

TAMPA BAY INNOVATION CENTER LAUNCHES STARTUP ACCELERATOR FOR MACHINE LEARNING, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, & DATA SCIENCE

Tools and utilities created by startups will accelerate the adoption of AI in the enterprise.

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- The [Tampa Bay Innovation Center](#) (TBIC), an early-stage tech incubator, has opened the application process for its next accelerator program, which will focus on startups developing products that simplify collecting, analyzing, or monetizing large sources of data. This

program will serve early-stage founders building solutions for working with and gaining insight from large repositories of data (industry, geographic, environmental, government, etc.), which may be generated by Internet of Things (IoT) networks, data needed to train artificial intelligence (AI) systems or tools, API's, and utilities that will be critical for integrating AI into existing systems and the workforce.

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Chris Paradies, TBIC chairman

In 2021, industry researcher Gartner projected that by 2025, the artificial intelligence market would reach \$134.8B (USD) with an annual growth rate of just over 31%. More recently, the market research report, Big Ideas 2023, authored by analysts at ARK Invest, stated that “Artificial Intelligence is the most important catalyst, its velocity cascading through all other technologies.” This next TBIC accelerator cohort will focus on assisting early-stage startups that have novel, scalable solutions for data and

software that will power the emerging AI landscape. This may include solutions that leverage

The logo for Tampa Bay Innovation Center, featuring the text "TAMPA BAY INNOVATION CENTER" in bold, with "INNOVATION" in orange and "TAMPA BAY" and "CENTER" in grey.

Tampa Bay Innovation Center

technologies, including machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, language models, and neural networks.

TBIC is pleased to announce that ARK Invest, Morrow Consultants, and PODS Enterprises are among the first to support the data-focused cohort and contribute to the well-being and economic development of the region with targeted efforts on emerging technologies. This corporate support will provide a combination of mentoring, expertise, financial support, and other resources for TBIC and its startups.



New ARK Innovation Center Building in South ST. Pete

“We are excited to announce this new program which, given the interest in data analytics and artificial intelligence, we expect will be highly sought after by companies bringing new products to market,” stated Chris Paradies, TBIC chair. In addition to these corporate partners, TBIC is supported by Pinellas County Economic Development, Tampa Bay Ventures, Fulcrum Equity Partners, Kyle Taylor and the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership.

The TBIC accelerator, which is slated to begin in mid-August, consists of weekly workshops, mentoring, and ongoing customer validation research. The program was designed to evolve early-stage tech startup ideas into revenue-producing, job-generating companies. Previous TBIC accelerator cohorts have focused on products for the general enterprise, cyber security, blockchain, medical technology, advanced manufacturing, climate, and clean tech, agtech, mental health, fintech, IoT and others.

“There have been many exciting announcements recently in the world of data science and AI, but the industry has barely dipped its toe into the next wave of innovation, and there is so much opportunity to have a positive impact on all aspects of life, including transportation, scientific research, business operations, customer service, and many others,” said Ken Evans, accelerator managing director. To include as many startups as possible, the program will accommodate various stages of companies, with programming tailored to help startup founders, advisors, and investors create sustainable ventures. The accelerator’s goal is commercialization and early-stage customer traction. “We counsel startup founders to meet with customers before they commit all their resources to development, evaluate their assumptions, and iterate until they achieve product-market fit” added Evans.

The accelerator program will kick off in mid-August and consists of weekly group workshops supplemented by one-on-one mentoring to help these early-stage ventures with customer discovery, product road mapping, pricing, go-to-market skills, and putting operational processes

in place that are essential for startup success. These companies will be assisted in their journey by TBIC's network of mentors as well as participating domain experts from industry partners.

[Applications](https://tbinnovates.com/accelerator) for interest startups can be submitted at <https://tbinnovates.com/accelerator>

Tampa Bay Innovation Center (TBIC) supports entrepreneurial success, fosters the creation of high-tech jobs, and develops new sources of technology and manufacturing capabilities by nurturing early-stage ventures as they grow and launch their products into the marketplace. The Innovation Center offers programs that are tailored to the innovator/entrepreneur and provides guidance in market research, business formation, product & technology planning, commercialization, and organizational growth & leadership.

The Tampa Bay Innovation Center, the Federal Economic Development Administration, Pinellas County, and the City of St. Petersburg are collectively establishing a purpose-built 45,000 sq. ft. startup incubator facility in the St. Pete Innovation District. ARK Invest has partnered with TBIC to be the title sponsor for this facility, now designated as [ARK Innovation Center](#). Anticipated opening date is on or before October 1, 2023.

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