122 tourmo.ai (866) 202-9800		\$8 Million	15 11-50	Tourmo's AI-driven platform for fleets delivers holistic insights, turning fragmented data into real-world actions that improve safety, efficiency, and profitability.	San Diego	Marc Brungger 2014	
17	Nanome 3655 Nobel Drive, San Diego 92122 nanome.ai (415) 360-6266		\$6.4 Million	10 11-50	Nanome AI integrates AI and virtual reality for collaborative molecular modeling and drug design.	San Diego	Steve McCloskey 2016	
18	Self Inspection 9260 Towne Ctr Drive, Ste 25, San Diego 92121 selfinspection.com (619) 955-9535		\$5.8 Million	4 1-10	Self Inspection leverages AI to streamline vehicle inspections, ensuring fast, accurate compliance checks.	San Diego	Constantine Yaremtso 2021	
19	Helport 9171 Towne Ctr Drive, Ste 335, San Diego 92122 helport.ai (619) 793-9700		\$5.5 Million	15 11-50	Helport AI is a global leader in AI-enhanced customer contact solutions, empowering businesses with scalable, intelligent support.	San Diego	Guanghai Liu 2020	
20	Ospitek 4660 La Jolla Village Dr, Ste 550, San Diego 92122 ospitek.us (833) 677-4835		\$5.4 Million	11 11-50	Ospitek's AIoT platform syncs patient movement to automated patient flow management capabilities, offering live episode of care visibility and predictive intelligence for surgical decision support and OR efficiency.	San Diego	Slim Souissi 2018	
21	Looq AI 10855 Sorrento Valley Rd, Ste 101, San Diego 92121 looq.ai (888) 209-4958		\$4.7 Million	8 11-50	Looq AI is an enterprise software company that offers 3D survey and mapping services using artificial intelligence.	San Diego	Domique Meyer 2021	
22	Soundful 3950 Sorrento Valley Blvd, Ste 400, San Diego 92121 soundful.com (619) 648-5557		\$4.5 Million	5 11-50	Soundful uses AI to generate royalty-free music, empowering creators with unique, customizable soundtracks.	San Diego	Diaa El All 2019	
23	Semantic AI 4922 N Harbor Drive, San Diego 92106 semantic-ai.com (619) 222-4050		\$4.4 Million	20 51-100	Semantic AI leverages cutting-edge computational performance to connect, add value to, and present data and information in ways that augment human analysts.	San Diego	Richard Harrison 2001	
24	CommSafe AI 350 10th Avenue, Suite 1000, San Diego 92101 commsafe.ai (888) 613-1994		\$4.3 Million	5 11-50	CommSafe AI utilizes AI and machine learning to help organizations illuminate employee well-being and brand risk, placing an emphasis on protecting people and privacy.	San Diego	Ty Smith 2015	
25	ISHI Health 1919 Pacific Highway, Unit PH03, San Diego 92101 ishi.health (619) 428-6085		\$4 Million	3 1-10	ISHI's AI-powered solutions help care teams screen for high-risk patients empowering care teams to deliver more personalized cardiac care.	San Diego	Ajay Srivastava 2022	
26	Crop Diagnostix 6197 Cornerstone Ct, E#101, San Diego 92121 croptagnostix.com (713) 591-9581		\$3.6 Million	2 1-10	Crop Diagnostix is a breakthrough technology that uses RNA sequencing and AI to decode the plant's language.	San Diego	Brandon Chi 2023	
27	Amby Pro AI 8910 University Ctr Lane, Site 400, San Diego 92122 ambyprom.ai (470) 815-8551		\$3 Million	1 1-10	AmbyTech specializes in AI-powered manufacturing intelligence, offering innovative solutions that allow customers to manage revenue risks across their operations.	San Diego	Abhijit Bose 2024	
28	Rehinged 550 West B Street 4th Floor, San Diego 92101 rehinged.ai (858) 214-2944		\$3 Million	3 11-50	Rehinged automates the expensive and cumbersome data wrangling process to deliver actionable intelligence in healthcare.	San Diego	Jim Sagar 2018	
29	RevWork 1205 Pacific Hwy, Unit 2401, San Diego 92101 revwork.ai (833) 532-3462		\$1.8 Million	1 1-10	RevWork's next generation AI nudge-creation platform taps into the science of habit formation to deliver behavioral learning that transforms performance and results.	San Diego	Denise Hummel 2019	
30	CamerEye 4640 Cass Street, #91275, San Diego 92109 camereye.ai (800) 906-2810		\$1.1 Million	5 1-10	CamerEye is reinventing swimming pool safety by introducing the first artificial intelligence powered system to provide faster distress detection and help.	San Diego	Sai Reddu 2020	
31	MediaViz AI PO Box 22700, San Diego 92122 mediaviz.ai (619) 212-0244		\$1.1 Million	3 1-10	MediaViz AI provides Human-centric AI that's built for enterprises to save time, deliver better experiences, and boost conversions.	San Diego	Troy DeBraal 2019	

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