



Innovation Cluster Brings LevelUP Pitch Competition to the Toronto Stock Exchange

PETERBOROUGH, ON – **October 1, 2025** — For the first time, the **Innovation Cluster** – Peterborough and the Kawarthas ([Innovation Cluster](#)) will host its signature LevelUP Pitch Competition at the **Toronto Stock Exchange’s TMX Market Centre** on **Thursday, October 30, 2025**, at 5:30 pm.

The decision to move the finale of its LevelUP Accelerator to the TMX reflects both the growing success of the program and the increasingly higher caliber of participating companies. The event will showcase **six finalists** from a competitive **21-company cohort**, all pitching for a **\$10,000 grand prize** in front of seasoned investors, government leaders, and industry executives.

Judging Panel

- Alejandro Pereda, Venture Associate, Forum Ventures
- Amit Bhanot, Corporate Attorney and Venture Partner
- Frank Auddino, Angel Investor
- Mark Lawrence, Executive Chair, Angel Investors Ontario

Now in its second year, the **LevelUP Accelerator** is a free 12-week program designed to fast-track commercialization, investment readiness, and revenue growth for Ontario-based startups with a minimum viable product.

“Hosting LevelUP at the Toronto Stock Exchange is a milestone for the Innovation Cluster and for our founders,” said **Nicole Stephenson**, Chair of the Board of Directors, Innovation Cluster. “It signals how far the program has come and underscores the strength of the

startups we're supporting. It also exposes our founders to one of the avenues for a successful exit."

Event Highlights

- **First-ever LevelUP finale at the Toronto Stock Exchange**
- **Live pitches** from six investor-ready startups across SaaS, AI, cleantech, medtech, and more
- **Exclusive networking** in the heart of Canada's financial district, a unique opportunity for industry professionals
- **Opportunities for 1:1 meetings** with founders post-event
- **Direct access** to investors and innovation leaders shaping Canada's future economy

Sponsor Perspective

The LevelUP pitch competition is made possible through the support of these committed program sponsors.

"The Toronto Stock Exchange has long been a symbol of growth and opportunity for Canada's most ambitious companies," said **Mehdi Sanjari, PhD, PEng**, CEO, Innovation Venture Farm, Inc.. "Bringing the LevelUP Pitch Competition to this stage reflects the quality of the founders coming out of the program and sends a clear message: Ontario's next generation of innovators are ready to step onto the global stage."

- [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 the resources, mentorship, and funding to turn groundbreaking ideas into successful products.

- [ANC](#) 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.

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.

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