

# Genesis Provenance - Comprehensive Funding Strategy

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## Goal: Secure \$1M+ in Funding for AI-Powered Provenance Platform

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### Executive Summary

Genesis Provenance is exceptionally well-positioned to secure significant funding through multiple channels. With a functional AI-powered provenance authentication platform already deployed, a clear market need (luxury asset authentication), and proven technology (Google Vision AI, AWS Rekognition, subscription SaaS model), the company aligns perfectly with current funding priorities.

**Total Potential Funding Path: \$1.2M - \$2.5M+**

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### 🎯 Phase 1: Non-Dilutive Government Grants (\$400K - \$600K)

#### 1. NSF SBIR/STTR Program (Priority #1)

**Funding Amount:** \$305,000 (Phase I) + \$1,250,000 (Phase II) = **\$1.55M potential**

**Timeline:** Rolling applications, 7-10 month review process

**Equity Required:** 0% - Non-dilutive

**Why You're Eligible:**

- AI/ML technology (Google Vision AI, AWS Rekognition)
- Small business (<500 employees)
- U.S.-based and majority U.S.-owned
- Commercialization potential (already have paying customers)
- Deep tech innovation in computer vision

**NSF AI Topic Areas You Fit:**

1. **Computer Vision Based AI Technologies** - Your core offering
2. **Technologies for Trustworthy AI** - Authentication is inherently about trust
3. **Cognitive Science-based AI** - Pattern recognition for counterfeits
4. **Novel AI Hardware Technologies** - Edge device deployment potential

**Application Process:**

1. **Project Pitch** (submit anytime at seedfund.nsf.gov)
  - 3-page pitch deck
  - Problem statement

- Technical innovation
- Commercialization plan

**1. Full Proposal** (if pitch approved)

- Detailed technical plan
- Budget justification
- Team qualifications
- Letters of support from customers

**Strategic Positioning:**

- **Problem:** \$4.5 trillion counterfeit luxury goods market
- **Innovation:** Hybrid AI (Google Vision + AWS Rekognition + Custom ML)
- **Impact:** Protecting luxury brands, collectors, dealers from fraud
- **Commercialization:** Already deployed with subscription model
- **Differentiation:** Multi-provider AI with category-specific ML models

**Application Materials Needed:**

- [ ] 3-page Project Pitch
- [ ] Technical whitepaper on your AI architecture
- [ ] Letters of support from pilot customers
- [ ] Competitive analysis
- [ ] Financial projections
- [ ] Team bios emphasizing technical expertise

**Timeline:**

- Month 1: Prepare and submit Project Pitch
- Month 2-3: NSF feedback and refinement
- Month 4-6: Full proposal if invited
- Month 7-10: Review and award decision

**Contact:** seedfund.nsf.gov | Email: sbir@nsf.gov

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## 2. NIST SBIR Program

**Funding Amount:** \$100,000 - \$400,000 (Phase I & II)

**Timeline:** Annual solicitations

**Equity Required: 0% - Non-dilutive**

**Why You're Eligible:**

- AI authentication aligns with NIST's trustworthy AI initiative
- Measurement science for fraud detection
- Standards development for luxury authentication

**Focus Areas:**

- Antivirus algorithms for AI models (you're using AI for detection)
- Operational resilience and trust (authentication is trust)
- AI safety and explainability (your analysis provides detailed findings)

**Application:** [www.nist.gov/sbir](http://www.nist.gov/sbir)

**Next Deadline:** Check NIST SBIR website (typically annual)

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### 3. DOE AI Innovation Grants

**Funding Amount:** \$150,000 - \$3,000,000

**Timeline:** Varies by program

**Equity Required: 0% - Non-dilutive**

**Positioning:** While DOE is primarily energy-focused, they fund AI applications in:

- Complex systems management
- Fraud detection in critical infrastructure
- Decision support systems

**Strategic Angle:** Position your platform for government asset authentication (military equipment, critical infrastructure components)

**Application:** [www.energy.gov/science/office-science](http://www.energy.gov/science/office-science)

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## Phase 2: Accelerator Programs (\$100K - \$200K + Resources)

### 1. Y Combinator (Priority #1)

**Funding Amount:** \$500,000 for 7% equity

**Additional Value:** \$500K+ in perks, mentorship, investor access

**Timeline:** Applications for Spring 2026 open Q4 2025

**Why You're a Perfect Fit:**

- **80% of YC W25 batch is AI-focused**

- YC actively seeks “AI-native enterprise software”
- Your product enables “The First 10-person, \$100B Company” (one of their RFS priorities)
- Already have revenue and customers (huge advantage)

**Application Requirements:**

- Company details and traction metrics
- Team bios
- Product demo video
- Pitch deck

**Key Metrics to Highlight:**

- Current MRR/ARR
- Number of authenticated items
- AI analysis accuracy rate
- Customer retention rate
- Growth rate

**Application:** [www.ycombinator.com/apply](http://www.ycombinator.com/apply)

**Next Batch:** Winter 2026 (applications open ~August 2025)

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## 2. Techstars (Multiple Programs)

**Funding Amount:** \$20,000 for 6% equity + \$100,000 convertible note

**Additional Value:** \$800K+ in perks, 3-month mentorship program

**Timeline:** Spring 2026 applications open August 25, 2025

**Relevant Programs:**

- **Techstars Anywhere:** Remote-first, physical AI applications
- **Techstars Tech Central Sydney:** AI-powered platforms
- **Techstars Future of Finance:** Fraud prevention technologies

**Why You Fit:**

- “Physical AI” focus (computer vision for real-world assets)
- Fraud prevention technology
- Enterprise SaaS platform

**Application:** [www.techstars.com/accelerators](http://www.techstars.com/accelerators)

**Deadline:** November 19, 2025 (for Spring 2026)

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## 3. Google for Startups AI Tier

**Funding Amount:** \$350,000 in Google Cloud credits + \$12,000 support credits

**Timeline:** Rolling applications

**Equity Required: 0% - Non-dilutive**

**Requirements:**

- AI-first startup using Vertex AI or Gemini
- Seed to Series A funding
- Founded within last 10 years
- <\$5,000 in previous Google Cloud credits

**Benefits:**

- \$250,000 Year 1 credits (100% coverage)
- \$100,000 Year 2 credits (20% coverage)
- \$10,000 for partner LLM models
- Access to Google AI experts
- Gemini API early access

**Application:** [cloud.google.com/startup/ai](http://cloud.google.com/startup/ai)

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## 4. AWS Activate Program

**Funding Amount:** Up to \$100,000 in AWS credits

**Timeline:** Rolling applications

**Equity Required: 0% - Non-dilutive**

**Your Fit:**

- You’re already using AWS S3 for storage
- Could expand to AWS Rekognition (already in your codebase)
- Scalable infrastructure for image processing

**Benefits:**

- AWS credits for compute, storage, AI services
- Technical support
- Architecture guidance
- \$800K in third-party offers

**Application:** [aws.amazon.com/activate](https://aws.amazon.com/activate)

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## Phase 3: Venture Capital & Angel Investors (\$500K - \$2M)

### Target Investor Profile

**Stage:** Seed / Pre-Series A

**Funding Goal:** \$500,000 - \$2,000,000

**Valuation:** \$5M - \$10M (depending on traction)

### Top VC Firms for Genesis Provenance

#### Tier 1: AI-Focused VCs

##### 1. Andreessen Horowitz (a16z) - AI Fund

- **Why:** \$1.5B dedicated AI fund, invested in 1000+ AI companies
- **Recent deals:** Thinking Machines Lab (\$2B), Cursor (\$900M)
- **Contact:** Submit via [a16z.com](http://a16z.com)
- **Sweet spot:** AI infrastructure + applications

##### 2. Sequoia Capital

- **Why:** Major AI investor, participated in OpenAI
- **Recent deals:** Harvey (\$300M AI legal), Decart (\$100M AI video)
- **Contact:** Warm intro required (leverage YC if accepted)

##### 3. Lightspeed Venture Partners

- **Why:** \$18B AUM, 89 unicorns, enterprise software focus
- **Recent deals:** Anthropic (\$3.5B)
- **Contact:** [lsvp.com](http://lsvp.com)

##### 4. Index Ventures

- **Why:** >\$10B AUM, AI research + applications
- **Geographic:** Strong transatlantic presence
- **Contact:** [indexventures.com](http://indexventures.com)

#### Tier 2: Specialized VCs

##### 1. Bessemer Venture Partners

- **Focus:** Enterprise, consumer, healthcare
- **Recent:** EvenUp \$150M (AI for legal)
- **Your angle:** Enterprise SaaS for luxury market

##### 2. Kleiner Perkins

- **Focus:** AI, early-stage + mature companies
- **Recent:** Hippocratic AI \$141M, OpenEvidence \$210M
- **Your angle:** Healthcare-adjacent (authentication trust)

### 3. General Catalyst

- **Focus:** Early-stage across sectors
- **Recent:** Modular \$250M, Anthropic \$3.5B
- **Your angle:** AI infrastructure

## Top Angel Investors for AI

### Tier 1: Most Active AI Angels

#### 1. Nat Friedman (36 AI deals since 2024)

- **Background:** Former GitHub CEO, MIT background
- **Portfolio:** Julius AI, XBOW, AI Underwriting
- **Sweet spot:** Developer tools, AI infrastructure
- **Contact:** Warm intro via tech network

#### 2. Elad Gil (36 AI deals since 2024)

- **Background:** Twitter VP, Color Genomics co-founder
- **Portfolio:** Harvey, Cognition, Perplexity
- **Sweet spot:** Enterprise AI applications
- **Contact:** eladgil.com

#### 3. Gokul Rajaram (30 AI deals since 2024)

- **Background:** Facebook, Square executive
- **Portfolio:** Knit, Julius AI
- **Sweet spot:** Application layer AI
- **Focus:** "AI opens previously inaccessible areas for software"

#### 4. Jeff Dean (30 AI deals since 2024)

- **Background:** Google Chief Scientist, Google Brain founder
- **Portfolio:** Laborup, Emerald AI
- **Sweet spot:** Deep tech AI, research-backed

### Tier 2: Specialized Angels

#### 1. Naval Ravikant

- **Portfolio:** Anthropic, Perplexity, Replit, Clearview AI
- **Reach:** AngelList network

#### 2. Marc Andreessen (via a16z)

- **Portfolio:** Hugging Face, Mistral AI, Replit
- **Strategy:** Apply to a16z AI fund

#### 3. Wei Guo (UpHonest Capital)

- **Focus:** Silicon Valley cross-sector, AI + digital
- **Portfolio:** MoBagel, Mashgin
- **Your angle:** Computer vision applications

## Fundraising Strategy

### Preparation (Month 1-2):

1. Polish pitch deck (10-15 slides)
2. Prepare financial model (3-year projections)
3. Create data room
4. Record product demo video
5. Collect customer testimonials

### **Outreach (Month 3-4):**

1. Leverage warm introductions (via YC, LinkedIn, advisors)
2. Attend AI/VC events (TechCrunch Disrupt, Slush, Web Summit)
3. Apply to angel platforms (AngelMatch, Twin Ventures)
4. Pitch at demo days

### **Materials Needed:**

- [ ] 10-15 slide pitch deck
  - [ ] 3-minute product demo video
  - [ ] Financial model (MRR, CAC, LTV, churn)
  - [ ] Customer case studies
  - [ ] Competitive analysis
  - [ ] Technical architecture diagram
  - [ ] IP strategy / patents (if applicable)
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## **Phase 4: Startup Competitions (\$50K - \$100K)**

### **High-Value Competitions (>\$50K)**

#### **1. Startup World Cup 2025**

- **Prize:** \$1,000,000 investment
- **When:** May 1, 2025 (Grand Finale)
- **Where:** Silicon Valley
- **Entry:** 60+ regional events
- **Website:** startupworldcup.io

#### **2. TechCrunch Disrupt - Startup Battlefield**

- **Prize:** \$100,000 equity-free
- **When:** October 27-29, 2025
- **Where:** San Francisco
- **Benefits:** Massive media exposure, investor access
- **Application:** Opens Q1 2025
- **Website:** techcrunch.com/events/disrupt-2025

#### **3. Rice Business Plan Competition**

- **Prize:** \$1.5M+ in total prizes
- **When:** March/April 2026
- **Where:** Houston, TX
- **Entry:** January 31, 2026
- **Website:** rbpc.rice.edu

#### **4. Slush 100**

- **Prize:** €1,000,000 investment
- **When:** November 19-20, 2025
- **Where:** Helsinki, Finland
- **Focus:** European expansion opportunity
- **Website:** slush.org

## Industry-Specific Competitions

### 1. Quantum World Congress Startup Pitch

- **Prize:** \$25,000
- **When:** September 16, 2025
- **Where:** Tysons, VA
- **Focus:** AI + adjacent tech
- **Deadline:** August 4, 2025

### 2. InsurtechNY Global InsurTech Startup Competition

- **Prize:** \$200,000 total
  - **Focus:** Risk assessment, fraud prevention
  - **Your angle:** Asset authentication for insurance
  - **Website:** insurtechny.com
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## Funding Timeline & Strategy

### Immediate Actions (Months 1-2)

#### Week 1-2:

- [ ] Register for AWS Activate (0% equity, immediate value)
- [ ] Apply for Google for Startups AI Tier (0% equity, immediate value)
- [ ] Begin NSF SBIR Project Pitch preparation

#### Week 3-4:

- [ ] Complete pitch deck
- [ ] Record product demo video
- [ ] Prepare financial projections
- [ ] Identify 3-5 pilot customers for testimonials

#### Month 2:

- [ ] Submit NSF SBIR Project Pitch
- [ ] Apply to Y Combinator (if open)
- [ ] Apply to Techstars programs
- [ ] Register for TechCrunch Disrupt Battlefield

### Short-Term (Months 3-6)

#### Month 3-4:

- [ ] Attend startup pitch competitions
- [ ] Begin angel investor outreach
- [ ] Apply to NIST SBIR (if solicitation open)
- [ ] Submit to industry competitions

#### Month 5-6:

- [ ] Follow up on NSF SBIR (may need full proposal)
- [ ] Pitch at demo days
- [ ] Leverage accelerator network for VC intros

### Medium-Term (Months 7-12)

#### Month 7-9:

- [ ] Series Seed / Pre-Series A fundraising

- [ ] NSF SBIR Phase II application (if Phase I funded)
- [ ] Scale with accelerator resources

#### **Month 10-12:**

- [ ] Close seed round
  - [ ] Begin hiring with capital
  - [ ] Expand AI capabilities
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## **Strategic Positioning for Each Funding Source**

### **For Government Grants (NSF, NIST, DOE)**

#### **Key Messages:**

1. **Technical Innovation:** Hybrid multi-provider AI (Google Vision + AWS Rekognition + Custom ML)
2. **Measurable Impact:** Protecting \$4.5T global luxury market from counterfeits
3. **Scientific Merit:** Advancing computer vision, fraud detection, trustworthy AI
4. **Commercialization:** Already deployed, paying customers, proven business model
5. **Broader Impacts:** Job creation, protecting American brands, consumer safety

#### **Language to Use:**

- "Novel approach to computer vision-based authentication"
- "Trustworthy AI for high-stakes decision-making"
- "Advancing measurement science for luxury asset authentication"
- "Multi-modal AI combining visual analysis with domain expertise"

### **For Venture Capital / Angels**

#### **Key Messages:**

1. **Market Size:** \$330B luxury goods market + \$65-100B resale market (doubling by 2030)
2. **Problem:** \$4.5T counterfeit market, "superfakes" evading detection
3. **Solution:** AI-powered authentication with 99%+ accuracy
4. **Traction:** [Your metrics: MRR, customers, items authenticated]
5. **Moat:** Proprietary datasets, category-specific ML models, multi-provider redundancy
6. **Vision:** "Bloomberg Terminal for luxury asset authentication"

#### **Investor-Focused Metrics:**

- **MRR Growth Rate:** X% month-over-month
- **CAC:** Customer acquisition cost
- **LTV:CAC Ratio:** Target 3:1 or higher
- **Churn Rate:** Target <5% monthly
- **Gross Margins:** SaaS model should be 70-80%+
- **Payback Period:** Target <12 months

### **For Accelerators (YC, Techstars, Google)**

#### **Key Messages:**

1. **Ambitious Vision:** Not just authentication, but comprehensive provenance intelligence
2. **Scalability:** SaaS model, marginal cost near zero
3. **Speed:** AI enables small team to move fast ("10-person, \$100B company")
4. **Product-Market Fit:** Paying customers, growing organically
5. **Team:** Technical expertise in AI/ML, domain knowledge in luxury goods

**YC-Specific:**

- Emphasize how AI wrote 95% of your code (automation)
- Focus on growth rate (YC W25 average is 10% weekly)
- Highlight scrappiness and capital efficiency

## For Competitions

**Key Messages:**

- Compelling Story:** The \$4.5T counterfeit problem affects everyone
- Visual Demo:** Show before/after AI analysis (very impactful)
- Clear Impact:** Every authenticated item protects a consumer/dealer
- Innovation:** First hybrid multi-provider AI authentication platform
- Traction:** Real customers, real revenue, real growth

**Pitch Structure:**

1. Hook: “1 in 3 luxury items sold online is counterfeit”
  2. Problem: Superfakes, expert uncertainty, consumer risk
  3. Solution: AI-powered multi-provider authentication
  4. Demo: Live analysis of watch/handbag
  5. Traction: [Your metrics]
  6. Ask: [Funding amount and use of funds]
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## Essential Application Materials

### 1. Pitch Deck (10-15 slides)

**Slide Breakdown:**

1. **Cover:** Company name, tagline, contact
2. **Problem:** Counterfeit market size, detection challenges
3. **Solution:** AI-powered authentication platform
4. **How It Works:** Technical overview, multi-provider AI
5. **Demo:** Screenshots/video of platform
6. **Market Size:** \$330B luxury + \$65-100B resale
7. **Business Model:** Subscription tiers, pricing
8. **Traction:** Metrics (customers, revenue, growth)
9. **Competition:** Landscape, your differentiation
10. **Technology Moat:** Proprietary datasets, custom ML
11. **Go-to-Market:** Customer acquisition strategy
12. **Team:** Founders, advisors, key hires
13. **Financials:** 3-year projections
14. **Use of Funds:** How you'll deploy capital
15. **Ask:** Amount raising, terms

### 2. Product Demo Video (3 minutes)

**Structure:**

- 0:00-0:30: Problem statement with examples
- 0:30-1:30: Platform walkthrough (asset registration → AI analysis → report)
- 1:30-2:00: Results visualization, confidence scores
- 2:00-2:30: Additional features (provenance tracking, certificates, analytics)
- 2:30-3:00: Customer testimonials, call-to-action

### 3. Financial Model

#### **Key Sheets:**

- P&L (Profit & Loss statement)
- Cash flow projections
- Customer acquisition model
- Unit economics (CAC, LTV, churn)
- Headcount plan
- Fundraising schedule

#### **Assumptions to Document:**

- Pricing by tier
- Conversion rates
- Churn rates
- CAC by channel
- Gross margins
- Operating expenses

### 4. Customer Testimonials

#### **What You Need:**

- 3-5 written testimonials from customers
- 1-2 video testimonials (30-60 seconds)
- Permission to use company names/logos
- Specific metrics (e.g., "Authenticated 500+ items with 100% accuracy")

### 5. Technical Whitepaper

#### **For NSF/NIST Applications:**

- AI architecture diagram
- Training methodology
- Accuracy benchmarks
- Edge cases and failure modes
- Scalability analysis
- Security and privacy measures

### Funding Goals & Milestones

**Goal: \$1.2M+ in First 12 Months**

**Target Breakdown:**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Equity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Probability</b>
AWS Activate	\$100K	0%	Month 1	90%
Google Cloud AI	\$350K	0%	Month 1-2	80%
NSF SBIR Phase I	\$305K	0%	Month 6-10	50%
Y Combinator	\$500K	7%	Month 3-6	20%
Angel Investors	\$250K	10%	Month 4-8	60%
Competitions	\$50K	0%	Month 3-12	40%
<b>Total Realistic</b>	<b>\$1.2M</b>	<b>~15%</b>	<b>12 months</b>	<b>Expected</b>

### Stretch Goal: \$2.5M+ in 18 Months

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Equity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Probability</b>
Above Sources	\$1.2M	15%	Month 1-12	Expected
NSF SBIR Phase II	\$1.25M	0%	Month 12-18	30%
Seed Round (VC)	\$1M	15%	Month 12-18	50%
<b>Total Stretch</b>	<b>\$3.5M</b>	<b>~25%</b>	<b>18 months</b>	<b>Possible</b>

## ⚠ Critical Success Factors

### What Funders Will Assess

#### 1. Team

- Technical expertise in AI/ML
- Domain knowledge in luxury goods
- Track record of execution
- Full-time commitment

#### 2. Technology

- Proprietary advantages (custom ML models, datasets)
- Accuracy and reliability
- Scalability of architecture
- Security and privacy

#### 3. Traction

- Paying customers
- Revenue growth

- User engagement metrics
- Customer retention

#### **4. Market**

- Market size and growth
- Competition analysis
- Go-to-market strategy
- Unit economics

#### **5. Use of Funds**

- Clear deployment plan
- Achievable milestones
- Reasonable burn rate
- Path to profitability

## **Strengthening Your Application**

### **Technical Credibility:**

- Publish a technical blog post about your AI architecture
- Open-source parts of your tech (with restrictions)
- Submit research to conferences (ACM, IEEE)
- Patent key innovations

### **Market Validation:**

- Get pilot contracts with major auction houses
- Partner with luxury brands for authentication
- Testimonials from high-profile collectors
- Media coverage (TechCrunch, Wired, Bloomberg)

### **Team Enhancement:**

- Add advisors from luxury industry
- Add technical advisors from Google/AWS
- Recruit key hires (Head of Sales, Head of Product)
- Advisory board with investors/founders

## **Next Steps (This Week)**

### **Day 1-2: Immediate Applications**

#### **1. AWS Activate**

- Go to [aws.amazon.com/activate](http://aws.amazon.com/activate)
- Create AWS Builder ID
- Complete application (2 hours)
- Select “Activate Founders Package” (\$1K immediate) or “Portfolio Package” (\$100K if you have an accelerator connection)

#### **2. Google for Startups**

- Go to [cloud.google.com/startup/ai](http://cloud.google.com/startup/ai)
- Complete application
- Emphasize Vertex AI usage (or planned usage)

## Day 3-4: Competition Registrations

### 1. TechCrunch Disrupt 2025

- Go to [techcrunch.com/events/disrupt-2025](https://techcrunch.com/events/disrupt-2025)
- Register interest (applications open Q1 2025)

### 2. Startup World Cup

- Go to [startupworldcup.io](https://startupworldcup.io)
- Register for regional event

## Day 5-7: Grant Preparation

### 1. NSF SBIR Project Pitch

- Download template from [seedfund.nsf.gov](https://seedfund.nsf.gov)
  - Draft 3-page pitch
  - Focus on: Problem, Innovation, Commercialization
  - Get feedback from advisors
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## Additional Resources

### Grant Databases

- **Grants.gov:** [www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) (federal grants)
- **USGrants.org:** [www.usgrants.org](https://www.usgrants.org) (AI researcher grants)
- **Foundation Center:** [www.foundationcenter.org](https://www.foundationcenter.org) (private foundations)

### Investor Databases

- **Crunchbase:** [www.crunchbase.com](https://www.crunchbase.com) (VC research)
- **AngelList:** [www.angellist.com](https://www.angellist.com) (angel investors)
- **PitchBook:** [www.pitchbook.com](https://www.pitchbook.com) (deal data)
- **CB Insights:** [www.cbinsights.com](https://www.cbinsights.com) (market intelligence)

### Accelerator Directories

- **F6S:** [www.f6s.com](https://www.f6s.com) (accelerator applications)
- **Techstars:** [www.techstars.com/accelerators](https://www.techstars.com/accelerators)
- **Y Combinator:** [www.ycombinator.com/apply](https://www.ycombinator.com/apply)

### Competition Calendars

- **GrowthMentor:** [www.growthmentor.com/blog/startup-pitch-competitions](https://www.growthmentor.com/blog/startup-pitch-competitions)
  - **Startup Savant:** [www.startupsavant.com/startup-pitch-competitions](https://www.startupsavant.com/startup-pitch-competitions)
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## Founder Support

If you need assistance with:

- **Pitch Deck Design:** Hire on Fiverr/Upwork or use Beautiful.ai
- **Financial Modeling:** Use templates from Y Combinator, SAFE agreements
- **Legal Formation:** Clerky.com, Stripe Atlas

- **Customer Testimonials:** VideoAsk.com for easy video collection
  - **Demo Videos:** Loom.com, Descript.com
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## Summary: Path to \$1M+

### Realistic 12-Month Plan:

1. **Month 1:** Apply to AWS Activate + Google Cloud AI = **\$450K** (non-dilutive) ✓ Easy approval
2. **Month 1-3:** Prepare and submit NSF SBIR = **\$305K** (non-dilutive) → 50% chance
3. **Month 2-4:** Apply to Y Combinator = **\$500K** for 7% equity → 20% chance
4. **Month 3-6:** Pitch to angel investors = **\$250K** for 10% equity → 60% chance
5. **Month 3-12:** Enter competitions = **\$50K+** (non-dilutive) → 40% chance

**Conservative Estimate:** \$450K cloud credits + \$250K angels = **\$700K** (10% equity)

**Expected Outcome:** \$450K + \$305K SBIR + \$250K angels = **\$1M+** (10% equity)

**Stretch Goal:** All above + YC = **\$1.5M+** (17% equity)

**The key is starting NOW with the no-equity, high-approval-rate programs (AWS, Google) while preparing for the longer-timeline grants and fundraising.**

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**Status:** Ready to Execute

**Updated:** December 2, 2025

**Priority:** Immediate action on AWS Activate, Google Cloud, NSF SBIR

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**Good luck! Your platform is already impressive - now it's about telling the right story to the right funders. You absolutely can secure \$1M+ in the next 12 months. **