



INNOVATION SUMMIT

October 6, 2026

THE FUTURE OF WORK:

***REIMAGINING TALENT,
TECHNOLOGY & THE
MODERN ORGANIZATION
IN THE ERA OF AI***



INNOVATION SUMMIT



Welcome to the NH Tech Alliance's 2026 Innovation Summit. This year's theme, *The Future of Work: Reimagining Talent, Technology & the Modern Organization in the era of AI*, reflects a truth that grows clearer every year: technology is no longer a sector of its own. It runs through every industry in New Hampshire, from the hospital and the factory floor to the bank branch, the classroom, the town hall, and the startup garage. How we work, lead, and build teams is changing everywhere at once, and New Hampshire's innovators are helping shape what comes next.

Today, we are proud to celebrate the achievements of our community. We will honor the 2026 Entrepreneur of the Year, Nick Grewal, a leader whose vision and commitment exemplify the spirit of innovation in New Hampshire. We'll also shine a spotlight on the next generation of entrepreneurs through our Startup Showcase, offering a glimpse into the ideas and companies shaping the future of our state's economy.

We are also proud to release the New Hampshire AI Task Force's 2026 report, *The State of AI in New Hampshire*. Built from more than thirty roundtables, interviews, and working sessions across eight sectors, including healthcare, manufacturing, financial services, the public sector, education, and startups, the report captures what New Hampshire practitioners are experiencing as AI reshapes their work. It is a clear example of the Alliance's role in our state's tech ecosystem: to serve as a conduit and convener, bringing together voices that rarely share a table and turning their insights into shared understanding and practical next steps.

As we celebrate, we must also recognize what makes this gathering, and the work of the NH Tech Alliance, possible. Our ability to convene, connect, and strengthen the tech ecosystem in New Hampshire depends entirely on the support of our members and sponsors. Your investment enables us to build programs, foster collaboration, and create opportunities that empower entrepreneurs and innovators across the Granite State. Simply put, the Alliance exists because of you.

Thank you for joining us for the Innovation Summit and for being part of the work to shape the future of work in New Hampshire. Together, across every sector, we can continue to innovate, connect, and thrive.

Julie Demers, Executive Director, NH Tech Alliance



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You don't need to look far: the New Hampshire Tech Alliance connects tech companies and workers with business tools, event programming and access to a tight-knit network of influential decision-makers to continue building New Hampshire's future through tech.

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2026 Entrepreneur of the Year



Nick Grewal

Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, ePropelled

Nick Grewal is the Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ePropelled, a technology company headquartered in Laconia, New Hampshire. The company designs and manufactures intelligent propulsion and energy-management systems for uncrewed vehicles operating across air, land and sea.

A successful serial entrepreneur, investor and technology executive, Nick has spent more than four decades building companies and advancing emerging technologies. He held senior executive positions at Proteon and CrossComm, both of which became publicly traded during his tenure. He later founded Nashoba Networks, a pioneer in Token Ring switching technology, which Cisco Systems acquired in 1996.

Between 1998 and 2018, Nick invested in and advised more than 40 companies, many based in New Hampshire. In 2018, he turned his attention to uncrewed systems and automation—an industry whose transformative potential he compares with the early development of the internet.

Nick grew up in the United Kingdom and studied electrical engineering and computer science at the University of London. He later made New Hampshire his home and developed a deep love for the state, its people and its strong sense of community. He is known for his generosity, loyalty and willingness to mentor and support others. His charitable involvement includes the Boys & Girls Club and other local organizations.

Outside business, Nick is a vintage motor-racing driver, private pilot with instrument and high-altitude jet qualifications, experienced boat captain and keen fly fisherman. He has five children and three grandchildren and remains deeply committed to his family, New Hampshire community and creating opportunities for others.

The Entrepreneur of the Year award was first given out in 1988. In the 38 years that have followed, this award has been presented to the brightest, most innovative individuals in New Hampshire's tech industry.



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Agenda

8:00 AM **Registration Opens & Networking**

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8:45 AM **Welcome Remarks**

9:00 AM **Keynote Presentation: General Purpose Robots and the Future of Work**

- Chad Wright, Chief Information Officer, Boston Dynamics

9:45 AM **Scaling Carbon Innovation: The Mantel Capture Story**

- Sean Robertson, Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Mantel Capture

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10:15 AM **Vendor Tables, Networking & Coffee**

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10:35 AM **Workforce: The Future of Work in an AI Economy**

Moderator: Brian Bouchard, Shareholder, Attorney, Sheehan Phinney

- Vince Berk, CTO on the intersection of Startups, Cyber Security, and AI, Apprentis Ventures
- Sam Pause, Chief Innovation and Brand Officer, Mascoma Bank
- Crystal Pee Bowman, PhD, External Affairs Manager, Integer Technologies

11:15 AM **NH AI Task Force Report and Panel**

12:00 PM **Lunch**

12:45 PM **Breakout Tracks Begin**

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Track 1: Applied Innovation

(Main Room)

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12:45 PM **Reindustrialization & Advanced Manufacturing in New England**

Moderator: Melissa Florio, President, AMBIX Manufacturing

- Kyle Robbins, Technical Training Manager, Turbocam
- Carrie Mason, Head of PAT CoE, R&D, Lonza
- Steve Butler, Vice President of Manufacturing Operations, Analogic

1:30 PM **Human + Machine: Redesigning Leadership for the AI Era**

Moderator: Scott Weller, CTO & Founder, EnFi Inc.

- Sam Pause, Chief Innovation and Brand Officer, Mascoma Bank
- Cristina Farris, Industry Marketing Director, Electronics and High Tech, PTC
- Eric Achtmann, Founder & Managing Director, Global Capital X
- Jim Schoonmaker, President, Innovation Machines Inc.

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Track 2: Emerging Tech

(Breakout Room)

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12:45 PM **Startup Survival in 2026**

Moderator: Jeff Chu, Managing Partner,
Features Capital

- Rob Snyder, Author, The Power of Pull
- Riley Rodgers, Venture Partner, Valia Ventures
- Renee Jackson, Founder & CEO, Dyspute.ai
- Margaret Angell, Founder, ElevenTwo

1:30 PM **Agentic AI**

Moderator: Phil Magnuszewski, Chair, NH AI
Task Force, Chief Innovation Officer, Infused
Innovations

- Ahrar Naqvi, CEO, and Founder, Ebryx
- Jack Potvin, CEO & Founder, Business Automation Technologies
- Gavin Lawton, Co-Founder & Head of AI Architecture, CrowdNow



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Agenda

2:15 PM **Vendor Tables, Networking & Coffee**

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2:35 PM **Startup Showcase**

- [AcatBio](#)
- [General Inventions, LLC](#)
- [Artifcts](#)
- [Geothermal Plus LLC](#)
- [ButterStack Inc.](#)
- [Real-Time Taxes](#)

3:30 PM **A Rising Tide: How Federal Catalytic Capital Is Powering Innovation and New England's Seafood Engine**

- [Jake Kritzer](#), CEO, National Science Foundation (NSF) Seafood Engine in New England

4:00 PM **Entrepreneur of the Year Award Presentation**

Please join us in celebrating Nick Grewal, our 2026 Entrepreneur of the Year Award recipient. This year's Entrepreneur of the Year Award will be presented by Lucy Lange, Commissioner of BEA, New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs.

4:30- 6:30 PM **Entrepreneur of the Year Celebration and Reception**

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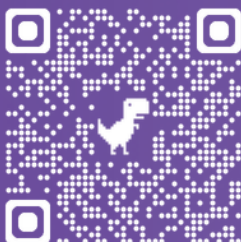
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NH TECH ALLIANCE



Upcoming Events

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Investor & Founder Poker Night - Oct. 27th

Tech Power Breakfast - Nov. 4th

Product of the Year - Nov. 19th



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