

2024

IMPACT REPORT

Letter from the CEO

Dear Supporters of The Engine,

This past year has been a defining moment in The Engine's journey, marked by incredible progress in our mission to incubate and accelerate Tough Tech companies tackling the world's most urgent challenges. We welcomed **26 new companies** into residency, hosted **192 events**, and saw **7,302 unique visitors**—from investors and public leaders to corporate partners and potential hires for our resident startups. As I reflect on 2024, I'm inspired by the resilience and ingenuity of this community and energized for the path ahead.

Strengthening the Core of Tough Tech Innovation

In 2024, we doubled down on our commitment to empower resident companies with the tools, space, and support they need to thrive. Our 200,000 ft² of managed space expanded with new cutting-edge equipment and enhanced access to mentors, investors, and operational support. The **124 resident companies** we supported this year spanned a remarkable range of technologies—AI & ML, biotech, climate tech, quantum computing, and more—each advancing solutions to society's toughest problems.

Accelerating Founder Success

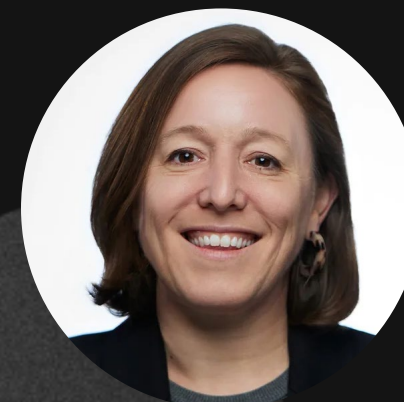
With every founder we work with, we deepen our understanding of the unique hurdles Tough Tech startups face. This year, we built on that expertise to deliver more targeted programs. Our largest-ever Blueprint cohort included **87 researchers** exploring the path from idea to sustainable company, many of whom may become future residents. Through a range of programs, workshops, and custom trainings, we helped founders de-risk their technologies, secure investment, and scale their impact.

Building a Thriving Ecosystem

The Tough Tech Economy is powered by a diverse and interconnected community, and this year we brought that ecosystem closer together. Our first-ever Tough Tech Week convened **3,298 founders and innovators**, **295 investors**, and **46 policymakers** across **26 events** in Boston, centered on our eighth annual Tough Tech Summit co-hosted with Engine Ventures. These gatherings showcased not only the strength of this network but also the shared commitment to solving complex global challenges.

As we celebrate these milestones, we remain grounded in the enormity of the challenges ahead. The problems we face are urgent, but they are met with equal determination by the founders, teams, and partners we are privileged to support. Together, we will continue to push boundaries, grow the Tough Tech Economy, and drive meaningful impact.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.



With gratitude,

Emily Knight

*CEO & President
The Engine*

Our Board of Directors



SUE SIEGEL
Board Chair,
The Engine & Fmr
Chief Innovation
Officer, GE



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Vice Provost for
Faculty & Institute
Professor, MIT



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Investor,
Philanthropist



GLEN SHOR
EVP & Treasurer,
MIT



ANGELA KOEHLER
Professor of
Biological
Engineering, MIT &
Faculty Director,
MIT Koch Institute



MICK MOUNTZ
Founder, Kiva
Systems & Principal,
Kacchip LLC

“The Engine provides far more than benches and infrastructure. It delivers a vibrant ecosystem tailored for Tough Tech founders and their teams. Through critical programs that support activities like fundraising, scaling technology, team building, and access to government resources, The Engine equips Tough Tech startups with the tools to translate research into real-world impact—driving the Tough Tech Economy for decades to come.”



SUE SIEGEL

About The Engine

MISSION

The Engine is the home for Tough Tech. We are an incubator and accelerator purpose-built for Tough Tech startups, surrounding them with the resources to accelerate their growth. We define Tough Tech as transformational science and engineering that solves the world's most important problems.

Our mission is to support and accelerate early-stage Tough Tech companies as they move from research breakthroughs

in science and engineering to commercial impact. Tough Tech startups have unique needs, demanding specialized equipment, sustained capital investment, skilled talent, and guidance to navigate the commercial and regulatory environment. We exist to fill these gaps by providing the critical **infrastructure, programs** and **ecosystem** they need to thrive in the Tough Tech Economy.

Infrastructure

Tough Tech companies require mission-critical spaces and equipment to prove out and scale their technology. The flexible, fully-managed infrastructure at The Engine can accelerate commercialization by months or even years.

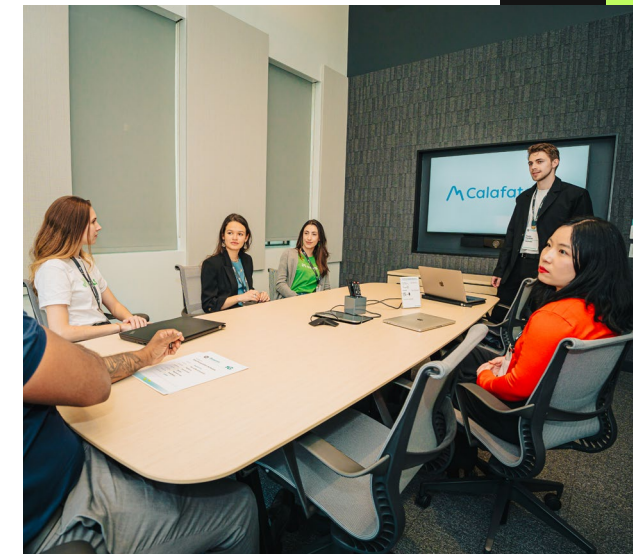
The Engine team is an extension of our residents' teams, managing their labs, overseeing safety and EHS, and supporting their day-to-day operations and technology development.



Programs

We build and deliver educational programs that serve the end-to-end journey of a Tough Tech venture.

We encourage researchers to start companies with translational programs, help first-time founders become leaders, and teach Tough Tech-specific skills to help our resident companies scale. Resources are programmatic and available on-demand.



Ecosystem

For Tough Tech to succeed, it's critical to engage the entire ecosystem to accelerate the impact of these technologies.

We regularly convene founders, investors, government, academia, corporations and others in the Tough Tech ecosystem. Flagship events include Tough Tech Week and the Tough Tech Summit, co-hosted with Engine Ventures.



The Home for Tough Tech

Supporting the Growth of Our Residents

As The Engine expands its global impact, our primary focus remains on incubating and accelerating the growth of the 124 Tough Tech companies residing at our facilities. With over 200,000 ft² of fully-managed infrastructure, The Engine provides our residents with the space, equipment, programs

and connections they need to prove out and scale their technology. These facilities also serve as a learning lab where we can better understand the intricate needs of Tough Tech companies and how best to address these needs as we scale our programming and economic development offerings.



Founder fireside chat



Machine shop



Meeting spaces

467

Jobs created by The Engine residents, alumni, and Engine Ventures portfolio companies in 2024

AT A GLANCE: The Engine Residents in 2024

124

Resident companies

913

Residents

\$297M

Total funds raised by residents

Resident Spotlights

Below is a small sample of the highly interdisciplinary teams in residence at The Engine. The following pages will provide a more detailed breakdown of their revolutionary technology and their journey at The Engine.



The Foray team in the wet lab

Axoft

- Applied AI & ML
- Materials
- Biotech & Life Sciences
- Manufacturing

3 9 17

Brightlight Photonics

- Autonomous Systems & Robotics
- Computing
- Materials

3 9 17

Concerto Biosciences

- Applied AI & ML
- Biotech & Life Sciences

3 9 17

Foray

- Natural Resources
- Climate
- Materials
- Biotech & Life Sciences
- Manufacturing

9 13 15 17

LYDIAN

- Energy
- Climate

7 9 12 13 17

MACROCYCLE Technologies

- Materials
- Climate

9 12 13 14 17

Resident Spotlights

Axoft



Amplifying Brain-Machine Communication with Soft, Implantable Electronics.

Axoft’s first-of-its-kind bioinspired neural implant mimics the soft tissues of the brain to reduce implant drift and long term damage.

Team Growth in 2024: 5 team members
Most Impactful Program: Management 101

Resources leveraged at The Engine:

- Dedicated lab benches
- Private support lab
- 3D print shop
- Machine shop
- Rapid fabrication shop
- Electronics shop
- Shared office desks



- Applied AI & ML
- Biotech & Life Sciences
- Materials
- Manufacturing

3 9 17
 RESIDENT SINCE 2021

Brightlight Photonics



Tiny Lasers for Huge Breakthroughs.

Brightlight’s photonics platform miniaturizes and reduces costs for Ti:Sapphire lasers, unlocking breakthroughs in medical imaging, atomic physics, quantum optics and more.

Team Growth in 2024: No new team members in 2024; focusing on building product momentum, with plans to scale in 2025.

Resources leveraged at The Engine:

- Dedicated benches in shared lab
- Dedicated desks in shared office

“Having access to The Engine’s machine shop and workshop space has been instrumental in accelerating our development. It’s allowed us to rapidly prototype, iterate, and refine our designs, setting a strong foundation for scaling our technology.”



ALEXANDER PLACE
Co-Founder

- Autonomous Systems & Robotics
- Computing
- Materials

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 RESIDENT SINCE 2024

Concerto Biosciences



Tap into the Microbial World.

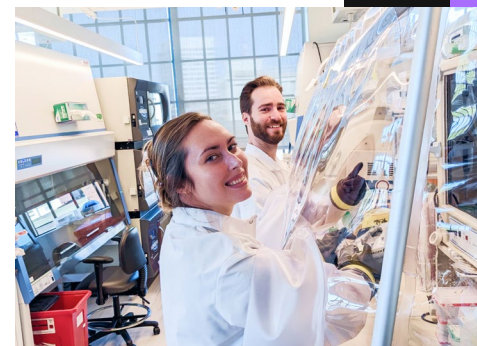
With its kChip coculture technology, Concerto physically constructs millions of microbial communities—generating the requisite data to train an AI model of microbial ecology and discover effective microbial products for human health and beyond.

Team Growth in 2024: 3 team members
Most Impactful Program: DOT/IATA trainings

Resources leveraged at The Engine:

- Medium private lab suite
- Medium private office suite
- 3D print shop
- Machine shop
- Rapid prototyping shop
- Electronics shop

“The state-of-the-art facilities and equipment have elevated our capabilities far beyond what we could have achieved on our own. For example, the machine shop and 3D printing shop, which are not common to find alongside the microbiology research that we do, have accelerated our workflows immensely.”



BERNARDO CERVANTES
COO & Co-Founder

- Applied AI & ML
- Biotech & Life Sciences

3 9 17
 RESIDENT SINCE 2022

Resident Spotlights

Foray



Protecting & Restoring Natural Ecosystems, One Plant Cell at a Time.

Foray is using biomanufacturing to grow critical plant products in the lab at the cellular level, without the need to harvest plants in nature.

Team Growth in 2024: 6 team members
Most Impactful Program: Management 101

Resources leveraged at The Engine:

- Dedicated benches in shared lab
- Dedicated desks in shared office



- Natural Resources
- Climate
- Materials
- Manufacturing
- Biotech & Life Sciences



RESIDENT SINCE 2022

Lydian



Sustainable Fuels and Chemicals from CO₂, Water, and Renewable Electricity – In Record Time.

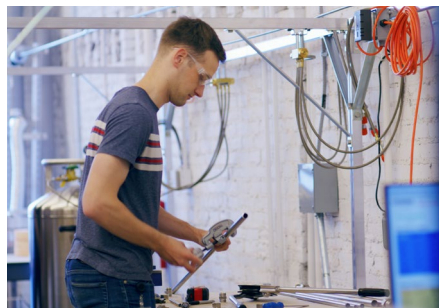
Lydian is on a mission to decarbonize the aviation industry, replacing oil and gas refining with carbon-neutral fuels derived from renewable energy, water, and CO₂ emissions.

Team Growth in 2024: 7 team members

Resources leveraged at The Engine:

- Dedicated lab benches
- 3D print shop
- Machine shop
- Rapid fabrication shop
- Electronics shop
- Shared office desks

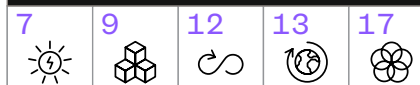
“The Engine’s network of experts and staff have been invaluable, providing resources and strategic introductions across areas like policy, operations, and recruiting to accelerate



Lydian’s business and technical development.”

JOE RODDEN
CEO & Co-Founder

- Energy
- Climate



RESIDENT SINCE 2022

Macrocycle Technologies



Creating Circular Plastics with Zero Carbon Emissions.

Macrocycle is on a mission to eliminate plastic waste by producing virgin-grade recycled PET from plastic waste at 80% lower energy use than traditional processes.

Team Growth in 2024: 6 team members
Most Impactful Program: Engineering Program

Resources leveraged at The Engine:

- Dedicated lab benches
- Industrial fabrication space
- Shared office desks



The Engine became Macrocycle’s first customer through a recycling distribution program.

- Materials
- Climate



RESIDENT SINCE 2023

Delivering Critical Tough Tech Infrastructure & Services

By definition, Tough Tech companies have unique needs and require specialized resources to develop their technology. In 2024, we expanded our offering of purpose-built spaces, equipment, and services to better meet the needs of our residents. These services are vital to supporting the growth of our residents, easing their operational burden and freeing them to focus on building out breakthrough technology.

Resident companies at The Engine have access to over 200,000 ft² of convergent lab space, fabrication spaces, specialized equipment, offices and meeting spaces — all fully managed and secured 24/7 by our dedicated team.

45%

Percentage of teams that made a prototype in the shop space in 2024

20

Team members at The Engine dedicated to lab, engineering, operations, safety, and waste management

— “We deliver a plug-and-play environment so Tough Tech companies can focus on de-risking their technology without the distractions of setting up labs, fabrication capabilities, and other operational concerns.”



RHETT SMITH
VP Operations,
The Engine

Wet Lab Services

Our Lab Operations team streamlines critical services for lab residents, managing permitting, safety reviews, PPE, equipment, and waste disposal—enabling teams to safely and efficiently advance their groundbreaking work.



Engineering & Fabrication Services

The Engine’s professional Engineering team is available on-demand for consultations and design reviews on any project, instruction on any of our tools, and at-cost prototype fabrication. The team can also connect residents with external facilities that supplement the resources provided by The Engine.



Facility Management

The Facilities team at The Engine oversees all aspects of the physical environment, including equipment installations, MEP systems and facility modifications, to ensure safe and efficient operations with minimal disruptions. In 2024, the Facilities Team closed **4,120 work orders** and performed **77 facility customizations**.



Community Operations

The Community Operations team ensures a seamless experience for every resident at The Engine: providing on-demand support, setting up events, managing visitors, and keeping the coffee flowing. In 2024, the Community Operations team organized **33 events** for residents, fulfilled **328 help requests**, and onboarded **26 Tough Tech teams**.



Over 60,000ft² of BSL-2 Wet Lab Space

The Engine offers residents a wide range of wet lab infrastructure to fit their needs, including microbiological space, tissue culture space, and chemistry space. Residents are supported through every stage of their growth, with options ranging from dedicated lab benches to private suites.

— “The Engine’s support in facilitating our CLIA certification was invaluable. Their lab operations team provided essential infrastructure, equipment maintenance, and hands-on guidance, making the process efficient and seamless. This milestone was crucial for our team, and their support made it possible.”



KATE CAVES
CEO,
Predicta



2024 METRICS

123,000 Hours booked on shared wet lab equipment by resident teams

\$700,000 Value of hazardous waste disposal and EHS on-site services provided

1843 Pieces of equipment available to residents

10 Permits facilitated for residents by The Engine team

Engineering Infrastructure to De-Risk and Scale Tough Tech

Tough Tech is defined by bold solutions to complex challenges that come with the inherent risk of failure. That’s why the fabrication space and rapid prototyping shops at The Engine are so critical to Tough Tech teams, allowing residents to build prototypes to test, iterate, and de-risk their technology. The multidisciplinary nature of the technology developed here means that teams from virtually every industry make use of the engineering and fabrication spaces, which come equipped with everything from 3D printers to CNC mills to laser cutters and a waterjet. For larger projects, our high-bay industrial space offers the space and power to support heavy equipment, including a superconducting quantum computer.

2024 METRICS

1590 Metal, plastic, and ceramic prototypes machined

848 Laser cut prototype parts

4596 Parts 3D printed

500 Hours of in-house engineering services for residents

71% Percentage of time 3D printers are running



Cultivating the Next Generation of Tough Tech Companies

Many of our residents are first-time founders with roots in science and engineering and limited experience running a business or attracting capital. The Engine is dedicated to providing residents with the educational programming and resources to position them for success.

As more residents come to call The Engine home, we've sharpened our understanding of the gaps in the founder journey and strengthened our offering to fill those gaps. Our comprehensive educational programming covers nine critical learning areas that Tough Tech founders need to master to transform groundbreaking ideas

into scalable ventures with lasting impact. This includes management and leadership training as well as guidance on product development, intellectual property, public and government relations, and more. Residents benefit from monthly workshops led by CXOs in residence and networking events with key constituents in the Tough Tech ecosystem.

Perhaps most importantly, founders receive fundraising support in the form of connections to The Engine's Tough Tech investor network, pitch practice, storytelling workshops, and invitations to demo days and investor events.

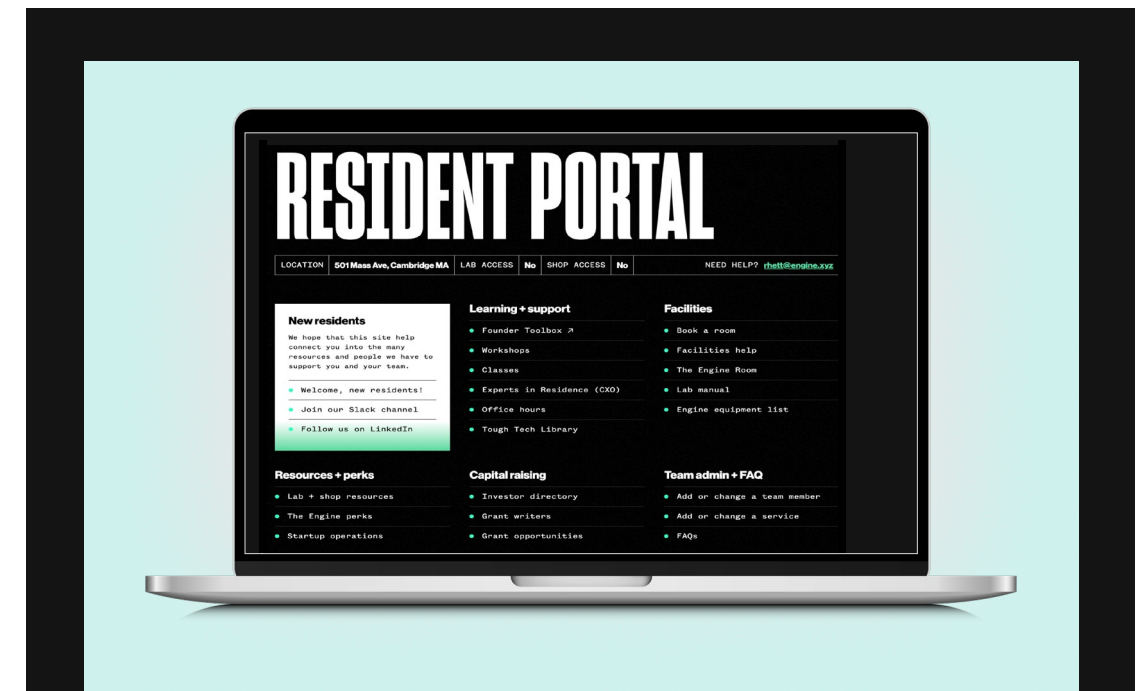
44

Learning events in 2024, with specific content tailored to supporting startups and often including external resources.



— **“Management 101 was the most valuable professional development I’ve done so far in my career.”**

ENGINE RESIDENT
First Time Founder



Tough Tech Toolbox

Our resident portal provides residents with essential information and resources to support their growth during their time at The Engine. The Tough Tech Toolbox complements our educational programming with on-demand resources on topics including:

- Benefits & Perks
- Board Management
- Co-Founders
- Communication
- Culture
- Feedback & Reviews
- Fundraising
- Goal Setting
- Hiring
- Leadership
- Manager Resources
- Offboarding
- Onboarding
- Organizational Design
- Project Management
- Self-Management
- Founder Resources

Setting Up First-Time Founders for Success



Blueprint is one of The Engine’s most popular programs, designed to foster entrepreneurship in the students and researchers building transformational technologies in the lab. Blueprint creates escape velocity and a pathway for the technologists to create companies and translate their technology out of the lab. In 2024, we had our two largest cohorts ever...

All Time Since 2020

1308 Participants **599** Teams **9** Cohorts

2024

337 Participants	153 Teams	2 Cohorts
24 Institutions	20 States represented	17 Teams from NSF Engines

— “The Blueprint program gave me the foundational knowledge I needed to start moving commercialization of my technology in the right direction. I now have context for the Tough Tech atmosphere which has allowed me to better understand areas that I need to develop and begin making strategic connections and start asking the right questions to further take our tech from the lab-scale to a commercial product.”



BLUEPRINT ALUMNUS
Spring 2024

8
Teams from National Labs via our partnership with Cradles 2 Commerce (C2C) since Blueprint’s founding

2
Institutional partners for a DoD Track: DoD’s JPEO CBRND branch and MIT Lincoln Lab in 2024

Translating Breakthrough Research into Tough Tech Ventures



Whiteboard, by The Engine, helps faculty translate academic research into Tough Tech startups. The program offers a framework for company formation, addressing challenges and evaluating faculty involvement. Whiteboard fosters a network of Tough Tech faculty founders, connecting experienced entrepreneurs with first-time founders. Led by The Engine team, seasoned faculty entrepreneurs, and external experts, sessions focus on three key forms of capital for Tough Tech ventures: technology, human, and financial.

Institutions Represented in 2024

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK	Boston Children's Hospital Until every child is well	BROWN	BOSTON UNIVERSITY	BROAD INSTITUTE
BROWN	HARVARD UNIVERSITY	JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY	MGH 1811	MIT
Northeastern University	Olin College of Engineering	PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	Tufts UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA Medical Center	WPI	Yale	

All Time Since 2022

129 Participants **25** Institutions **5** Cohorts

2024

54 Participants **19** Institutions **2** Cohorts

— “I’ve attended several other training and education programs on the topic and this was by far the most practical and useful.”

WHITEBOARD ALUMNUS
Spring 2024



Unlocking Access to Funding

For Tough Tech startups in our programs and in residency at The Engine, the capital stack can be diverse, including venture capital, non-dilutive government funding, and various other capital providers. One of the most valuable aspects of residency is access to capital and the coaching we provide to help residents fundraise.

In addition to our close relationship with Engine Ventures, which has 3 venture funds and over \$1B in AUM, The Engine fosters relationships with a deep and diverse network of over 50 venture funds and other providers of capital to support our Tough Tech teams. In 2024, The Engine hosted numerous events such as Boston Biotech Investor Day,

Unpitch, and the inaugural Tough Tech Week to facilitate connections between investors and Tough Tech teams.

Non-dilutive government funding is another critical source of capital for early-stage Tough Tech teams. This year, we strengthened our partnership with agencies such as ARPA-H, DoD, NSF, and OCED to build connections between our residents and transformative funding opportunities. These connections have paved the way for success stories like Sublime's \$87M award from OCED in March, and Cellino's \$25M award from ARPA-H in September.

The Engine hosted First Lady Jill Biden to announce the ARPA-H Sprint for Women's Health initiative, a \$100 million investment in women's health research. Events with public officials nurture relationships between residents and critical sources of non-dilutive capital for Tough Tech teams.



Access to Public & Non-Dilutive Funding

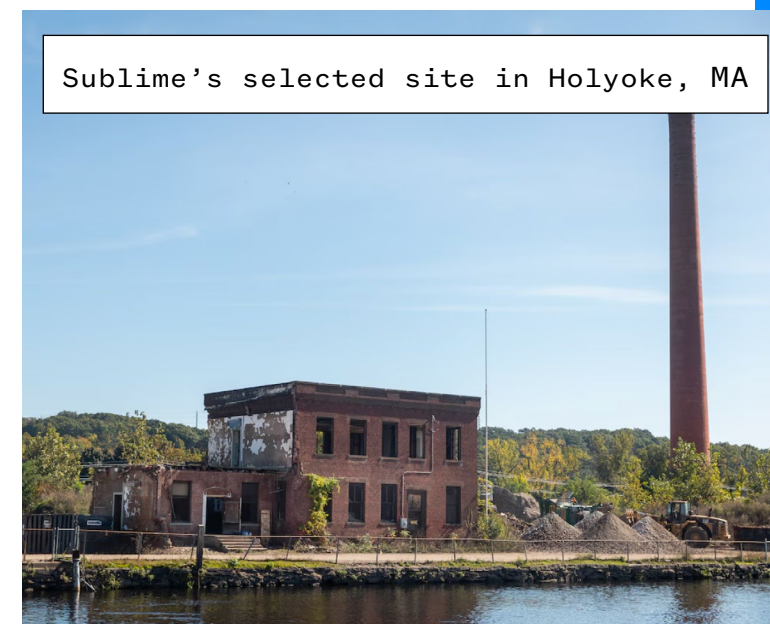
Not comprehensive.



The Engine's inaugural Tough Tech Week was attended by 295 VCs and investors, providing residents the opportunity to meet face to face and pitch their breakthrough ideas.



Sublime Systems Co-founder and CEO, Leah Ellis, and Mayor of Holyoke, Joshua Garcia



Sublime's selected site in Holyoke, MA

With The Engine's support, Sublime Systems was awarded \$87M from OCED in March to fund the construction of their first commercial low-carbon cement manufacturing plant.

295 VCs & Investors

Engaging the Ecosystem



Our Role as a Convener

At The Engine, we host thousands of visitors each year—from investors and policymakers to corporate executives and beyond. They come from the local Tough Tech ecosystem as well as far-flung locations worldwide to understand the edges of Tough Tech innovation, invest in our companies, and attend events and programs. Although we have an increasing number of virtual offerings, the atmosphere at 750 Main St and our other facilities is unrivaled. This is the place where Tough Tech is built.

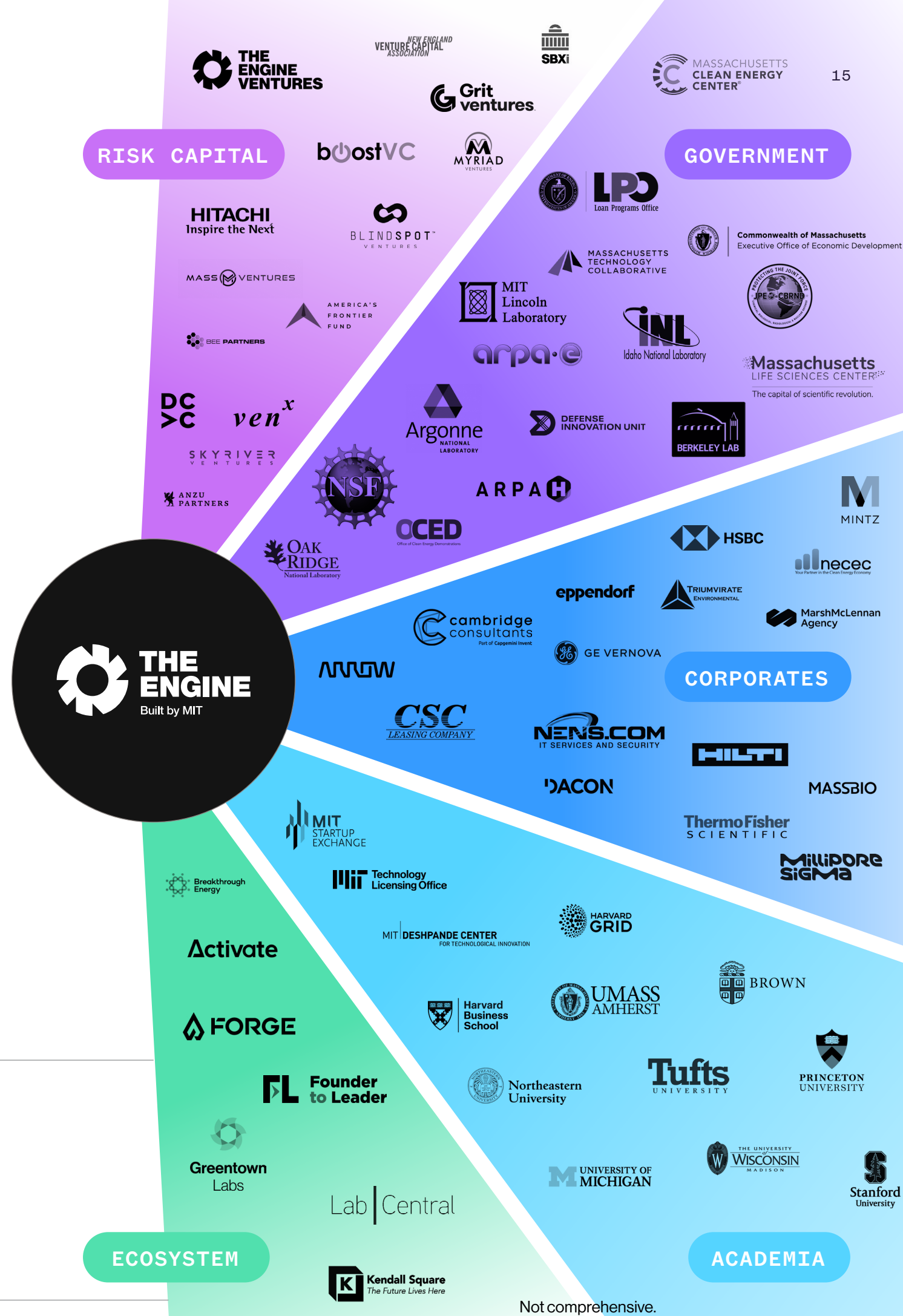
In 2024, we deepened our relationships across the broader Tough Tech ecosystem—including risk capital, academia, government, corporations, and entrepreneurial support organizations whose missions overlap with ours. By fostering these partnerships, we ensured our resident companies have access to the knowledge, resources, and networks essential for overcoming complex challenges.

7,302

Number of unique visitors in 2024

98

Number of externally hosted events in 2024



Ecosystem Events

5/7/2024

Make it in Mass

This annual event is one of many that convenes decision makers in Massachusetts with Tough Tech company builders and those that support them. With 13 speakers and 134 attendees, the event highlighted the cross-sector reach of Tough Tech and discussed the implications, advantages and alternatives to manufacturing in Massachusetts.

46%

Startups & innovation groups

27%

Policy, advocacy, & infrastructure

25%

Capital & industry collaboration



Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey with Tough Tech founders



Panel discussion on building operations in Massachusetts

5/22/2024

Unpitch Tough Tech

The New England Venture Capital Association (NEVCA) chose The Engine to host its first ever Tough Tech-focused Unpitch event, providing residents with the unique opportunity to receive direct feedback, guidance, and connections from seasoned VCs — without the typical pitch pressure.

8

Investors

12

Startups

31

Attendees

Investors include MassCEC, First Star, Engine Ventures, MassVentures, Taihill, and Innospark



Ari Glantz, Executive Director, NEVCA



9/10/2024

Boston Biotech Investor Day

Bio and health companies comprise many of our residents at The Engine. As such, we hosted Boston Biotech Investor Day in partnership with LabCentral and BioLabs, to convene startups and investors creating the future of bio in Boston.

50+

Leading Investors

200+

Attendees

44

Pitches

40+

Early-stage companies developing novel therapies and transformative human health technologies



Keynote from Rachel Sha, CEO of Vaxess Technologies



Tough Tech Week

The Engine launched its inaugural Tough Tech Week in 2024, anchored by the seventh annual Tough Tech Summit in partnership with Engine Ventures. Through thought-provoking conversations and demonstrations of breakthrough tech being developed and commercialized in the Commonwealth, Tough Tech Week solidified Massachusetts' position as the world's premier hub for Tough Tech.



5 DAYS

Anchored by our Tough Tech Summit

26 EVENTS

Across Boston & Cambridge

20+

Event Co-hosts

3,298

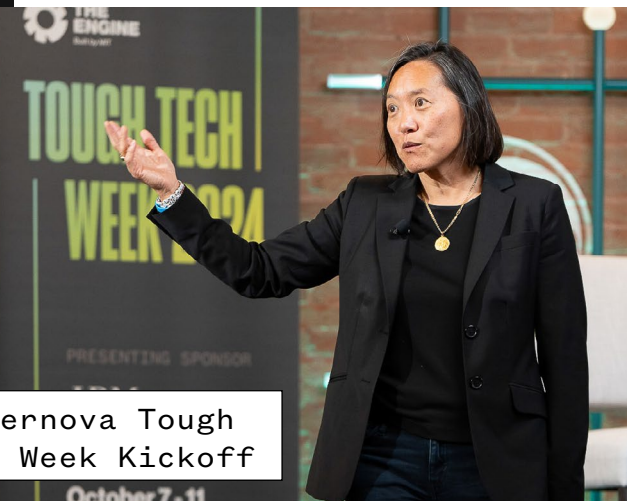
Founders & Innovators

295

VCs & Investors

46

Government & Policy Stakeholders

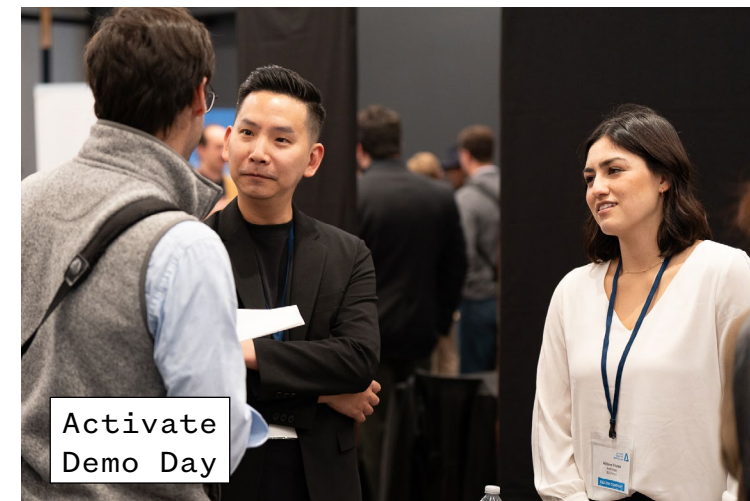


GE Vernova Tough Tech Week Kickoff
October 7-11

— “This is what Tough Tech Week is all about: how do we scale and support this whole ecosystem to get these solutions to market faster to help our world?... The Engine is a key convener of this ecosystem.”



YVONNE HAO
Sec. of Economic Development, Massachusetts



Activate Demo Day



VenX Investing in Tough Tech

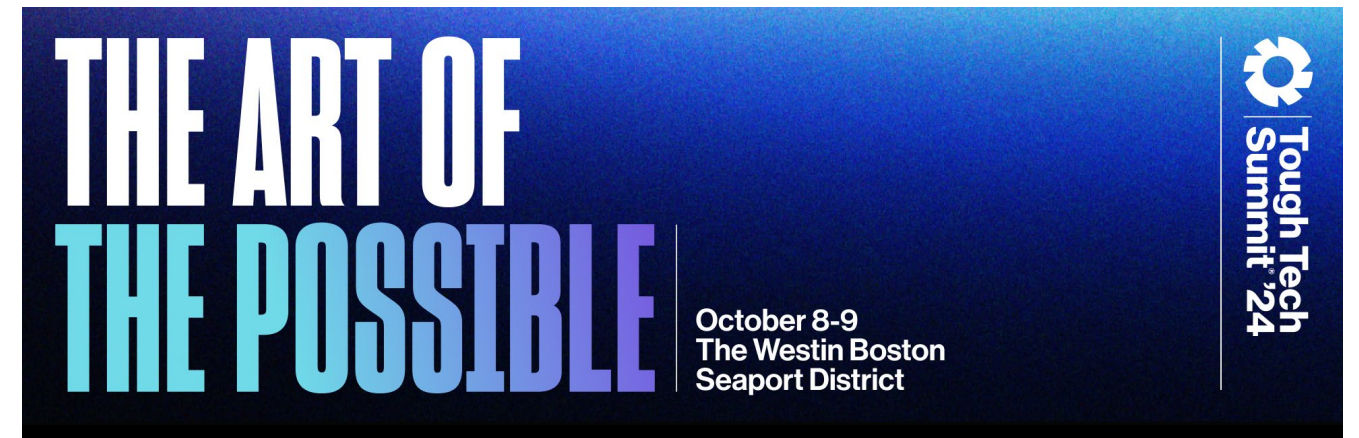
— “It’s almost impossible to be pessimistic about the future when you spend time with the solution builders, like you find at Tough Tech Week.”



CALVIN CUPINI
Director of Investments, Activate

Tough Tech Summit

Tough Tech Week was anchored by our seventh annual Tough Tech Summit, co-hosted with Engine Ventures and sponsored by JPMorgan Innovation Economy. The two-day event convened the Tough Tech ecosystem: founders, investors, industry, academics, and government representatives to foster crucial dialogues and center the companies solving our biggest problems across climate, human health, and advanced systems.



1.5 DAYS
Days of Content

920
Attendees

88
Speakers

34
Founder Pitches

55
Featured Companies

30
Sessions



Secretary Yvonne Hao hands her signature 'Team Massachusetts' bracelet to MIT President Sally Kornbluth during a panel with Katie Rae, CEO of Engine Ventures, on how academia, government, and venture capital can collaborate to drive impact in Tough Tech.



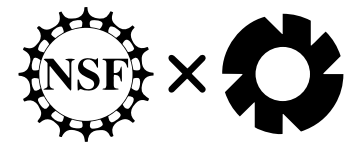
Keynote by Ali Zaidi, National Climate Advisor, on America's industrial transformation.



— **“This is our 7th Tough Tech Summit... the future is bright and the future is possible with incredibly hard work, hard plans, capital and pointing in the right direction... We have that here.”**



KATIE RAE
CEO & Managing Partner,
Engine Ventures

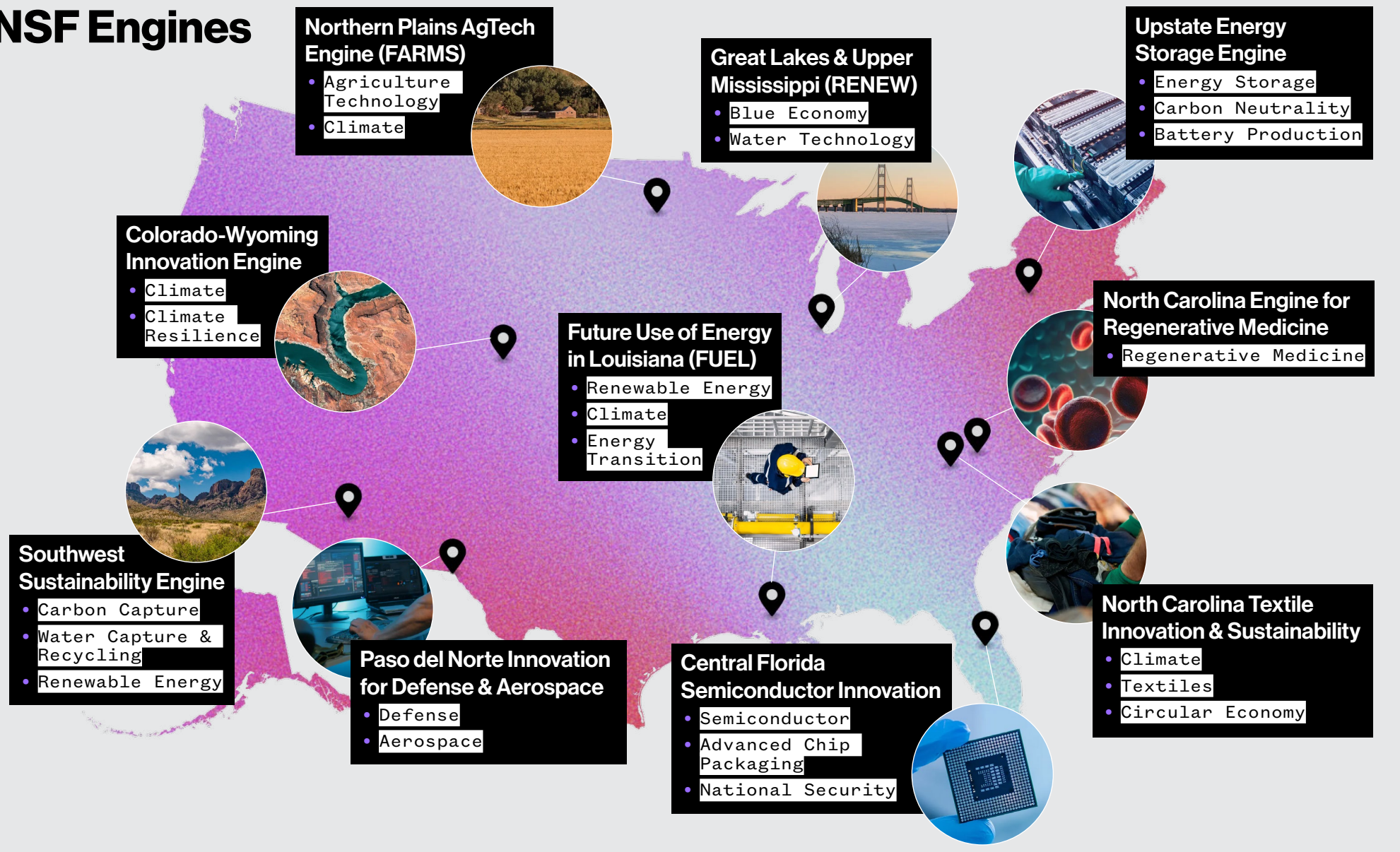


The Builder Platform

The Builder Platform is a human-centered network that, in its first year, has supported 10 regions funded by the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Regional Innovation Engines program—an unprecedented federal investment in place-based innovation. This unique collaboration by The Engine and NSF is expanding our national reach, as we partner with the inaugural NSF Engines to provide a platform for collaboration between ecosystem builders, expert practitioners, and key innovation stakeholders in these 10 communities. The Builder Platform was established to empower regions in achieving their full potential through boosting innovation capacity, creating sustainable innovation ecosystems, and demonstrating economic growth for their communities.

116 Tailored Guidance Sessions for custom problem solving	14 CEO Roundtables to foster collaboration	26 Webinars, office hours and roundtables on key topics
17 Teams representing 5 engines participating in Blueprint program	3 Major national convenings to build the NSF Engines community	4 Knowledge sharing builder groups for peer-learning

NSF Engines



— “The inaugural NSF Engines awards demonstrate our enduring commitment to create opportunity everywhere and enable innovation anywhere. Through these NSF Engines, NSF aims to expand the frontiers of technology and innovation and spur economic growth across the nation through unprecedented investments in people and partnerships. NSF Engines hold significant promise to elevate and transform entire geographic regions into world-leading hubs of innovation.”



SETHURAMAN PANCHANATHAN
 Director,
 National Science Foundation

Looking Ahead

As we look to 2025 and beyond, we will remain focused on being the best integrated resource for Tough Tech companies and enhancing our existing offering. This means improving the resident experience to make Tough Tech faster and easier, expanding our programming and reach, and convening and deepening relationships across the Tough Tech ecosystem to help our resident companies.

But as we zoom out and examine our role—and the roles of our residents and alumni—in building a more sustainable, resilient world, we need to take a systems view.

The flywheel of The Engine and our collaborators to bring Tough Tech from idea to investment to impact is more than an ecosystem. It is becoming an economy.

Join us.

Whether you are building a company in Tough Tech, supporting Tough Tech startups, or contributing to a Tough Tech industry you're passionate about, we want to collaborate with you.



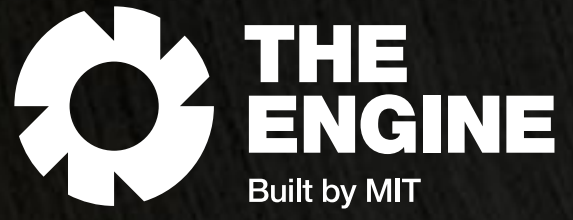
**THE
FUTURE
IS THE
TOUGH
TECH
ECONOMY.**

Thank you to our Partners and Sponsors

The Engine’s partner network spans vendors and service providers, VC firms, and others that support Tough Tech companies. To deliver on our mission, we frequently facilitate our residents’ access to high quality partners: in 2024 we made innumerable warm introductions.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our sponsors, who made financial and in-kind contributions that directly impacted our resident teams and programming, including our first annual Tough Tech Week.





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