

The Future of Business in Pittsburgh

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Seegrid Announces Details of the Palion Lift's Next-Generation Technology

Seegrid, a Pittsburgh-based leader in autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) for material handling, has announced new details surrounding their Seegrid Palion Lift AMR, the company's first autonomous lift truck. The Palion Lift joins Seegrid's other AMR offerings, which include the Palion Pallet Truck and the Palion Tow Tractor.

This lift truck is also equipped with their next-generation Seegrid IQ autonomy technology, the development of which was sped up by their 2020 acquisition of Box Robotics, a fellow Pennsylvania-based mobile robotics startup that brought high-definition maps, three-dimensional LiDAR, and deep learning to warehouse and manufacturing automation.



The Palion Lift Truck

"Seegrid IQ, the company's proprietary autonomy technology, brings together our breakthrough 3D vision-based navigation technology pioneered by Dr. Hans Moravec with our best-in-class 3D situational awareness capabilities," said Todd Graves, Chief Technology Officer. "Seegrid AMRs have the intelligence to perceive, plan, and control their movement, enabling them to reliably and safely perform in highly dynamic, complex, and fast moving industrial settings."

Seegrid was founded in 2003 by Dr. Moravec, a renowned roboticist and artificial intelligence pioneer who is also an adjunct faculty member at the Robotics Institute of Carnegie Mellon University. According to their website, Seegrid Palion AMRs move billions of pounds of materials each month, and have safely driven millions of autonomous miles in real production facilities without a single personnel safety incident. Learn more at <https://seegrid.com>.

Black Tech Nation Ventures Raises \$25 Million, Makes First Investment

Pittsburgh-headquartered Black Tech Nation Ventures has now raised \$25 million in funds and expects to reach the rest of their \$50 million goal by mid-2022.

The genesis of the Black Tech Nation community (now a non-profit organization) can be traced to 2017, when founder Kelauni Jasmyn, who had recently completed the Academy Pittsburgh coding bootcamp, sought to gather and connect Black developers, technologists, and others. According to the Black Tech Nation website, she was awarded over \$500K from foundations to build a Black tech ecosystem in Pittsburgh. In 2020 the Black Tech Nation community joined forces with Birchmere Ventures, a seed-stage venture fund headquartered in Pittsburgh, to launch the Black Tech Nation Ventures fund. Kelauni Jasmyn of Black Tech Nation, Sean Sebastian of Birchmere Ventures, and David Motley of BlueTree Venture Fund are the three general partners of the fund, and collectively they have contributed \$5 million to it.



Black Tech Nation Ventures general partners Sean Sebastian, Kelauni Jasmyn, and David Motley

The fund has also made their first investment. BlendEd, a company co-founded and led by entrepreneur David Boone with the goal of providing educators the ability to easily create (and perhaps even monetize) courses and syllabi, has raised a total of \$1.4 million, a portion of which comes from the Black Tech Nation Ventures fund.

While the fund has a focus on Black-led startups, they welcome the opportunity to collaborate with founding teams of all races, genders, and sexual orientations, and they are striving to build as diverse a portfolio as possible. They expect to fund 20-30 companies over the next 3-5 years.

You can learn more about and support the world of the Black Tech Nation non-profit organization at <https://blacktechnation.com>, or learn more about Black Tech Nation Ventures at <https://btn.vc>.

Pittsburgh Business News and Updates

- Aurora partners with Amazon Web Services on self-driving technology (<https://www.futurecar.com/5041/Aurora-Announces-Partnership-With-Amazon-Web-Services-for-Autonomous-Car-Development>)
- Pittsburgh's next steel industry is already here - it's robotics (<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2021/10/31/Pittsburgh-s-next-steel-industry-is-already-here/stories/202110310047>)
- Once Again, Pittsburgh Is Booming (<https://www.inc.com/joe-zeff/once-again-pittsburgh-is-booming.html>)
- Rimsys closes \$16 million series A round, eyes international expansion (<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/inno/stories/fundings/2021/12/02/rimsys-closes-16-million-series-a-fund.html>)
- AlphaLab Health announces second cohort of companies (<https://technical.ly/pittsburgh/2021/12/03/alphalab-health-second-cohort/>)
- Pittsburgh startups to watch in 2022 (<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/inno/stories/news/2021/11/25/pittsburgh-innos-startups-to-watch-in-2022.html>)



About Ryan

Ryan O'Shea is a JETRO Investment Advisor focused on connecting Japanese companies to opportunities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the host of Future Grind, a podcast that explores the ethics and impact of emerging science and technology. In 2017, Ryan co-founded an artificial intelligence startup that was named a Top 10 team in the IBM Watson AI XPRIZE. Ryan has represented NASA and CalTech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a Solar System Ambassador and serves both as a World Economic Forum Global Shaper and an ambassador for Pittsburgh AI. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh & serves on the boards of multiple non-profit organizations. He can be reached at Ryan@futuregrind.org.