Advancing AI in Connecticut

How the state's strategic venture capital arm is investing in AI companies, statewide infrastructure, talent, and healthcare innovation

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ABOUT CONNECTICUT INNOVATIONS

Connecticut Innovations (CI) is Connecticut's strategic venture capital arm and the leading source of financing and ongoing support for Connecticut's innovative, growing companies. CI provides venture capital and strategic support for early-stage technology companies, financial support for innovation and collaboration, and connections to its well-established network of partners and professionals.

For more information, please visit www.ctinnovations.com.

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WHAT DO WE DO?

As the state's strategic venture capital arm, we invest in early-stage companies and become a partner to our companies to help them grow and succeed.

- CI is an evergreen fund.
- We have funds focused on identifying scalable technology-based companies in climate, technology, AI and quantum, consumer packaged goods and bioscience.
- We invest $45–50 million a year in early-stage companies.
- We generate positive returns on our investments and reinvest those returns in other promising companies across several industries. We manage a portfolio of more than 245 companies.

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THE STATE CONTEXT

Connecticut is making a deliberate bet on AI

Governor Lamont's administration launched a $100 million Innovation Clusters Program to seed regional hubs for AI, quantum, and biotech — the same statewide push that CI's own AI/Q Fund was built to complement.

> *“The emergence and convergence of quantum and AI present a new frontier we can either claim or cede.”*
>
> — Dan O’Keefe, Commissioner, CT Dept. of Economic & Community Development

$100M
Innovation Clusters Program statewide

$50M
CI's dedicated AI/Q Fund

$121M
QuantumCT public-private partnership (UConn + Yale)

CI'S FLAGSHIP AI VEHICLE

The AI/Q Fund

In 2025, CI launched a $50 million fund dedicated to scalable commercial ventures at the intersection of artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and deep tech — positioning Connecticut as a frontier-technology investment hub.

> *"One is providing investors with unprecedented exposure to a wave of early-stage AI innovation, and the other is pushing the boundaries of AI-enabled neuroscience drug discovery and development."*
>
> — Matt McCooe, CEO, Connecticut Innovations

$50M

fund size

Focus areas

- Applied & foundational AI
- Quantum computing
- AI-enabled biotech & drug discovery
- Deep tech with commercial scale

FUND MOMENTUM

A portfolio already running on AI

10+

AI/Q Fund portfolio companies to date

1/3+

of CI's overall portfolio already leverages AI in its business

Growing

share expected as AI adoption accelerates across CI's book

Portfolio companies span AI infrastructure, fintech, drug discovery, business automation, and content platforms — including Bexorg, Yuma Asset Management, CopyLeaks, Capacity, Shelf, Arccos Golf, Kibu, Loops AI, and Naboo.

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PORTFOLIO SPOTLIGHT

Two frontier AI bets

bexorg

AI-ENABLED NEUROSCIENCE

Uses whole-human-brain technology and specialized perfusion methods to restore activity in postmortem brains — generating physiologically relevant data for AI-driven CNS drug discovery targeting neurodegenerative disease.

Yuma

DECENTRALIZED AI INFRASTRUCTURE

A Yuma Holdings company giving institutional and accredited investors access to decentralized AI infrastructure via subnet tokens on the Bittensor network — opening previously unavailable open-source AI markets.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

Investing in regional AI & quantum hubs

Connecticut's Innovation Clusters Program is seeding physical hubs where AI companies can locate, hire, and grow — part of the same ecosystem CI's capital supports.

HARTFORD

$20M

Hartford Innovation Center — 100,000 sq. ft. downtown hub for AI workforce development & education, with Hartford HealthCare, The Hartford, Travelers, Nassau, Google, and QuantumCT

NEW HAVEN

$50.5M

Quantum & Bioscience Cluster — 30,000 sq. ft. of lab space for commercializing quantum research, anchored by Yale and UConn

STATEWIDE

$121M

QuantumCT public-private partnership, plus an NSF Regional Innovation Engines application in progress

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GROWING THE TALENT PIPELINE

Training the workforce AI companies need

Tech Talent Accelerator	Governor Lamont's postsecondary AI education and workforce-training initiative is expanding across Connecticut's colleges and universities.
Statewide College Network	Seven additional colleges recently joined Connecticut's next wave of AI workforce initiatives.
CI Talent Fair	CI's own annual event connecting emerging innovators directly with portfolio companies that are hiring.

ONE ECOSYSTEM

Connecting the innovation economy statewide

AI investment doesn't happen in isolation — CI runs a calendar of programs that connect founders, talent, and capital across Connecticut.

Tour de Connecticut

CI's statewide innovation showcase, now in its third year, spotlighting founders and technology across the state.

CI Talent Fair

Going into its third year, the talent fair connects emerging talent with portfolio companies that are actively hiring.

VentureClash

A global investment challenge that has brought international founders — including AI ventures — to build in Connecticut.

PROOF POINT

Record results validate the strategy

$66.5M

in cash proceeds generated in FY2026 — a record year for CI

$3.05B	Halda Therapeutics acquired by Johnson & Johnson
$256.3M	Veradermics biotech IPO
$550M	Quantum Circuits Inc. acquired by D-Wave Quantum

The "Healthcare Olympics": Yale New Haven Health + CI-hosted Hackathon

A statewide competition inviting Connecticut health systems to develop transformative applications of AI in healthcare — the kind of hands-on innovation CI's healthcare-AI investments (like Bexorg) and the state's broader Health AI Collaborative are built to support.

Six Connecticut health systems

YNHHS, Hartford HealthCare, Connecticut Children's, Nuvance, UConn Health, Gaylord Specialty Healthcare competed

Up to $100K in awards

8 winning proposals funded, with mentorship and a path to real-world clinical validation at Yale New Haven Health

54 → 12 → 8

proposals submitted, narrowed to finalists, then funded winners

First-prize winner

A deep-learning model to predict outcomes in organ donation after circulatory death — Yale University

Additional winning projects came from Connecticut Children's and Hartford HealthCare teams.

LOOKING AHEAD

Action Steps

- Provide builders with cheap compute
- Incentivize frontier labs to set up offices in Connecticut
- Incentivize startups to stay in Connecticut with three-year employee benefits, R&D tax credits
- Hackathon winners awarded with paid pilots and contracts (more valuable than cash)
- Attract solutions to Connecticut customers, or attract Connecticut founders to build in state with global customers (hard to do both)

Thank You

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