

# Founder Success Stories

## *Aurelian Manufacturing AS — The People Behind the Platform*

Four founders. Combined 60+ years of industrial, financial and technology experience. Each with a track record of building companies, delivering complex projects, and creating value in demanding sectors — from oil and gas supply chains to government-grade AI systems, from pre-seed fund management to commercial banking.

*These are their stories.*

Founder	Role	Key Background
Tore Ausland	VP Business Development	30+ years oil & gas, thermal process technology, EU project coordination
André Tandberg	CEO	Pre-seed fund management, industrial cluster development, multi-site
Henrik S. Strøm	Board / CFO pathway	7 years commercial banking, corporate advisory, cash management
Fredrik V. Vangsal	Technical Advisor	AI/IoT systems for government, sensor fusion, cloud data platforms

# Tore Ausland

**VP Business Development & Co-Founder**

## Fra boreavfall til industriell innovasjon

Tore Ausland spent over 20 years inside the supply chains of GE, FMC and Aker — performing quality assurance on critical equipment for Statoil (now Equinor), Shell and BP. As an NDT Level 3 specialist, he inspected everything from forged materials and welded structures to complete subsea production systems on both fixed and floating offshore installations.

It was here, at the intersection of offshore operations and waste logistics, that he identified a problem no one was solving well: oil-contaminated drill cuttings accumulating without effective treatment solutions.

Through Quality Group — the engineering company he founded in 1997 and scaled to 30+ engineers on client assignments — Tore developed thermal desorption process technology for treating oil-containing drilling waste. The technology moved from concept through Innovation Norway and SkatteFUNN-funded development (~20 MNOK in total project financing) to industrial operation. Today, the thermal process plant is operated by SAR at Averøy, treating drill cuttings at industrial scale.

The logical next step was taking the same thermal treatment capability offshore. Tore founded Ferdocean Shipping AS in 2018 — the first company to offer treatment of oil-containing waste directly onboard ships. A direct extension of the same core competence, but moved from land to sea.

When he later coordinated GreenOffshoreTech under the EU Horizon 2020 programme — a 5 MEUR consortium project spanning advanced manufacturing, green shipping, hydrogen/ammonia energy carriers, and circular economy — it was not a career pivot but a natural scaling of what he had always done: building industrial solutions where others see logistical problems.

**Relevance for Aurelian:** Tore has spent decades on both sides of the supplier qualification table for the exact customers Aurelian targets — defense (Kongsberg/NAMMO ecosystem via GE/FMC/Aker) and energy (Equinor/Shell/BP). His vendor inspection background means he understands what it takes to get qualified. His track record of securing institutional funding and coordinating multi-country EU projects demonstrates the execution capacity needed for Aurelian's capital-intensive scaling plan.

# André Tandberg

***CEO & Co-Founder***

## Fra butikkgulvet til styrebordet til fabrikkhallen

André Tandberg ran 10–12 Carlings retail stores with 70–80 employees, full P&L responsibility and day-to-day operational management. It sounds distant from autonomous CNC manufacturing, but this is where he learned what many technology founders lack: cost control, people management, and execution discipline.

From there, André moved into industrial cluster development at Necia Tech Cluster, where he connected manufacturing companies, technology providers and public funding instruments. He led the cluster's European certification process with ESCA and built relationships across the regional manufacturing ecosystem that would later become directly relevant for Aurelian's customer pipeline.

The pivotal step came when he became Managing Director of Østfold Follo Nyskapingsfond — a regional pre-seed investment fund. The fund was fully invested by 2022. André did not just sit on the investor side evaluating pitches; he built portfolio, managed follow-up investments, handled exit processes, and reported to the board. He knows first-hand what pre-seed investors look for, because he has been one.

In parallel, his board seat at SpareBank 1 Østfold Akershus added financial governance credibility and banking network access. His Master's degree in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from NMBU provided the strategic framework — but it was the years of store management, fund operations and project leadership that gave him the credibility to raise capital for a greenfield manufacturing platform.

**Relevance for Aurelian:** André combines operational experience, investor-side insight, industrial network access, and governance credibility in a single profile. He knows what it takes to build something from nothing — from staffing a retail floor to structuring a pre-seed fund to designing a capital-intensive scaling plan. As CEO, he brings disciplined, execution-oriented leadership to a company that must earn trust from both institutional investors and demanding industrial customers.

# Henrik Syverstad Strøm

**Board Member & Co-Founder | CFO Pathway**

## Bankmannen som gikk til startupen

Henrik Strøm spent seven years at Askim & Spydeberg Sparebank, progressing from front-line customer advisor through daily banking to cash management manager and corporate advisor. He learned how Norwegian banks evaluate credit applications, structure loan packages and price risk — from the inside.

It is precisely this competence that made him a co-founder of Aurelian Manufacturing. The company's financing strategy includes 134.3 MNOK in bank debt across Seed and Serie A rounds. Henrik knows exactly what the bank looks for, because he spent seven years sitting on the other side of the table — assessing SME credit applications, advising on liquidity optimization and structuring corporate lending.

His practical accounting experience from Abacus Økonomitjenester — handling VAT reporting, payroll administration and financial statement preparation for a portfolio of small business clients — complements the banking background with hands-on financial operations capability. Combined with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Law from BI Norwegian Business School, Henrik brings both the theoretical foundation and the practical toolset needed to build a company's financial infrastructure from day one.

At Aurelian, Henrik is on a defined CFO pathway — serving as Board Member and Co-Founder now, transitioning to full-time Chief Financial Officer post-Seed funding. He is responsible for financial structure, reporting and bank dialogue.

**Relevance for Aurelian:** Henrik's banking background is not just a line on a CV — it is a direct operational asset. When Aurelian negotiates asset-backed CNC financing with Norwegian banks, the CFO will speak the bank's own language. His combination of credit assessment experience, accounting operations and business law fundamentals provides Aurelian with a financial leader who can build management accounting, cash flow forecasting and investor reporting from scratch — while simultaneously managing the banking relationships that fund the company's growth.

# Fredrik Vereide Vangsal

*Co-Founder & Technical Advisor*

## Statsapparatets teknologimann bygger digital fabrikk

Fredrik Vangsal built Veira AS from the ground up — a technology company that today delivers AI-based traffic analysis, sensor fusion and cloud data platforms to Statens vegvesen (Norwegian Public Roads Administration), Tolletaten (Norwegian Customs), Nye Veier and Moss Municipality. These are not typical startup clients: they are government agencies with requirements for security, GDPR compliance, risk assessments and system documentation at a level comparable to the defense industry.

For Tolletaten, he designed a high-security reference system for border surveillance. For Statens vegvesen, he built sensor fusion and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems integrated with the national vehicle registry (Autosys). For Moss Municipality, he developed machine learning models for traffic analysis with high accuracy. Every project demanded the same: scalable architecture, real-time data processing, and zero margin for error.

This is exactly the competence Aurelian needs. Autonomous CNC manufacturing is not just about the machines — it is about the digital layer on top: real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, quality assurance and data flow from order to finished part. Fredrik designs this digital backbone as co-founder and technical advisor, with fresh Azure Fundamentals and Databricks Platform Architect certifications (both 2025) in his toolkit.

He and CEO André Tandberg share the same Master's programme — Innovation and Entrepreneurship at NMBU — giving them a common strategic vocabulary that makes collaboration seamless. Fredrik also studied Technology Innovation at Rice University in Houston, adding an international commercialization perspective to his technical depth.

**Relevance for Aurelian:** Fredrik's experience building production-grade AI and IoT systems for demanding government clients translates directly to Aurelian's autonomous manufacturing challenge. His work with strict security, compliance and quality requirements (GDPR, DPIA, ROS assessments) maps onto the defense and energy standards Aurelian must meet (AQAP 2110, AS9100, NORSO). As the architect of Aurelian's digital thread — from sensor integration through cloud data pipelines to quality analytics — he ensures the platform is designed correctly from day one.