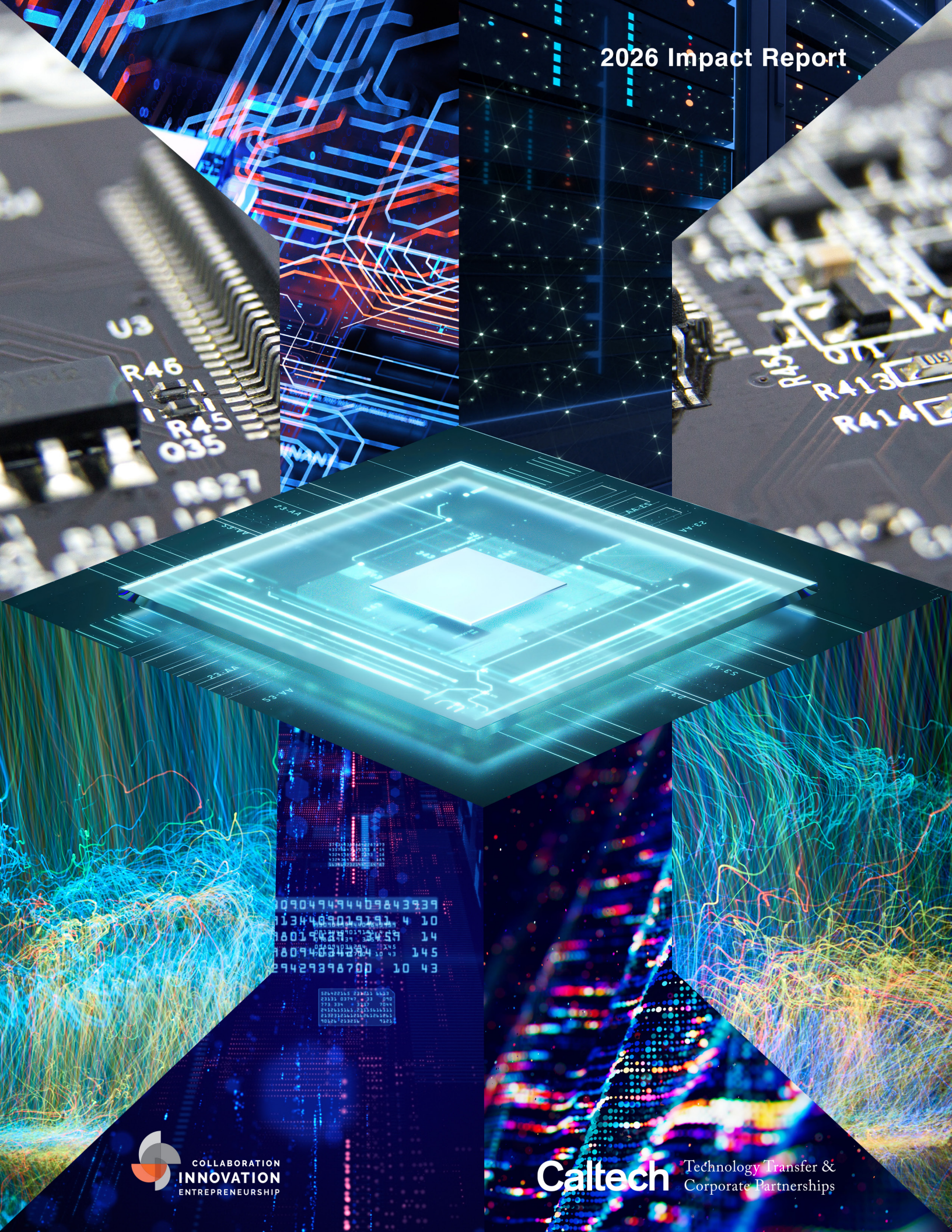
2026 Impact Report



COLLABORATION
INNOVATION
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Caltech Technology Transfer & Corporate Partnerships

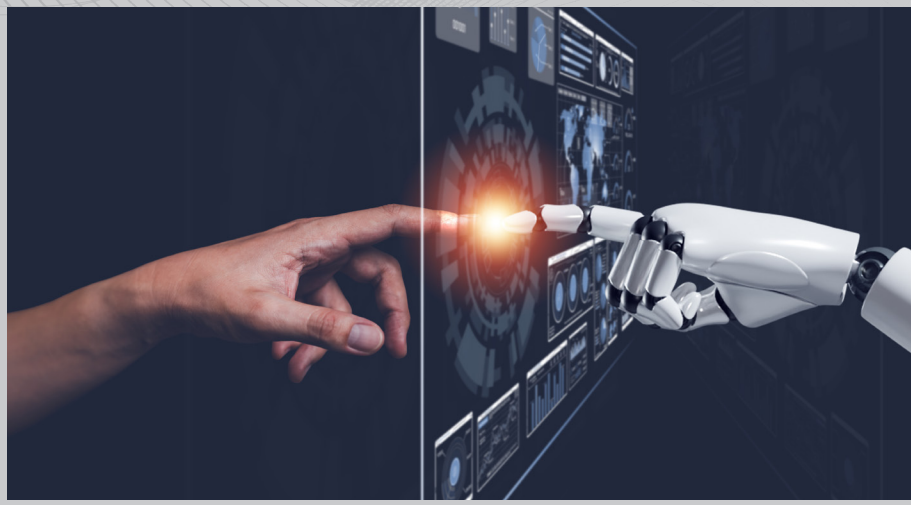


The Agilent Center of Excellence for Catalysis & Molecular Discovery Research

Caltech and Agilent Technologies launched the Agilent Center of Excellence for Catalysis and Molecular Discovery Research, creating a major new hub for cutting-edge analytical science on campus. The Center, located within the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, will house state-of-the-art Agilent instrumentation available to faculty, students, and researchers that would otherwise be difficult to access. These technologies will enable researchers to rapidly characterize complex molecules and reaction mixtures and accelerate discovery in catalysis, chemical synthesis, and sustainability-focused research.

Supporting Innovation Through Corporate Collaboration

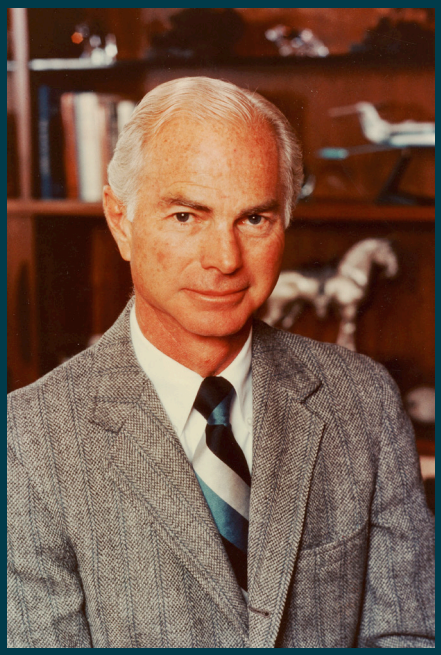
Celebrating Two Years of Meta–Caltech Partnership in Wearables, AI, & Robotics



The Meta-Caltech partnership continues to advance the foundations of next-generation wearable technologies, robotics, and artificial intelligence. Launched in 2024, the collaboration has supported more than 20 research projects across multiple disciplines.

The partnership has continued to grow, with new laboratory space on campus for collaborative research in chemistry and advanced materials opening in 2027. A separate program, focused on the role of AI in scientific discovery was recently launched that brings together Caltech's interdisciplinary expertise with Meta's large language models to explore how advanced AI systems can accelerate fundamental scientific research.

A New Name, A Continuing Legacy: The Gates Investment Fund



Caltech's Office of Technology Transfer and Corporate Partnerships is pleased to announce a new gift from the family of Charles C. Gates (*pictured right*), the same family whose 1990 gift established the Gates Grubstake Fund and helped spark Caltech's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The contribution extends Caltech's inaugural Seed Fund investment program; and consequently, the Caltech Seed Fund has been renamed the Gates Investment Fund. This most recent gift extends the Gates family's legacy of supporting Caltech innovation not only in the lab but also through startup launch, and allows Caltech to further develop its robust series of programs to support entrepreneurship at every stage.

Beyond the renaming as the Gates Investment Fund, this investment vehicle is the newest phase of a program that OTTCP has built to support Caltech startups at their earliest stage, making them more attractive to other investors and helping to propel them through the Valley of Death—the funding gap where promising lab science is too early for venture capital but too expensive to advance without it. The Seed Fund has already deployed over $8 million to seed-stage Caltech companies over the past five years, investment which has served as a powerful force multiplier enabling those startups to collectively secure more than $130 million in additional venture funding at the seed stage.

Dedicated and thoughtful philanthropy has allowed Caltech develop programs to help precipitate technological advancements and launch more Caltech startups than ever before. The Fund has invested in 30 companies in its first five years of operation, leading to two notable exits: DNA nanotechnology company Palamedrix, acquired by SomaLogic in 2022, and 3Laws Robotics, an AI safety for autonomous systems startup, which Amazon recently acquired in May 2026.

Thanks to a myriad of efforts from our ecosystem of donors, entrepreneurial momentum at Caltech has only been growing in recent years: the Caltech Innovation Center, Bill Gross Business Plan Competition, and Timothy D. Ryan Summer Internship Program in Entrepreneurship have all been established in just the last four years. Each new initiative builds on foundations like the Gates Grubstake Fund, which has supported Caltech innovators since before OTTCP's founding in 1995.



The Advanced Mechanical Bipedal Experimental Robotics Lab, led by Professor Aaron Ames, co-founder of 3Laws Robotics

With the new $10 million Gates Investment Fund now ready to disburse, OTTCP is poised to back the next generation of Caltech startups, continuing a legacy that began with one family's belief in the power of cutting-edge ideas, world-class research, and a bit of capital, to change the world.

The Gates Investment Fund

Oratomic was launched in 2026 by a team of Caltech faculty, including: CEO Dolev Bluvstein, Manuel Endres, John Preskill, Andrei Faraon, and CTO Robert Huang. Housed in the Caltech Innovation Center, Oratomic is commercializing a breakthrough in neutral-atom quantum computing that lets it target a utility-scale machine using a fraction of the qubits required by competitors. Oratomic raised a $300 million Series A co-led by ARCH Venture Partners, Spark Capital, Khosla Ventures, with participation from Bezos Expeditions and the Caltech Gates Investment Fund, among others. After their $475 million Series B, the company is now valued at $5.4 billion.

PrismML, founded by Caltech professor & CEO Babak Hassibi with Caltech co-founders Sahin Lale, Omead Pooladzandi, and Reza Sadri, emerged from stealth in 2026 commercializing a proprietary Caltech-developed mathematical framework for compressing large language models. The technology enables its "Bonsai" model family to run with up to 14× less memory and 5× lower energy use, compact enough for smartphones while retaining advanced reasoning, tool use, and multimodal capabilities. The company is incubated in the Caltech Innovation Center and raised $16.25 million in a seed round led by Khosla Ventures, with participation from Cerberus Capital and the Caltech Gates Investment Fund.

KAIperShield, also headquartered at the Caltech Innovation Center, was founded by notable former JPL staff: CEO Larry James, CTO Dr. Kymie Tan, and COO Dan Crichton. The company commercializes cyber-resilience technology developed at JPL and licensed through Caltech, alongside proprietary innovations of its own. Rather than simply flagging vulnerabilities, KAIperShield's platform maps how cyberattacks propagate through complex cyber-physical systems, helping government, defense, energy, and infrastructure operators sustain mission-critical functions under compromise. The company is backed by seed investment funding from Caltech's Gates Investment Fund and Wilson Hill Ventures.

Notable exit: **3Laws Robotics, Inc.**, a Pasadena-based startup spun out of control-theory research from the Caltech laboratory of Professor Aaron Ames, was acquired by Amazon in mid-2026 Founded in 2022 by CEO Andrew Singletary (PhD '22), Thomas Gurriet (PhD '20), and Professor Ames, the company commercialized real-time safety-supervisory software that intercepts unsafe commands before they reach a robot's actuators, enabling autonomous systems to operate safely alongside people without halting. The technology, built on over a decade of Caltech research, was deployed across warehouse robots, drones, forklifts, and even U.S. Air Force flight-test platforms.

Innovation.
Entrepreneurship.
Collaboration.

Our mission is to drive the transfer of scientific and engineering knowledge created by our researchers to maximize societal impact by developing partnerships with industry through the creation of new ventures, collaborations with corporations, and transfer of intellectual property while nurturing an entrepreneurial environment.

FY2026 By the Numbers

186
Invention Disclosures
(campus only)

107
U.S. Patents Issued

2,058
Active U.S. Patents

47
Licenses Granted
(including options)

8
Startup Companies

61
Companies
Sponsoring Research

45
Companies Giving Gifts

$83.8M
Corporate Contracts & Gifts





The Evolution of the Caltech Innovation Ecosystem

OTTCP has worked to expand the innovation ecosystem at Caltech and the Pasadena area through new student and donor programming, increased corporate engagement, personalized startup support, and a robust approach to intellectual property (IP) protection and licensing.

Patenting and licensing IP generated by Caltech and JPL research is the core of Caltech's innovation ecosystem. OTTCP receives approximately 200 invention disclosures, files 150–180 new patent applications, and averages 155 U.S. patents issued annually. Its licensing team works closely with researchers, patent counsel, startups, and established companies to move Caltech technologies toward market adoption.

Entrepreneurs in Residence (EIRs) further support this process by advising faculty, students, and post-docs on commercialization, connecting entrepreneurs with investors, and helping manage the Gates Investment Fund and other internal commercialization programs.

Student entrepreneurship has grown alongside these efforts. Since launching in 2021, the OTTCP Summer Internship in Entrepreneurship has more than doubled in size, pairing students with early-stage Caltech and JPL startups and providing broader campus programming with entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders. The Timothy D. Ryan Summer Entrepreneurship Program, established in 2023, has supported 13 students across eight student companies. That same year, the Bill Gross Business Plan Competition launched to encourage innovation across campus and has continued to attract strong participation and support from Pasadena's innovation community.

Caltech's expanding physical infrastructure supports startups and established companies looking to grow within Pasadena. Corporate partners collaborating closely with Caltech researchers have continued to grow their physical footprints on-campus and in Pasadena. The Caltech Innovation Center now houses 12 startups in newly refurbished space at 263 S. Chester. A further expansion at 1364 E. Green Street will add wet-lab and specialty research facilities, along with additional space for Caltech startups and industry partners.

Together, these efforts are building a more connected innovation ecosystem. One that supports the journey from discovery and intellectual property to entrepreneurship, investment, and industry partnership.

Caltech Technology Transfer & Corporate Partnerships
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