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Fintech Reaches All-Time Record Investment in Q3

Tech Nation welcomes 30 new scaleups to its Fintech growth programme

- 30 companies have today been accepted into Tech Nation's Fintech growth programme.
- The news comes as VC investment in the fintech sector soars in the UK, receiving more than double (\$11.4bn) the amount of funding in 2021 so far (January-October) as it received in the whole of 2020 (\$4.57bn).
- Q3 2021 has set an all-time record for VC investment in UK fintech, at \$4.9bn.
- The UK is home to more fintech unicorns than the whole of Europe combined, with 40 unicorns compared to Europe's 37.
- Combined, UK fintech companies are valued at \$340bn, up 61% from \$210bn last year, led by the likes of Revolut and Wise.

5th October 2021: Tech Nation, the UK's leading growth platform for tech scaleups, today announces the 30 companies who have been accepted into Fintech 4.0 - the fourth iteration of Tech Nation's sector-specific growth programme for fintech entrepreneurs to enable their startups to scale, both at home and abroad.

Companies accepted into the newest Fintech cohort are working to transform all areas of the finance sector; from insurance and investment, to blockchain and digital assets. This includes innovative companies who are helping younger generations earn, save and learn about money ([MyPocketSkill](#)), creating banking apps for cryptocurrencies ([Ziglu](#)), and making investing more accessible, appealing and values-based ([Wombat Invest](#)).

40% of the new cohort companies are based outside of London - including companies from Scotland ([DirectID](#), [Zumo](#) and [WhisperClaims](#)), Wales ([Yoello](#)) and Northern Ireland ([loyalBe](#)). On top of this regional diversity, nearly a third (9) of the companies have female founders.

Together, the new Fintech companies have raised more funds than any cohort in previous years, with a collective total raise of £128.1mn, and over 70% are revenue-generating already. In UK fintech overall, companies have raised approximately £19bn, and are generating revenues of £7.64bn, as of October 2021.

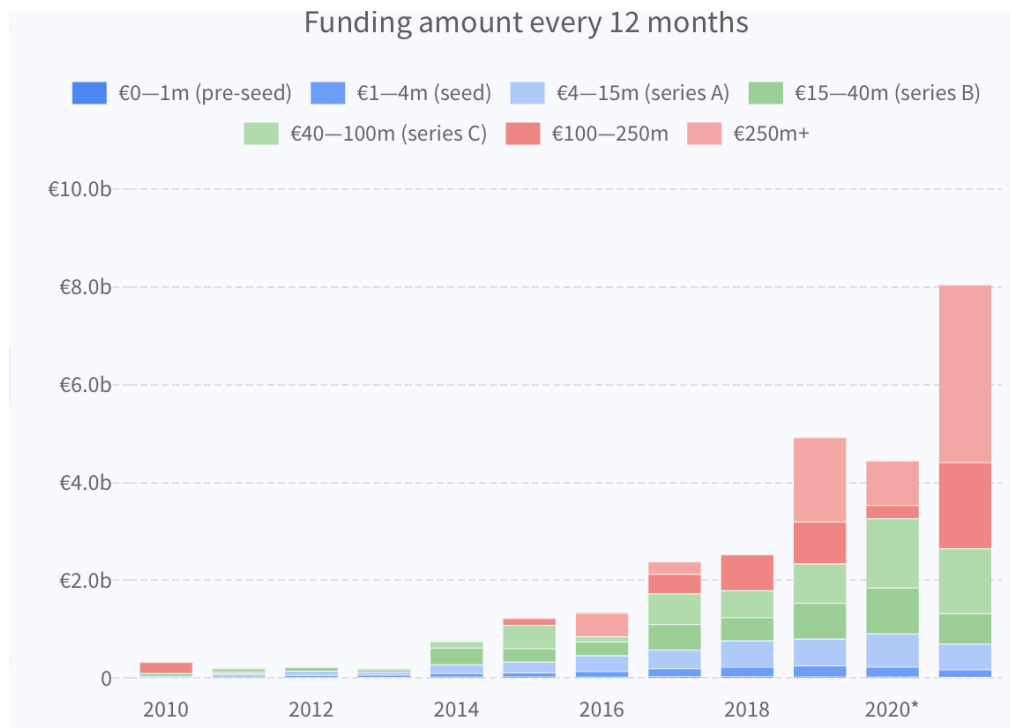
New record heights for fintech

The high-growth companies join the programme as fintech grows significantly across the UK. The fintech sector has reached entirely new heights, already receiving more than double the amount of VC funding in 2021 so far compared to 2020 as a whole (\$11.4bn in January-October 2021 vs \$4.57bn in the whole of 2020), and Q3 2021 hit an all-time record for quarterly investment in UK fintech (\$4.9bn).

Around half the investment made into UK fintech firms in 2021 (\$5bn) so far has come from US investors, showing the international appeal of some of the UK's world leading fintech firms.

With 40 of the UK's 112 tech unicorns being fintechs - and fintech accounting for more than half (11) of the 20 UK tech companies that became unicorns in H1 of 2021 - the sector is driving the UK as a leading unicorn hub. After the UK, the next largest unicorn hub in Europe is Germany, home to 8 fintech unicorns, second is the Netherlands with 7, and third is France with 6. In terms of leading cities, London is Europe's top fintech unicorn hub, home to 35 fintech unicorns, while Berlin is home to 6.

In 2021, the top 2 UK fintechs to receive highest funding are Cinch (at \$1.2bn) and Revolut (at \$800m, Series E funding). Tech Nation's Future Fifty alumni Revolut became the UK's most valuable fintech company this year, surpassing Natwest with a valuation of approx £33bn. Combined, UK fintech companies are valued at \$340bn, up from \$210bn last year, a 61% increase in value between 2020 and 2021, being led by the likes of Revolut and Wise.



Source: Dealroom, 'fintech funding in the UK'

The aim of this year's Fintech programme

The six-month government-backed Fintech programme was created to support fintech and insurtech companies in the UK. Companies accepted into the programme have access to networking events with key stakeholders, peer-to-peer meetups, and insights sessions delivered by established fintech entrepreneurs, investors and partners, which give cohort members the tools and knowledge they

need to scale.

This year's successful applicants will gain access to multiple insight sessions over 6 months (covering core issues, from investment to sales, partnerships and international expansion) delivered by later-stage founders, all focused on key scaling challenges, as well as regular networking opportunities (with investors, VCs, corporates and peers).

Empowering all of the scaling companies in the new Fintech cohort is at the core of Tech Nation's mission to fuel the growth of tech scaleups who are helping us create a stronger economy, society and future.

Quotes:

Economic Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen, said: "It's great to see 30 new companies joining Tech Nation's Fintech programme. Our backing for this scheme is one part of our commitment to making the UK a great place for Fintech companies to set-up, and scale-up. With investment in UK Fintech soaring, and 40% of these new companies based outside of London, investors are clearly seeing the enormous potential in this sector across the UK."

Katja Palovaara, Fintech Programme Lead at Tech Nation, said: "We are delighted to welcome these 30 inspiring fintech companies to the Fintech 4.0 cohort. As the UK's flourishing fintech sector continues to drive more investment than ever before, our fintech companies are not just disrupting traditional financial sectors; they are working alongside them to ensure that everyone has the tools and knowledge they need to succeed financially. Many of these fintechs are not only focussed on helping people earn more and invest better, but on making the world a better and fairer place. We can't wait to see what they do next."

Dr Christopher Sier, Chair of Fintech North and Fintech 4.0 Judge, said: "The diversity of the companies that have been selected is fantastic and testimony to the vibrancy of the UK Fintech scene, both in terms of product and service, but also in terms of geography. Of the winners almost half were from outside London, confirmation of the need for a regional approach to supporting the UK Fintech sector, and validation of the key findings in the recent Kalifa Review on Fintech."

Stephen Ingledeu, Executive Chair of Fintech Scotland and Fintech 4.0 Judge, said: "Fintech innovation is making a significant contribution to the development of the digital economy across the UK and the Tech Nation Fintech Growth Programme is a valuable initiative supporting innovative enterprise, including ground breaking firms from Scotland such as DirectID, Zumo and WhisperClaims. Fintech SMEs hugely benefit from the Programme in driving accelerated growth and the opportunity to embrace the opportunities of scaling, all of which supports the further demonstration of the UK's global fintech leadership."

Sarah Williams Gardner, CEO of Fintech Wales and Fintech 4.0 Judge, said: "I'm delighted to hear that Cardiff-based Yoello will be part of Tech Nation's Fintech 4.0 programme. Over the past 18 months, they have adapted their business to serve the hospitality industry and a truly difficult time making a real difference. They join MyPinPad, who recently were announced as Future Fifty 10.0 cohort. These both follow in great footsteps with Delio, Credas, and Coincover who have all been on

the Fintech programme, demonstrating the depth and breadth of the thriving Welsh fintech ecosystem, which was recently highlighted in the UK strategic Fintech Strategy led by Ron Kalifa - and there's plenty more to come."

Helene Panzarino, Associate Director at Centre for Digital Banking and Finance and Fintech 4.0

Judge, said: "It's easy to get caught up in the fantastic funding stories that surround scaling fintechs, but to achieve genuine commercial growth and own a market takes more than funds. By supporting diverse products, services and teams in their scaling journey the economy, the industry and most importantly, customers will benefit from the Tech Nation Fintech 4.0 programme as well."

Ezechi Britton, CTO in Residence at Impact X Capital and Fintech 4.0 Judge, said: "Having spent my career working in, building and investing in UK Fintech it's astounding to see such a talented cohort of Fintechs hungry, ready and waiting to transform the global economy. It's been an honour to have ringside seats as these Fintech founders continue to disrupt the incumbents whilst increasing access to financial services in ways that would have been impossible in the past. I look forward with great anticipation to what this next generation of up and coming Unicorns do next. UK Fintech is truly a world-leading industry and this cohort of 30 will be at the beating heart of it."

Alastair Lukies CBE, Founder and CEO of Pollinate and Fintech 4.0 Judge, said: "I'm delighted and honoured to have been working with Tech Nation for the 4th year running to help select and welcome these 30 fintechs into the programme. The UK continues to lead the way for innovation in fintech, and the selection and diversity of these companies truly represents that, and is a recognition of industry growth - even throughout the global pandemic. SMEs across every industry are truly the backbone of our economy, and I'm excited to see how these companies continue to grow within Tech Nation's programme."

Jelena Ewart, Co-Founder at Upside Partners and Fintech 4.0 Judge, said: "The only thing more exciting than the pace of global fintech investment has been the rise in the quality of the startups we're seeing. Specifically in the UK, it's clear that years of compounding support and investment in the venture landscape are paying off. It truly takes a village to build a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, and I'm thrilled that Tech Nation is continuing to double down on its commitment to the leaders building the digital infrastructure of the future."

Yuelin Li, VP Strategy at Onfido and Fintech 4.0 Judge, said: "The calibre and diversity of fintechs joining TechNation's fintech 4.0 programme is indicative of the strength and transformation of the UK's financial sector. Over the past 18 months, digital innovation has been at the heart of keeping us all connected to essential financial services, with digital identity verification providing just one secure, seamless solution when we all needed it most. With investment in the industry continuing to reach new heights, it's an exciting time to be involved in the ecosystem and there's no doubt that this new cohort will accelerate our collective ambition to make the world a fairer and more accessible place."

End

Notes to the editor:

Full list of new Fintech cohort companies:

[Accelex](#) - London

Accelex is the data acquisition, analytics and reporting solution for investors and asset servicers. Powered by cutting-edge data science, artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques, Accelex automates the manual and time intensive process of extracting unstructured performance and transaction data from a wide range of private investment documents.

[BehaviourLab](#) - London

Behaviour Lab's platform provides an end-to-end solution to improve decision making, enhance performance and drive transparency for all involved. Its vision is to help transform the £120 trillion asset management industry's decision making by improving processes and workflows through our SaaS platform whilst debiasing fund manager decisions. The proprietary tools tailor to each fund manager, applied ML algorithms identify costly biases, investment thesis templates capture value from ideas and reporting tools help monitor decisions and nudge fund managers to take action.

[BondAval](#) - London

BondAval gives businesses access to institutional-grade trade finance solutions by utilising big data, machine learning components and deep surety and credit underwriting expertise in a proprietary technology stack. The result is a ground-breaking proposition: MicroBonds. The MicroBonds solution democratises access to the most efficient financial instruments usually reserved for blue chip corporations -- in minutes, rather than months. BondAval brings a digital-first proposition to the world of B2B insurance, understanding that just because your company name ends with Ltd or Limited doesn't mean your user experience should be worse than what's available for consumers.

[Bunk](#) - Bristol

Bunk's platform transforms the entire rental process with a SaaS tool for leasing, marketing and management. With a fully white-labeled platform, clients can digitise the entire letting process while automating management duties. With a big focus on user experience, Bunk utilises modern technology that drives huge cost savings, efficiency gains and retention.

[Cardeo](#) - Luton

Cardeo helps credit card holders manage their cards better and save money. The app is free to download and use and automates the management of these accounts. Users stay in control of their repayments and keep their cards - but could typically save up to £390 a year.

[DirectID](#) - Edinburgh

DirectID is a global credit risk platform that is redefining the industry for both lenders and their consumers by leveraging customer's real-time bank data. The platform leverages open finance protocols and bank statement data to help businesses understand their customers throughout the credit risk lifecycle from onboarding through to collections and recoveries. The platform provides businesses with an opportunity to increase conversion by around 45%, make decisions faster from days to seconds, decrease fraud rates by around 7.5%, all while providing the end-user with the convenience they demand.

[Ecospend](#) - London

Ecospend is an FCA-authorised fintech that provides full stack open finance solutions for payments (PISP) and data (AISP). It offers the gold standard in open banking products in the UK market from a core team based in London and an offshore engineering team. In late 2020 Ecospend won the largest open banking tender to date with the UK Government and now provides services to HMRC.

[Funderbeam](#) - London

Funderbeam is a global fundraising and trading platform. It connects global investors with vetted private companies across international markets and, through its marketplace exchange, allows private investments to be traded. This reduces the cost of capital for companies and allows investors to re-invest into new opportunities at a time that suits them.

[Griffin Financial Technology](#) - London

Griffin Financial Technology is creating a bank to be built on: a full-stack banking-as-a-service platform for companies that want to offer their own financial services. It enables customers to focus on building their products and growing their business, rather than managing back-end infrastructure and compliance processes.

[Hammock Financial Services](#) - London

Hammock saves landlords time and money by allowing them to manage all their property finances in one place and move away from spreadsheets and paper notes. It provides banking (via open banking, as well as with Hammock's own personal or business current accounts), automated bookkeeping, tax statements, and business intelligence services for the property sector. It gives professionals in the property sector 24/7 access to their property finances, together with real-time updates, notifications and alerts.

[KASKO](#) - London

KASKO enables insurers, brokers and managing general agents to design, build and distribute digital insurance services through any channel; the platform is API-powered and can integrate any third party service. Its platform is modular so that everything comes as a microservice; customers can build as much or as little of a product as they like then scale as necessary and augment on top of any legacy system. The insurance platform includes quote-offer-bind, after-sales and policy management, a white-label front-end and a product engine including payment, policy issuance, mid-term adjustment, claims, and more.

[loyalBe](#) - Belfast

LoyalBe helps brands to attract and retain customers through targeted and personalised offers and loyalty programs. It leverages open banking APIs to enable a completely frictionless reward experience for consumers and a deeper level of customer insights for brands, including share of wallet insights. Offers can be personalised by historical purchase data.

[MortgageKart](#) - Macclesfield

MortgageKart started out as a digital mortgage brokerage and is now aiming to become a mortgage technology provider with an in-house brokerage. Its platform combines eight front-end & back-end digital solutions - offered as an end-to-end white-labelled platform or a series of modular microservices offered as APIs. Front-end solutions cover collecting client information, checking

eligibility, product matching, robo-assistance to determine suitability and an intelligent document-upload engine. Back-end solutions handle workflow, CRM, compliance and analytics. The technology is built to successfully scale MortgageKart's own B2C digital mortgage brokerage and will transform the way lenders and brokers originate mortgages.

[MyPocketSkill](#) - Brighton

MyPocketSkill's vision is to create a financially-empowered Gen Z. It does this by providing a digital solution to help young people earn, save and learn about money. The solution connects young people with opportunities to earn money and then uses behavioural science to nudge towards savings goals.

[Nu-Credits](#) - London

Nu-Credits is a trade finance marketplace connecting SMEs with global lenders, backed by blockchain. It helps verify the authenticity of the business transactions from SMEs and creates more meaningful data on logistics, payment, ecommerce, for example, around their cross-border trades so that more lenders can join forces to grow along with the SMEs by providing more working capital.

[Nuggets](#) - London

Nuggets is a decentralised, self-sovereign identity and payment platform. It helps organisations to protect customer data and enable trust in transactions while giving customers a frictionless, seamless experience. It's the only platform of this kind that truly brings together payments and ID, utilising self-sovereign data principles.

[Ordo](#) - Newbury

Ordo is an open banking-enabled payments-as-a-service platform. It offers multiple payment solutions all using open banking protocols, meaning businesses get paid quicker and at lower cost. Solutions include: bill payments via our Request-for-Payment service, ecommerce, contact centre payments, and QR code-based face-to-face payments.

[ScribeStar Ltd](#) - London

ScribeStar's digital platform allows companies to raise money quicker, cheaper and at lower risk. ScribeStar uses security and venue-tailored workflows to streamline the administrative, legal, and regulatory work associated with issuing equity, debt and other securities in public markets. With over 70 IPOs and other issuances produced on the system, the company is seeing interest from stock exchanges to bring its environment closer to their venues, thus creating an end-to-end digital issuance process whilst utilising the structured data ScribeStar produces in the process.

[Supercede Technology Ltd](#) - Telford

Supercede is building a global ecosystem set to transform the reinsurance industry. Rather than seeking to digitise people out of the process, it centres its solution around the experts that make the reinsurance industry great and delivers powerful tools to allow them to do their best work. Supercede's solution consists of three critical components: analytics, placement and network, and is rapidly becoming the solution of choice for cedents, brokers and reinsurance underwriters worldwide.

[SUPERHOG](#) - Winchester

SUPERHOG is a digital trust tech solution for short-term rentals using technology, data and embedded insurance to eliminate risk from bookings.

[Symmetrical.ai](#) - London

Symmetrical.ai builds payroll-as-a-service API solutions that enables customers to embed international payroll and hiring in any software platform in a few lines of code. One integration covers multiple countries globally.

[Tillit](#) - London

Tillit empowers everyone to invest long-term with confidence, conviction and ease. It is built and backed by investment specialists who believe that the key to long-term investing success lies in funds. The DIY platform offers best-in-class funds across regions, asset classes and styles. With a clean design, a user-friendly interface and engaging content, the user is able to make more informed investment decisions for their long-term savings.

[Tymit](#) - London

Tymit is reinventing the credit card by making it flexible, safe and honest, for better financial health and peace of mind. It has built a new kind of credit card that helps people make smarter decisions when they buy and gives them the power to plan the way they pay. The offering is built around a set of exciting features that are unique in the industry, like instalment planning and bundling multiple transactions into one financeable item, and it's all delivered through a seamless mobile app experience.

[VALK](#) - London

VALK takes private market deals that are manual, slow and fragmented and puts them onto one digital platform. By digitizing the deal process VALK users can benefit from the automation of processes with the ability to easily create or access secondary markets - something which has previously been too costly and administratively expensive to feasibly offer.

[Weavr](#) - London

Weavr provides a cloud-based platform that makes it easy for digital businesses to embed financial services into their applications, and safe for financial institutions to offer embeddable financial services.

[WhisperClaims](#) - Edinburgh

WhisperClaims is a cloud-based application that allows accountants to build R&D tax claims quickly and easily. Launched in Sept 2018, it now has over 140 firms nationally using the product, paying a combination of monthly subscriptions and download fees per report generated. It saves users time, removes the need to digest hundreds of pages of HMRC guidance on the scheme, and provides businesses with a platform to generate new revenues.

[Wombat Invest](#) - London

Wombat is a mobile-first thematic micro-investment platform. It was created to break down the barriers to traditional investing, making it accessible and appealing to the masses. With Wombat,

users are free to invest in a range of themes and individual shares to reflect their interests and beliefs. It offers free accounts, round-Ups, learning tools, and auto-investing.

[Ziglu](#) - London

Created by experienced Starling Bank founder Mark Hipperson, Ziglu is the personal money app that brings the challenger bank experience to cryptocurrency. Ziglu offers transparent, low pricing and intuitive access to a range of cryptocurrencies including Bitcoin, Bitcoin Cash, Ether, Litecoin, Chainlink, Cardano, Tezos, Doge, DOT and Solana; and their Sterling Boost and Bitcoin Boost accounts pay 5% interest. Ziglu is regulated by the FCA as an Electronic Money Institution, fully safeguarding all customer funds and is one of five companies in the world to have permanent FCA crypto-asset registration.

[Yoello](#) - Cardiff

Yoello is a fintech company that aims to disrupt the existing payment system by utilising open banking legislation to cut out the middlemen, and in turn, bring merchants and customers closer together. It connects to banks directly to initiate funds between consumer and merchant accounts, saving businesses 75% on their transaction fees. Currently focused on the hospitality industry, Yoello powers mobile order-and-pay services for thousands of businesses across multiple countries.

[Zumo](#) - Edinburgh

Zumo is the decentralised financial platform that brings the benefits of blockchain and crypto to people everywhere. Zumo leverages the power of the blockchain to provide highly effective alternatives to legacy products, such as traditional savings accounts and expensive international remittances. It seeks to do this in the most accessible and sustainable way possible so that the benefits of blockchain are for everyone, not just the most tech-savvy or financially literate.

Founder quotes:

Franck Vialaron, Founder of Accelex, said: “We are delighted to have been accepted into Tech Nation’s Fintech 4.0 cohort. During this important stage of growth at Accelex we strongly believe being a part of the programme - specifically tailored to support founders and leadership teams within the Fintech industry - will be hugely beneficial. We very much look forward to meeting a wealth of experienced entrepreneurs and utilising the industry specific tools provided by Tech Nation”.

Magdalena Smith, Founder of Behaviour Lab, said: “The team at Behaviour Lab is incredibly excited to have been selected to be part of Technation Fintech 4.0. The UK has an amazingly growing, innovative and forward thinking fintech sector and as such to be recognised as one of the UK’s leading fintech scaleups is a true pride and joy.”

Thomas Powell, Founder of BondAval, said: “The BondAval team are delighted to be joining the Tech Nations Fintech 4.0 cohort with such an exciting group of companies alongside us. It’s a brilliant programme and being selected is a great validation of our vision and progress as a company so far. We can’t wait to get started.”

Tom Woollard, Founder of Bunk, said: “We’re delighted to be invited onto Fintech 4.0 to support the next stage of our journey. Developing and learning alongside such revolutionary fintechs will

enhance our mission to create greater trust and transparency within the rental market. The expert insights, peer to peer learning and network expansion comes at a perfect time as we accelerate towards our Series A."

Gavin Shuker, Founder of Cardeo, said: "As one of a new generation of Fintech businesses, fully exploiting the potential of open banking to help credit card customers, we're excited to be admitted to the latest Tech Nation cohort. The rest of the world looks to the UK for innovation and investment; and we're glad to be part of this ongoing success story."

James Varga, Founder of DirectID, said: "As far as ambition in FinTech goes, we've always believed we can succeed on a global scale. We're preparing for some huge growth in the near future to complete our mission of becoming the world's leading global credit risk platform. "The companies who have passed through the Tech Nation cohort have gone on to do phenomenal things in the FinTech space and we're delighted to have access to the knowledge and resource in this crucial period of growth for DirectID."

Metin Erkman, Founder of Ecospend, said: "Ecospend is excited to benefit from Tech Nation's impressive pool of experience and extensive network and help supercharge our continued growth and development. Partnering with Tech Nation brings huge opportunity for building our business both in the UK and internationally and is the perfect continuation of our recent successes including winning our exclusive Open Banking partnership with HMRC."

David Jarvis, Founder of Griffin Financial Technology, said: "We at Griffin are thrilled to have been selected to join Tech Nation's Fintech 4.0 programme! Being identified as a potential future leader in UK fintech, especially by such a prestigious talent network, is an honour and substantiates our value proposition. We can't wait to explore the opportunities Tech Nation membership provides as we continue to work towards bank authorisation."

Manoj Varsani MBE, Founder of Hammock Financial Services, said: "We cannot wait to join Tech Nation's Fintech 4.0 cohort. At Hammock we are 100% focused on accelerating our growth and scaling up as fast as possible and we are big believers in the power of tech to do good. We look forward to joining forces with the founders and leaders of other fintech and insurtech companies to push the boundaries of innovation together."

Nikoluas Suehr, Founder of KASKO, said: "We are delighted to be part of the Fintech 4.0 cohort which is another important step in our journey of scaling up and implementing our vision of a global embedded insurance network to aggregate insurance supply and demand. We have been through a range of different accelerators and the reason we love accelerators is that we learn something new about each market. Looking forward to starting the programme and hearing from industry experts!"

Cormac Quinn, Founder of loyalBe, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be selected for this year's Fintech programme. We are entering an exciting phase of rapid growth at loyalBe and having access to expert mentoring, support and advice through the programme will be invaluable as we scale. This is a fantastic opportunity and we can't wait to begin."

Amol Karve, Founder of MortgageKart, said: "We are really looking forward to being part of the Fintech 4.0 cohort, learning from other founders and tech experts who have successfully scaled up

their digital ventures and sharing our story and contributing to the fintech community here in the UK.”

Matthew Harker, Founder of MyPocketSkill, said: “MyPocketSkill is at an inflexion point in it’s scaling journey. Having access to the tools and expertise of the Fintech 4.0 programme will really give us an extra edge in achieving our goals for growth.”

Kenneth Guangyao Ma, Founder of Nu-Credits, said: We are honored to be accepted by the Tech Nation Fintech 4.0 Programme. It feels great to come back home after spending 2 years to scale our business overseas as a UK company!”

Seema Khinda Johnson, Founder of Nuggets, said: “We’re extremely excited to have been selected for the Fintech 4.0 cohort. The programme offers some fantastic opportunities for Nuggets as we scale. We look forward to meeting our fellow cohort members and making the most of the programme!”

Fliss Berridge, Founder of Ordo, said: ‘We are thrilled to have made it into Tech Nation’s FinTech 4.0. As Open Banking becomes more mainstream everyday, more and more situations and payment journeys are being made simpler and more secure by FinTechs offering user centred services enabled by Open Banking. From real time bill payments, and secure remote solutions for contact centre payments, to point of sale QR codes and eCommerce, people and businesses can now have control of their money and can make instant direct bank account to bank account payments thanks to Open Banking technology, and the solutions that can be delivered by FCA regulated companies like Ordo. As Tech Nation opens up a platform for us to scale even further, together with our partners, we will be able to bring these benefits to an even greater number of consumers and businesses.”

Adam Shaw, Founder of ScribeStar, said: "The ScribeStar team and I are really proud to be part of the Fintech 4.0 programme. We are at a really exciting phase in our growth journey, with the pandemic having accelerated interest in our product as markets look to digitise the backbones of their systems. Our software has already seen adoption in the UK by law firms and brokers and we are looking forward to announcing our first exchanges using the system to digitise the information flow from issuer, through exchange and regulator to investors. The advice and help that Tech Nation can bring will be invaluable in helping grow, particularly as we look to internationalise with our market leading software."

Jerad Leigh, Founder of Supercede, said: “We are very excited to be participating in Tech Nation's 4th Fintech cohort and join the wider Tech Nation community. The UK has long been a vital hub for international finance and insurance and with Tech Nation's Fintech programme, it's cementing its position as an innovation leader — the pedigree of programme alumni certainly shows this to be the case. Through this programme, we are looking to leverage the insights of those leaders who have come before us to support our efforts to deliver innovation to the global reinsurance community.”

Humphrey Bowles, Founder of SUPERHOG, said: “Being selected for Tech Nation’s Fintech 4.0 cohort feels like a huge achievement adding rocket fuel to our growth. Massively excited by meeting our cohort peer group and tapping into Tech Nation’s knowledge and know-how.”

Piotr Smolen, Founder of symmetrical.ai, said: "We are excited and privileged to become a part of the next Fintech 4.0 cohort. The UK is one of the most advanced fintech markets in the world, we are convinced that with the help of Tech Nation we will co-create the future of the financial industry globally!"

Felicia Hjertman, Founder of Tillit, said: "Tech Nation's Fintech programme is known to be one of the best for ambitious fintech startups looking to scale. With some of the leaders in our industry as alumni, we are thrilled to be joining the 4.0 cohort to learn from experts as well as peers and accelerate our journey!"

Martin Magnone, Founder of Tymit, said: "Joining Fintech 4.0 is a huge opportunity for Tymit. We're growing fast and aiming big, so we'll be tapping into Tech Nation's network as we get ready to scale. Being able to learn directly from founders who've been there before will be incredibly valuable. We're proud to be chosen and can't wait to get started."

Antoine Loth, Founder of VALK, said: "Being accepted onto the Tech Nation Fintech 4.0 programme is a real privilege and we are hugely excited to work with industry leaders and entrepreneurs as part of the programme. We are making private markets digital and connected by bridging the gap between the traditional financial industry and decentralized innovations & products and the UK as Europe's financial center is the perfect place to achieve our vision with the help of the Technation ecosystem."

Alex Mifsud, Founder of Weavr, said: "We are delighted to be part of the Fintech 4.0 cohort alongside like minded fellow scale-ups and looking forward to both the networking and learning opportunities that the programme offers. The team is excited to have the Weavr brand associated with Tech Nation and the market amplification this offers!"

Kane Harrison, Founder of Wombat Invest, said: "To have received a place on the Tech Nations programme this year is a monumental achievement for Wombat at such a pivotal moment in our growth. We're starting to ramp up with our EU launch, starting additional funding conversations whilst continuously enhancing the product to continue making our user experience absolutely exceptional. We are democratising investment and are just at the start of this incredible journey. We are the curated investment platform for the masses. We're super excited to meet the other companies on the programme, as well as expanding our network with the support coaches and advisors that help startups get to the other side."

Mark Hipperson, Founder of Ziglu, said: "Ziglu is thrilled to have been selected to join the Tech Nation Fintech 4.0 cohort. Tech Nation's programme exemplifies why the UK is the world's fintech hub, and being an active member of this community is part of what makes Ziglu thrive. We're looking forward to participating in the range of initiatives that the programme offers, and to sprinkling some Tech Nation stardust on our growth runway."

Nick Jones, Founder of Zumo, said: "We're delighted to be part of the TechNation Fintech 4.0 cohort alongside an impressive range of fellow scale-ups. Driven by our mission to bring the benefits of cryptocurrency and blockchain technology to people and businesses everywhere, we're proud to have attracted some 50,000 users to Zumo since our seed funding, and we look forward to

continuing - and collaborating - on the next stage of that journey as we pursue our ambitious plans for growth."

Fintech new cohort - key stats:

No. of companies	30
Avg no. of employees	24
Avg revenues	£187,586
Total revenues	£5,627,592
Total raise	£128,101,491

About Tech Nation:

Tech Nation is the leading UK scaleup accelerator. Tech Nation fuels the growth of game-changing founders, leaders, and scaling companies so they can positively transform societies and economies. We provide them with the coaching, content, and community they need for their journey in designing the future. Tech Nation has years of experience facilitating and helping UK tech companies scale, both at home and abroad. Over 30 cohorts and 900 companies have successfully graduated from Tech Nation's growth programmes. Alumni include Skyscanner, Darktrace, and Monzo, as well as 3 of the UK's 7 new 'decacorns'; Revolut, Wise, and Farfetch.