



Innovation Cluster Names Six Rising Tech Finalists to Pitch at the TSX

The Winner of the LevelUP Finale takes home a \$10,000 prize.

PETERBOROUGH, ON – October 20, 2025 – The [Innovation Cluster](#) (Innovation Cluster– Peterborough and the Kawarthas) announces the six finalists who have the unique opportunity to take the stage at the **Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) on October 30, 2025, for the Fall 2025 LevelUP Pitch Competition.**

Selected from a cohort of 21 growth-stage startups, the finalists have just completed an intensive 12-week accelerator program designed to build their knowledge and skills needed to successfully commercialize and scale their businesses. All of these companies are operating at a minimum viable product (MVP) stage, and represent some of Ontario's most promising innovations in both hard and soft technology.

The six finalists will compete for a \$10,000 cash prize before a panel of accredited investors in a high-stakes competition, held for the first time at Canada's financial hub, the Toronto Stock Exchange.

"This year's finalists embody the ingenuity and ambition that fuel Ontario's innovation economy," said **Zahra Shafiei**, Program Lead, Innovation Cluster. "LevelUP has now supported four oversubscribed cohorts of founders from Peterborough and across Ontario. The fact that demand continues to outpace available spots speaks to the impact of the program, and hosting our finale at the TSX reflects the calibre of these companies and the growth of LevelUP."

2025 LevelUP Pitch Competition Finalists:

[Abroadin](#) – AI-powered platform that streamlines international university applications, combining mentorship and automation for programs, applications, and visas.

[Beyond Role Plays](#) – AI-powered soft skills training platform using lifelike simulations and real-time feedback for leadership development.

[Enabled Talent](#) – AI-powered inclusive hiring platform connecting businesses with skilled individuals with disabilities via anonymized profiles and accessibility tools.

[English Islands](#) – AI-powered reading platform that boosts literacy by giving real-time feedback as students read aloud and tracking performance gains.

[Cura Connect Inc.](#) - A home care platform to find, select and transition to the highest quality, most suitable private home care services available.

One-Tech Innovation - A biotechnology company focused on developing innovative, highly sensitive sensors for early cancer detection. By integrating advanced materials science with bioengineering, the company is creating rapid, non-invasive diagnostic tools designed to support earlier intervention and enhance patient outcomes.

The LevelUP program continues to attract more applicants than available spots, reflecting the program's reputation as a proven accelerator for startups that are ready to scale, inspiring optimism for the future of Ontario's entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The LevelUP accelerator is a **free program** for Ontario-based companies with a minimum viable product (MVP). Participants receive expert-led mentorship in branding, revenue models, customer acquisition, product development, go-to-market strategy, and investment readiness. The program provides a comprehensive platform for SME startups to grow and succeed.

Program Sponsors

The LevelUP Pitch Competition is made possible with the support of its dedicated sponsors:

- [Matrix Venture Studio](#) is a boutique consulting firm dedicated to empowering immigrant entrepreneurs, high-net-worth individuals, and growing businesses in Canada to achieve their entrepreneurial goals and build successful ventures.

- [LaunchPath](#) is a business incubator and accelerator that helps businesses launch and grow in Canada by offering a range of services, including coaching and mentorship, as well as funding and resources.
- [Innovation Venture Farm Inc.](#) is a forward-thinking, entrepreneurial hub that provides innovators with resources, mentorship, and funding to turn groundbreaking ideas into successful products.
- [ANC](#) is a full-service offering spans venture strategy and validation, product management and UX/UI design, end-to-end software engineering and cloud architecture, growth marketing and go-to-market execution, fundraising support and investor relations, operational scaling with KPI frameworks and talent road mapping, plus ongoing mentorship, peer network access, and alumni events.

For more information on the LevelUP program, visit
<https://innovationcluster.ca/programs/levelup-accelerator/>

About the Innovation Cluster

The Innovation Cluster is a non-profit organization that supports small and medium-sized enterprises in soft and hard technologies. The organization aims to propel regional growth and entrepreneurship by establishing Peterborough and the Kawartha Lakes as a Centre of Innovation. Visit www.innovationcluster.ca.

Media Contact

Christine Crandell
Vice Chair of the Board of Directors
board@innovationcluster.ca