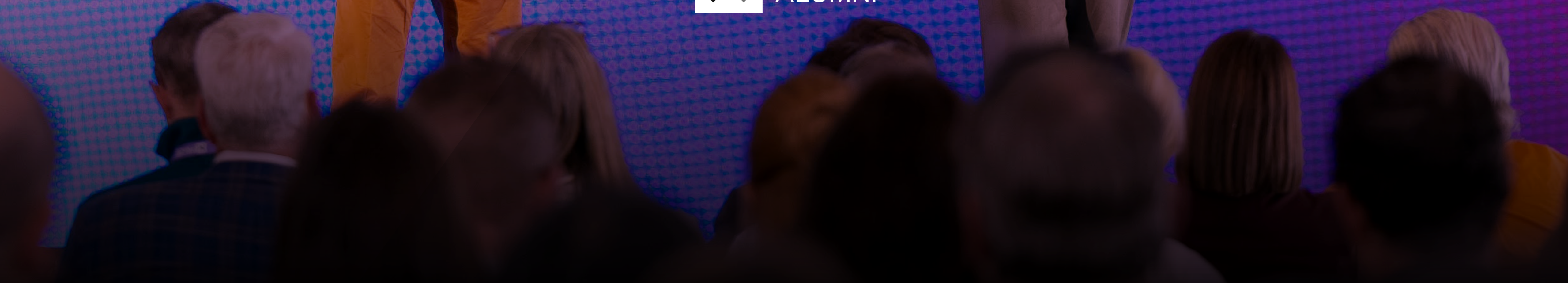


2025

ANNUAL REPORT



XPRIZE
ALUMNI



Contents

- Igniting Impact After the Prize** 03
- 2025 at a Glance** 04
- Our Global Footprint** 05
- Notable Moments** 06
 - SXSW: SeedAI House 06
 - Trellis Impact 07
 - The Drop 08
 - XPRIZE Canada Hub Launch 09
 - Opportunity Collaboration 10
 - Visioneering 2025 11
- Breakthrough Milestones** 12
- Awards and Recognition** 14
- Funding and Investment Successes** 16
- Celebrating the Network** 17
- Partner Pathways** 18



Igniting Impact After the Prize

In 2025, XPRIZE alumni proved once again that the finish line is a beginning. Across climate, health, learning, food systems, and exploration, former competitors have translated prize momentum into real-world deployment: securing customers, achieving validations, and delivering measurable impact in communities around the world.

To date, the [XPRIZE Alumni Network](#) now includes:

730+

Teams

1,800+

Members

64

Countries

27

Competitions

The true power of the XPRIZE model is revealed after the prize is awarded. This year, alumni advanced beyond prototypes into commercial contracts, regulatory milestones, acquisitions, national-scale deployments, and globally recognized awards—earning validation from sources that signal durability: customers, governments, investors, and top-tier media.

That translation isn't automatic. The post-prize phase is where solutions can stall—not because the technology isn't working, but because teams encounter predictable bottlenecks: limited access to capital, credibility gaps with investors and customers, difficulty reaching key decision-makers, and the challenge of turning interest into real deployment. The XPRIZE Alumni Network exists to reduce that friction and help team wins compound into partnerships, capital, and deployment. In 2025, that support focused on:

- Skill-Building:** founder-focused webinars on common bottlenecks (data access, fundraising support, legal fundamentals, and more)
- Curated Introductions:** warm connections plus letters of recommendation, nominations, and references to help teams translate momentum into opportunities
- Conference Pathways:** earned visibility through speaking roles, partner ecosystem access, and reduced-barrier participation pathways

This report captures both sides of the story: the breakthroughs alumni achieved—and the community infrastructure that helped those wins travel farther.

2025 at a Glance

Institutions Betting on Alumni:

\$44.6M

U.S. Space Force Contract
(Muon Space, XPRIZE Wildfire)

FDA clearance enabling first U.S. commercial cultivated seafood
(Wildtype, XPRIZE Feed the Next Billion)



A Track Record of Invention:

4,662

patents filed by alumni throughout and after their XPRIZE journeys to date

Unicorn Momentum:

5 XPRIZE alumni companies have reached **\$1B+ valuations** (unicorn status)

- 1x (ANA Avatar XPRIZE)
- NetraDyne (IBM Watson AI XPRIZE)
- UPSIDE Foods (XPRIZE Feed the Next Billion)
- Eat Just (XPRIZE Feed the Next Billion)
- Newlight (NRG COSA Carbon XPRIZE)

Big Market Demand Signal:

4.9M

4.9M metric tons of carbon dioxide removal purchased by Microsoft over 12 years



(Vaulted Deep, XPRIZE Carbon Removal)

Top-Tier Recognition:

TIME100 Next 2025



TIME Best Inventions of 2025



Forbes 30 Under 30



Public Markets Milestone:

Aptera (Progressive Insurance Automotive XPRIZE) began trading on Nasdaq (ticker: SEV)

National-Scale Deployment:

Enuma's (Global Learning XPRIZE) learning platform is on track to reach 10M children in Indonesia through a Ministry of Education partnership

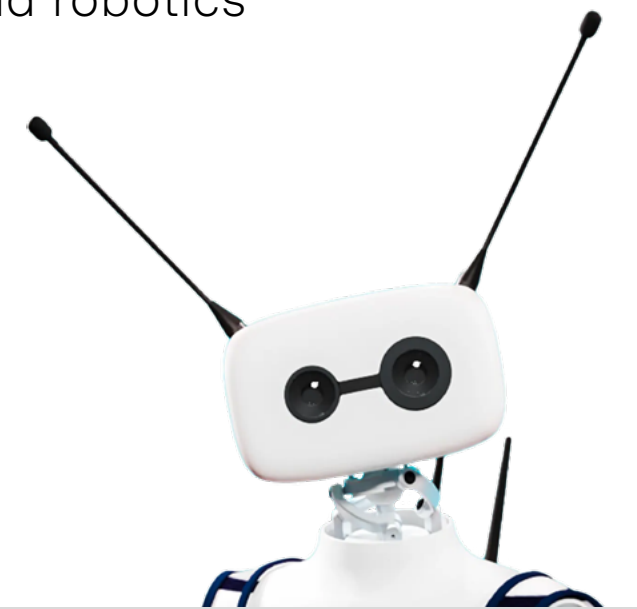
A Proven Impact Engine:

\$31B+

estimated social and economic impact to date

Major Exit + Consolidation Signal:

Hugging Face acquired Pollen Robotics (ANA Avatar XPRIZE), underscoring the convergence of frontier AI and robotics

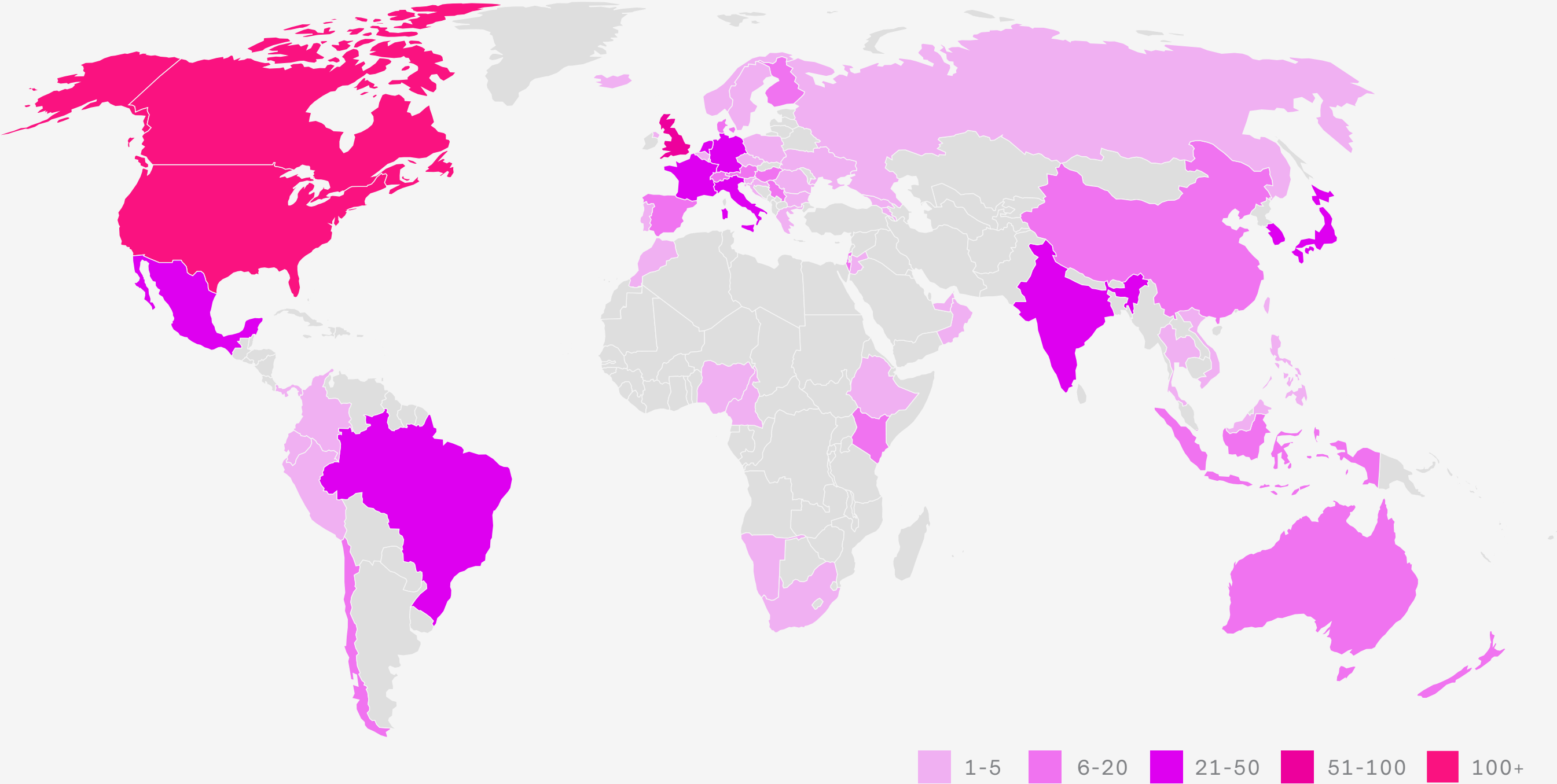


Funding Milestones:

In 2025, alumni ventures secured **\$2.6B** in combined new funding, prizes, and contracts.

Our Global Footprint

XPRIZE alumni operate across 64 countries, and many deploy far beyond where they’re headquartered—showing that prize-born innovation can travel, adapt, and scale in dramatically different contexts.



Africa

Kenya’s Octavia Carbon (XPRIZE Carbon Removal) became the first direct air capture facility on the African continent, proving climate infrastructure can be built for local conditions—and BIOSORRA (XPRIZE Carbon Removal) became the [first CDR company in Kenya to achieve ICROA certification](#) for biochar-based carbon offsets, setting a high-integrity benchmark for carbon markets in the region.

Asia

Japan’s Telexistence (ANA Avatar XPRIZE) scaled real-world robotic avatar deployments in convenience stores and earned national validation with the [Prime Minister’s Award](#) at the 2025 Japan Startup Awards.

Europe

The UK’s UNDO Carbon (XPRIZE Carbon Removal) expanded enhanced rock weathering across [agricultural partners](#) in Scotland and Wales, [advancing durable CO₂ removal](#) through farmer-led implementation.

Latin America

ETH BiodivX (XPRIZE Rainforest) alumni advanced community-led conservation work in the Amazon, including launching an [Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Science Endowment Fund](#) to sustain locally governed biodiversity stewardship.

North America

Canada’s Aifred Health (IBM Watson AI XPRIZE) published results from [one of the largest AI-in-healthcare clinical trials for personalized medicine](#), spanning the U.S. and Canada. Additionally, they [earned their second U.S. patent](#), and in 2025, the FDA classified their platform as a nonregulated clinical decision support tool, clearing the way to bring it to market in the United States following Health Canada approval last year.

Panel Series

AI x Science

11:00am

With

Tom Kalil
CEO @ Renaissance Philanthropy

Anthony Aguirre
Executive Director

Dr. Supratik Mukhopadhyay
Moderator
IBM Watson AI XPRIZE



DeepDrug founder Supratik Mukhopadhyay (IBM Watson AI XPRIZE) speaking at the SeedAI House at SXSW

2025

NOTABLE MOMENTS

SXSW: SeedAI House

Throughout the year, we worked with partners to earn alumni visibility and access pathways.

At the SeedAI House at SXSW, DeepDrug (IBM Watson AI XPRIZE) joined a [conversation on AI and science](#) in a highly visible policy and innovation environment, alongside recognized leaders including Tom Kalil (Renaissance Philanthropy) and Anthony Aguirre (Future of Life Institute), to an audience of more than 1,600 guests.

Trellis Impact

At Trellis Impact, we positioned XPRIZE alumni at the intersection of science, sustainability, and finance.

We worked with Map of Life (XPRIZE Rainforest) to create The Zendarium: an immersive art-and-science installation that [translated biodiversity data](#) into an emotional, intuitive experience for over 400 ecosystem leaders. A Moonshot Workshop to develop future breakthrough prize competitions and an Alumni Happy Hour finished out the week in which alumni met aligned partners, had real working conversations, and left with specific next steps.



| XPRIZE CEO Anousheh Ansari presents on the main stage at Trellis Impact



2025

NOTABLE MOMENTS

The Drop

At The Drop, an invite-only European climate convening where serious capital and partnership decisions get made, we hosted an official XPRIZE side program designed to convert interest in alumni ventures into real follow-through.

We engineered curated investor matching, tight meeting rotations, and published an alumni lookbook that put teams in front of the right counterparties. The result was the start of real pipelines: targeted investor diligence, partner follow-ups, and a clean path for alumni to keep up momentum after the event.

| XPRIZE presented alumni teams to an audience of investors at The Drop

XPRIZE Canada Hub Launch

In May 2025, XPRIZE reached a major milestone: [we launched our first-ever international hub](#)—the XPRIZE Canada Hub hosted at the University of Calgary—marking a strategic shift toward deeper, region-based ecosystem building.

As part of the launch, we brought XPRIZE Board Members and VIP stakeholders to Calgary-based alum Carbon Upcycling Technologies (NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE) for a [tour of their facility](#)—one of the original NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE testing sites that the team still operates out of today. It was a full-circle moment: infrastructure utilized for the prize now functioning as real industrial capacity, anchoring a hub designed to accelerate deployment, partnerships, and growth.



XPRIZE
CANADA
HUB



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY



XPRIZE Canada Hub launched at the University of Calgary, prominently featuring Canadian alumni teams like Carbon Upcycling Technologies (NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE)



2025

NOTABLE MOMENTS

Opportunity Collaboration

We opened a pathway for alumnus ETH BiodivX (XPRIZE Rainforest) to participate as a Fellow at Opportunity Collaboration—a global convening focused on building partnerships between social entrepreneurs, funders, and implementation organizations.

Alumnus Gabriel Silva de Souza Nunes facilitated sessions linking biodiversity, development, and community-led conservation, and advanced work on an [IPLC Science Endowment Fund](#) by aligning potential partners around long-term, locally governed conservation funding in the Amazon. The outcome: collaboration rooted in trust, with follow-on conversations designed to move from shared thesis to execution.

| ETH BiodivX member Gabriel Silva de Souza Nunes (XPRIZE Rainforest) facilitated sessions at Opportunity Collaboration

Visioneering 2025

At Visioneering 2025, XPRIZE’s flagship gathering of philanthropists, entrepreneurs, scientists, and industry leaders, alumni helped demonstrate the enduring value of the XPRIZE model.

Their presence offered a powerful view of what happens after a prize ends: Bold ideas continue to grow, attract support, and move closer to real-world adoption. Alumni representing nine prizes participated across exhibits, speaker sessions, and community conversations, bringing to life real-world examples of innovation in action. From market-ready technologies to mission-driven leadership, their contributions reinforced a central truth of the XPRIZE ecosystem: The impact of a prize extends far beyond the competition itself.



NetZero co-founder Axel Reinaud and Bryan Epps, Head of Commercialization at Vaulted Deep (XPRIZE Carbon Removal), speak on the main stage at Visioneering

Breakthrough Milestones

In 2025, XPRIZE alumni hit category-defining “firsts” and validation moments—regulatory clearances, verified climate credits, major government contracts, and real-world pilots that moved frontier tech into everyday life.



 **FOOD**
Regulatory first

Wildtype (XPRIZE Feed the Next Billion)’s cell-cultivated salmon was the first to appear on U.S. restaurant menus after successfully receiving FDA clearance.



 **WATER**
Mainstream proof point

Uravu Labs (XPRIZE Water Abundance) pushed “water from air” into the mainstream, securing over 1M views of their [Optimist’s Guide to the Planet feature](#). Their consumer-facing proof point (“[Beer From Air](#)”) showed atmospheric water can serve both essential needs and industry.



 **SPACE**
Commercial lunar persistence

ispace (Google Lunar XPRIZE) launched and operated its Resilience lunar lander during a [second attempted Moon landing](#), generating new mission data and demonstrating [continued commitment and progress toward commercial lunar access](#).



 **HEALTH**
Robotics in real hospital use

Touchlab (ANA Avatar XPRIZE) expanded real-world trials of its [tactile telerobotic nurse avatar Väkky](#), surpassing 800 hours of hands-on hospital use in Helsinki—validating multi-sensory telepresence for frontline care support.



Breakthrough Milestones



CLIMATE

Verified carbon credit breakthrough

Planetary Technologies (XPRIZE Carbon Removal) delivered the [world's first verified ocean alkalinity enhancement carbon credits](#), proving a new carbon removal pathway can meet third-party verification standards.



ENERGY

World-first synthetic fuel demonstration

Air Company (NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE), in collaboration with the U.S. Air Force, powered the [world's first uncrewed flight using 100% CO₂-derived synthetic jet fuel](#)—a major step for decarbonized aviation fuels.



POLICY

Defending innovation pathways

UPSIDE Foods and Wildtype (XPRIZE Feed the Next Billion) joined forces in [challenging a Texas cultivated meat sales ban](#)—shaping the policy environment needed for commercialization and broad usage of paradigm-shifting technology.



PUBLIC MARKETS

Proof of durability

Aptera (Progressive Insurance Automotive XPRIZE), which is developing an [ultra-efficient solar electric vehicle, opened on the Nasdaq](#)—proving that today's competitors can become tomorrow's public-market companies.



Awards and Recognition

XPRIZE alumni earned recognition in 2025, appearing on major lists and winning awards across industries—signals that alumni are emerging as leaders in their fields.



Forbes "30 Under 30" Honorees:

Multiple alumni earned spots on Forbes' 30 Under 30 lists, including [Caroline Comeau](#) and [Tamas Kereszy](#) (FNN, XPRIZE Wildfire) and [Viji Thomas](#) (Sinkco Labs, XPRIZE Carbon Removal) on the Energy & Green Tech list, and [Kelly Erhart](#) (Vesta, XPRIZE Carbon Removal) for her work in climate tech.



TIME100 Next:

[Shantanu Agarwal](#) (Mati Carbon, XPRIZE Carbon Removal) was featured on [TIME100 Next](#), reflecting the growing influence of alumni tackling global challenges like climate change.



TIME's Best Inventions:

Several alumni-founded companies were recognized among [TIME's Best Inventions](#), including Air Company (NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE) for carbon-derived fuels, The Better Meat Co. (XPRIZE Feed the Next Billion) and Wildtype (XPRIZE Feed the Next Billion) for alt-protein innovation, and Muon Space (XPRIZE Wildfire) for wildfire detection advances.

Awards and Recognition

Overall, 2025 saw XPRIZE alumni vault into the spotlight across mainstream media and industry channels—**recognition that helps attract partners, investors, and talent, and accelerates the path from breakthrough to scaled impact.**



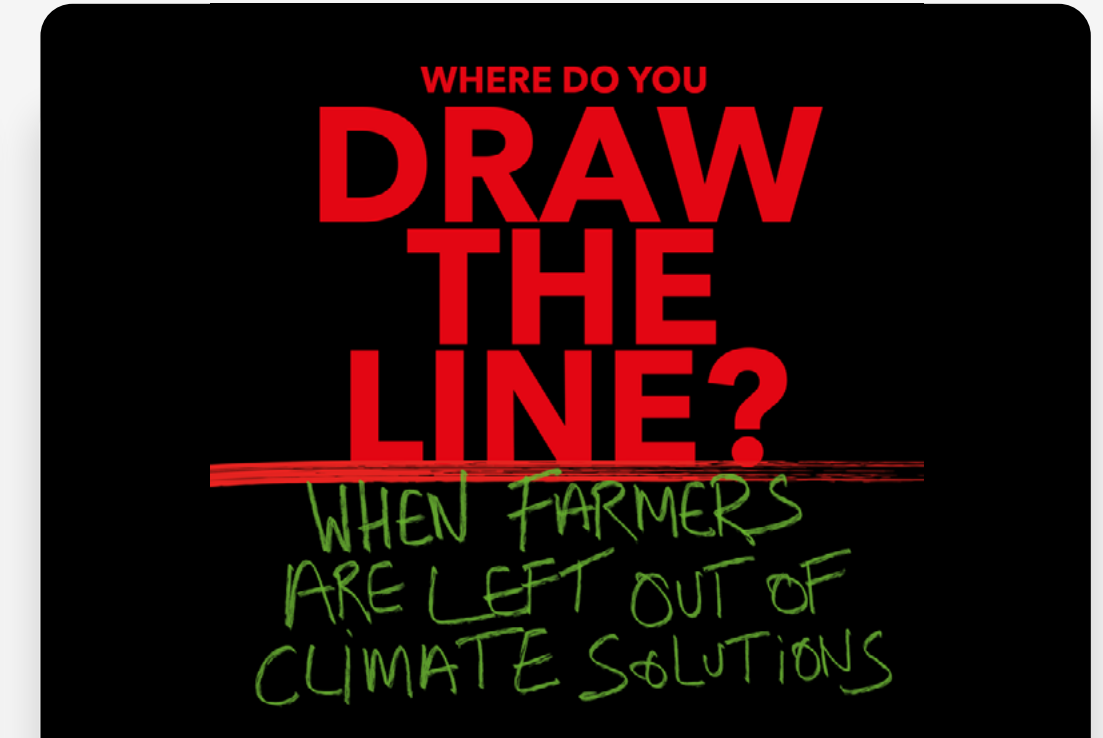
Industry Awards & Prizes:

Alumni swept major sector awards. Octavia Carbon (XPRIZE Carbon Removal) and Carbon Upcycling Technologies (NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE) [won the 2025 Keeling Curve Prize](#). Meati Foods (XPRIZE Feed the Next Billion) [won a Men's Health Food Award](#) for its mycelium-based protein. [Silicate Carbon](#) (XPRIZE Carbon Removal) was [named Gold Winner – Social/Sustainable Startup](#) at Ireland's National Startup Awards. PRONOE (XPRIZE Carbon Removal) was a [winner of Concours i-Lab](#) (France 2030) and received a €370,000 non-dilutive grant supporting its “Doris” research program to optimize, monitor, and scale its approach to restoring the ocean's capacity to permanently remove CO₂.



"Most Innovative Companies" Lists:

Alumni featured in rankings of innovative companies. Fast Company included Muon Space (XPRIZE Wildfire) among the [Most Innovative Companies in Space](#) and recognized Applied Carbon (XPRIZE Carbon Removal) among the [Most Innovative in Agriculture](#). No fewer than ten alumni-led startups also earned spots on [TIME and Newsweek lists of top green technology companies in 2025](#).



Fellowships and Leadership Honors:

Alumni founders were recognized for leadership. Aadith Moorthy (Boomitra, XPRIZE Carbon Removal) was [selected as a Planetary Guardian](#). Lauren Woodman (DataKind, IBM Watson AI XPRIZE) was recognized in [Forbes' "The Women Who Redefined Tech For Good."](#) Madison Savilow (Carbon Upcycling Technologies, NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE) [received Canada's Clean50 Emerging Leader award](#), and Hannah Dose (AUGenomics, Rapid Covid Testing XPRIZE) [earned a Tory Burch Foundation Fellowship](#) for women entrepreneurs in STEM.

Funding and Investment Successes

Alumni teams attracted significant funding and revenue in 2025—venture rounds, corporate investment, and revenue-generating contracts—fueling growth and accelerating deployment. **Notable milestones include:**

Corporate Partnership & Purchases:

Fortune 500 corporations are increasingly teaming up with XPRIZE alumni. A headline example: [Microsoft agreed to purchase 4.9 million metric tons](#) of carbon removal credits from alum startup Vaulted Deep (XPRIZE Carbon Removal) over 12 years, [one of the largest carbon removal offtake deals to date](#). United Airlines' venture arm [invested in Twelve](#) (NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE) and also secured rights to [purchase up to 500,000 tons](#) of CO₂-based sustainable aviation fuel from Heirloom Carbon (XPRIZE Carbon Removal), underscoring commercial demand for decarbonization pathways.

Mergers and Acquisitions:

Hugging Face [acquired Pollen Robotics](#) (ANA Avatar XPRIZE), pairing its robotics platform with Hugging Face's AI ecosystem. Occidental [acquired direct air capture startup Holocene](#) (XPRIZE Carbon Removal), signaling growing incumbent investment in deployable CDR. Meanwhile, Muon Space's Series B included the [acquisition of propulsion startup Starlight Engines](#), strengthening its ability to [scale satellite deployment](#).

Revenue-Generating Contracts:

Alumni secured major contracts and non-dilutive support. Muon Space (XPRIZE Wildfire) [advanced wildfire monitoring from orbit](#) and won a [\\$44.6M U.S. Space Force contract](#) for weather and [environmental imaging satellites](#), turning climate resilience tech into operational infrastructure. Astrobotic (Google Lunar XPRIZE) [secured a \\$17.5M NASA SBIR award](#) to test reusable rocket technology. Arca (XPRIZE Carbon Removal) [won a \\$315K award from Canada's Mining Innovation Accelerator](#) to pilot CO₂ sequestration in mine tailings.

Industry Collaborations:

Alumni partnered with incumbents to accelerate commercialization. Carbon Upcycling Technologies (NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE) [partnered with TITAN Group](#) to develop low-carbon concrete products using CO₂-derived additives. CarbiCrete (NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE) [expanded into Europe through POINT.P](#) to distribute cement-free, CO₂-sequestering concrete blocks. New School Foods (XPRIZE Feed the Next Billion) [launched a subsidiary](#) and formed partnerships to apply its [cold-texturing process](#) to plant-based [red meat analogues](#).

Government and Public Sector Partnerships:

Enuma (Global Learning XPRIZE) was [selected by Indonesia's Ministry of Education](#) as an official partner to improve foundational learning at national scale. Planetary Technologies (XPRIZE Carbon Removal) [engaged with the Nova Scotia government](#) as its ocean carbon removal work expanded, supporting [potential provincial pathways for deployment](#).

Together, these investments, contracts, and partnerships show alumni translating technical credibility into scale—moving from pilots to paying customers, from prototypes to procurement, and from startups to durable enterprises.



Celebrating the Network

What began as bold ideas inside prize competitions has matured into a global community of innovators whose work is now living in the world—used by customers, validated by institutions, and built to last. In 2025, alumni demonstrated that XPRIZE doesn't just award winners; it cultivates ventures, institutions, and leaders whose work continues long after the prize concludes.

This year also marked a milestone: with [30 XPRIZE competitions over 30 years](#), we now have decades of perspective on what the XPRIZE model can achieve. The alumni achievements of 2025 are the fulfillment of a vision set in motion by our founder Peter Diamandis and early pioneers who believed that incentivized competition could reshape the future. Standing in 2025, we see that vision alive and well in our alumni. They are solving for the unknowns in the equation of a better future—tackling not just one variable, but many.

Looking ahead, the horizon is bright. New competitions like [XPRIZE Water Scarcity](#) and [XPRIZE Quantum Applications](#) are in full swing, meaning additional waves of alumni will soon join our ranks, armed with fresh solutions to tough challenges. They will benefit from the trail blazed by the class of 2025 and those before.

Thank you for being part of this story. Together, we are XPRIZE—and the impact has only just begun.

- THE XPRIZE ALUMNI NETWORK TEAM

Partner Pathways

Take action to help XPRIZE alumni achieve their full potential.

We welcome individuals and organizations who can join us in uplifting the alumni to the next level of impact. **There are many ways to support the XPRIZE Alumni Network:**

- 01 DONATE TO THE ALUMNI NETWORK**
Your contribution fuels the connections, visibility, and support alumni need to solve the world’s hardest problems.
- 02 INVEST IN DE-RISKED INNOVATION**
Provide catalytic capital and strategic guidance to world-class innovators.
- 03 PROVIDE SERVICES OR TOOLS**
Equip alumni with practice tools they need—business expertise, legal guidance, marketing support, software, and more—to accelerate growth.

- 04 PILOT THE FUTURE**
Source vetted, cutting-edge technologies for real-world deployment.
- 05 AMPLIFY IMPACT**
Collaborate on programming that connects innovators and industry leaders around tangible solutions.

To explore partnership pathways, reach out to alumni@xprize.org.

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