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Sections:

Fueling the Future: Deep Tech & the NSF Regional Innovation Engine Opportunity

The Path to Profitability: How Operational Excellence Fuels Funding and Sustainable Growth

*Fueling the Future: Deep Tech & the NSF Regional Innovation Engine Opportunity*

I thought that it was interesting that Rich Sloan developed the idea, product, and company that would eventually become WAVR Technologies while he was associated with The University of Nevada, Las Vegas. At first, I thought that this was while he was a student at UNLV, but he clarified that he was actually hired or selected by the university to serve as entrepreneur in residence.

It was mentioned that the initial funding came from a number of government grants, and this is in part due to the technology risks involved in funding a business like WAVR Technologies at a very early stage. Investors will usually avoid a business that has technology risks associated with it.

There appears to be three similar sounding risk concepts related to technology: Technology Risk, Technological Risk, and Technical Risk. Price Waterhouse Cooper provides a definition of Technology risks that seems somewhat circular: “Technology risk can be described as the many risks associated with an organization’s technology” (Horton & McNichol 2024) but later on in the document there is a mention of “Emerging Tech Risk” that seems more pertinent to the type of risk associated with a company like WAVR Technologies. “Emerging Tech Risk” is related to the vulnerabilities, the lack of standards, and the uncertain outcomes that may result from emerging tech, but also the risk of failing to adopt new technologies (Horton & McNichol 2024). Hannover Re seems to use the term “Technological Risk” much in the same way that Price Waterhouse Cooper uses the term “Technology Risk” and focuses on the area of technology risk that Price Waterhouse Cooper describes as “Emerging Tech Risk” and the focus seems to be on emerging and frontier technologies (Hannover Re 2024).

Hannover Re seems to be a reinsurance business, but it isn’t clear to me if they offer some type of risk transfer solution or instrument related to technology or technological risks, if Hannover Re does offer some type of risk transfer solution, this would imply the existence of a primary insurer for technology risks. Maybe a company that specializes in Surplus Lines? My guess is that if there is insurance related to technology risk, it would have something to do with meeting an investors liquidation preference in a liquidation event.

References

Sloan, Rich. *Speaker Profile for Rich Sloan: Chief Executive Officer, WAVR Technologies.* Startup Week Las Vegas. Whova.com. Accessed on September 21, 2025

Horton, Michelle and McNichol, Elizabeth. *Technology risk: So pervasive, it’s hard to see*. Price Waterhouse Cooper. 2024. Accessed on September 21, 2025. https://www.pwc.com/us/en/services/consulting/cybersecurity-risk-regulatory/library/assets/technology-risk.pdf

Hannover Re. *Emerging Risks Insights: Technological Risks.* 2024. Accessed on September 21, 2025.