



## LOCAL TALENT, GLOBAL IMPACT

Port-headquartered innovators lead the way in our region’s top industries, create local jobs, and make the world a safer, more resilient place.

*Updated February 21, 2024*

### KNIGHT AEROSPACE (Aerospace, Defense, Biomedicine)

**Bianca Rhodes – Owner and CEO**

For more than 30 years delivering an array of products that can transform the uses of



commercial and military aircraft, beginning in 2019 the Knight team extended its global impact by designing and building the world’s first state-of-the-art “flying ER.” Already in use by the Royal Canadian Air Force, the company is engaging other defense and relief organizations to adopt a life-saving technology that allows for the safe transportation and full-spectrum treatment of seriously ill and highly contagious patients while in flight. The same technology can be deployed as an autonomous field hospital to parts of the world impacted by natural disasters and other humanitarian crises.



### WEX / XARC / ASTROPORT (Space Exploration, Education)

**Sam Ximenes – Founder, Principal**



A world-renowned scientist who specializes in the development of orbital, lunar and Martian architectural innovations, Ximenes has based three organizations he has founded at Port San

Antonio within the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology’s (SAMSAT) collaborative lab space.

The core of his team’s activities center around the work of The WEX Foundation—an educational nonprofit that is delivering engaging STEM project-based learning to students from throughout the region. To date, the foundation has received over \$2 million in NASA funding that is guiding students toward multiple post-high school and future career paths in design, architecture and other technological fields.



Concurrent with his and his team’s work at the WEX Foundation, Ximenes also headquartered two commercial enterprises at the Port. Exploration Architecture Corporation (XArc) focuses on the design and integration of multiple technologies required to build infrastructure in terrestrial orbit (such as massive satellite arrays for space-based power generation) or on the lunar and Martian surfaces (including factories, mining operations and launch pads).

Among XArc’s initiatives is Astroport—a NASA-funded project in which Ximenes and his team of scientists, including students from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) are conducting experiments to determine how lunar basaltic rock can be mined and converted to a molten state as a primary source material for the development of many of the infrastructure projects contemplated by affiliated XArc. In 2021, Astroport was named as a finalist by the U.S. Space Force’s Hyperspace Challenge competition among a handful of other U.S. and Canada-based companies and research institutions whose innovations align with the federal government’s space-based priorities.



## PLUS ONE ROBOTICS (Robotics, AI, Automation)



**Erik Nieves, Paul Hvass and Shaun Edwards – Co-founders, Principals**



Within five years, the three co-founders went from a great concept in a small workshop to becoming one of the most successful technology startups in San Antonio history while revolutionizing global supply-chains.

By integrating visual sensors and machine learning into existing industrial robots, the company’s team—which now totals more than 60 engineers, automation specialists and other professionals at the Port—has deployed its innovation at massive e-commerce operations in the U.S. and globally, including FedEx’s main hub, where robots that are supervised from San Antonio have assumed redundant and dangerous tasks of package sorting.

This is just the beginning, as the company continues to explore new applications for its innovations in an array of different sectors.



## CNF TECHNOLOGIES (Cybersecurity)

Fred Ramirez – Founder / Freddy Ramirez – CEO



Founder Fred Ramirez and wife Roxanne, who previously served as CNF Technologies' CEO.



CEO Freddy Ramirez



Following his civil service career as an information security

specialist at the former Kelly Air Force Base's Security Hill, Fred Ramirez launched CNF Technologies in 2005 to continue providing strategic support capabilities to safeguard the integrity of the U.S. Air Force's digital assets. In 2016 his wife Roxanne, following her own retirement as a public schoolteacher serving districts in southwest San Antonio, assumed



the helm as CEO – making the firm a true family business. Their son Freddy would eventually assume the role of CEO in 2022. Today, their firm is one of the nation's fastest-growing cybersecurity enterprises as a principal services provider for the U.S. government, law enforcement and counterintelligence operations. Establishing its headquarters at the Port in 2018, the firm has grown to over 150 employees as its expand its services, including

establishing a research lab on the campus.

## IPSECURE (Cybersecurity) and MASTER CLEAN SERVICES (Specialized Commercial Cleaning)

Jesse Rodriguez - Founder

Rich Valdez – Chief Technology Officer, IPSecure

Vanessa Cavazos – GM, Master Clean



Following his career as a civilian radio technician at Kelly Air Force Base, Rodriguez became a serial entrepreneur. His first venture was Master Clean—a commercial cleaning services firm that distinguished itself by employing personnel with necessary clearances to support spaces within DoD and other types of secure facilities.

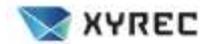
Shortly thereafter, he launched IPSecure in 2000 as a tele-communications firm that quickly transitioned into a full-spectrum cybersecurity enterprise. Beginning in 2015, Rodriguez transitioned and expanded operations of his two companies on the Port campus. Since that time, IPSecure has undergone four expansions at the Port, including the 2018 launch of an education center where the company, partners and clients deliver programs and certifications to develop skills of cybersecurity professionals.



With the onset of COVID-19, Master Clean quickly adapted to provide an array of specialized disinfection services to public and private-sector clients, including the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology (SAMSAT) at the Port, as a new workforce training center was opened in the summer of 2020.

## XYREC (Aerospace, Robotics)

**Peter Boeijink – Founder and CEO**



In 2019, XYREC launched its North American headquarters at the Port's industrial airport at Kelly Field. In collaboration with Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), the company has developed the world's largest industrial robot—positioned to revolutionize global aircraft maintenance.

At over 70 feet in maximum length and equipped with a high-powered laser, the new technology can quickly and precisely remove the paint from the fuselage of large aircraft—an essential task as airplanes need to be re-

Painted numerous times over their service life both for aesthetic reasons and to prevent corrosion.

Furthermore, XYREC's invention is a boon to the adoption of sustainable practices in aviation, since it eliminates the need for hundreds of gallons of toxic chemicals and thousands of gallons of water per aircraft as the traditional methods for paint removal. This significant benefit will be amplified multiple times as the technology is deployed globally to a market of tens of thousands of military and commercial aircraft.



## NAMAUU TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL (Cybersecurity / IT Education)

**Kekai Namaau – Founder / Geronimo Moreno – Information Systems Security Manager**



Founder Kekai Namaau.

In 2017, Namaau—a veteran who for 20 years served as a cybersecurity expert in the U.S. Air Force—relocated his firm – then known as Dynamic Advancement – from his native Hawaii to the Port campus. Here, he has been in proximity to an array of defense- and private-sector clients, where he and his team specialize in utilizing certified industry recognized standards to provide cyberspace and DEVSECOPS services.



Among the company's efforts since locating to the Port, it has partnered with Port-based IPSecure and has also supported upskilling of the local workforce, including by teaming with Workforce Solutions Alamo in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic to retrain area hospitality industry employees in preparation for new careers in IT, human resources, office operations and other in-demand jobs.

Namauu Technological and Industrial is an SBA super 8(a) and HUBZone certified firm that NTI views its internal business processes, which are compliant with industry standards such as ITSM, ISO, NIST, DCAA, CMMC and CMMI, as key components in ensuring its customers receive dependable, predictable, mission focused and agile solutions.

## HATCHBED (Robotics, AI)

**Kris Kozak, Richard Garcia, Marc Alban, Phillip Reed – Principals and Co-Founders**



Based at the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology (SAMSAT) since 2018, the Hatchbed team is nationally-renowned as some of the top robotics engineers and innovators in the country. Their specialty is to make existing robots smarter, more efficient and to assume a greater number of roles in an array of spaces— from the commercial to the defense sectors.

Similarly, Hatchbed guides clients in different mature industry sectors and helps them identify and integrate robotics technologies into their operations to increase safety, productivity and provide them with a competitive edge.

## CAPITAL FACTORY / CENTER FOR DEFENSE INNOVATION (Technology Transfer / Startup Accelerator / Applied Technology)

**Josh Baer – CEO and Founder**



Since 2022, Capital Factory has based its Center of Defense Innovation (CDI) within the collaborative laboratory space at Boeing Center at Tech Port.



As an integral part one of the country's leading accelerators for technology startups, the CDI will give companies based at the Port and across the region multiple strategic advantages, including space in which to collaborate and prototype new technologies. And with the support of SAMSAT and other partners, adjoining venues will showcase those offerings to potential defense and commercial clients. Additionally, CDI will provide entrepreneurs additional connectivity to venture capital and other sources of funding.

CDI will also leverage Capital Factory's national / global visibility and bring a greater focus to the innovations that are being launched in San Antonio. In recent years Capital Factory's Austin engagements have featured the likes of former President Barack Obama and Apple CEO Tim Cook, and the Port and CDI will work to bring similar caliber leaders to the Boeing Center at Tech Port as part of product demonstrations, pitch competitions and other opportunities to connect locally based technologies with global markets.



## **BARIO AVIATION (Aviation, Education)**

**Mario McGee – Founder and Owner**

Since 2017, the team at Bario has occupied hangar space along the Port's industrial airport at Kelly Field that has allowed it to expand and connect with multiple clients.

As the commercial passenger industry continues to expand, the company's on-site flight school—including classroom space—has opened doors of opportunity to future pilots. Additionally, Bario provides aircraft maintenance services, aerial photography and air tours.

