

# FUELING THE FININ FINTECH



#### **Authors**



Dave Abouchar leads new fintech partnerships at Candescent (fka NCR Voyix's Digital Banking division). With a deep history in Financial Services, Dave has held senior roles companies ranging from startups to Fortune 500 giants.



Tony Erwin has 20+ years of Silicon Valley tech experience. He is currently a blockchain and digital asset consultant., and a Certified Blockchain Architect. He is an ambassador the Global Blockchain Business Council and is the state of Georgia representative for the U.S. Blockchain Coalition.



Jonathan Godbey is an Associate Clinical Professor of Finance at Georgia State University. He teaches the Foundations of FinTech course for the Georgia FinTech Academy.



Kristina Jensen recently accepted a position with AT&T, where she continues to leverage her expertise in analytics and digital solutions. Previously, she held leadership roles at DialMyApp, AT&T, Cox Communications, and BellSouth.



Glen Sarvady Managing Principal of payments strategy firm 154 Advisors, is a 25-year veteran of Atlanta's fintech community including leadership roles at CheckFree (now Fiserv), McKinsey and Deluxe. He works closely with credit unions, community banks and fintechs.

#### **Editors' Note**

For this year's edition of our annual exploration of Georgia's ecosystem, we chose to highlight the "fin" in "fintech"- the often underappreciated role of financial institutions in the equation.

The relationship between banks/credit unions and fintech firms continues to evolve, but has clearly trended in the direction of collaboration. This plays to Georgia's longstanding strengths. Our largest players- Global Payments, Fiserv, NCR Voyix, InComm and Corpay, among others- focus on providing innovative and reliable services through clients (usually FIs and merchants) rather than building their own brands with end users.

Of course there are exceptions to every rule. In this case see Greenlight, which has achieved Unicorn-level valuations (over \$1 billion) with a hybrid approach of creating consumer awareness of its family finance/card app through a robust TV ad campaign while also delivering its services through banks. Nonetheless, the solid majority of the 260+companies on our ecosystem map (pp. 9-10) operate "behind the curtain."

Thankfully, the earlier narrative of a zero-sum game in which fintechs had come to put antiquated banks out of business has largely given way to the realization that a symbiotic relationship offers rich opportunities leveraging the valuable expertise of both groups. Georgia's fintech community is well positioned to thrive in such an environment- as evidenced by the continued flow of leading firms (most recently Stripe) establishing a local presence to leverage our unique attributes in talent, expertise, diversity and access.



#### Fintech's Fuel Bridges Banking's Generation Gap

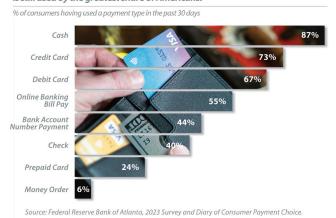
Increasingly, fintech firms are concluding that financial institutions are a highly effective revenue driver- whether as partners or customers. Banks and credit unions provide the majority of sales for most of the 260+ companies on TAG's Fintech Ecosystem Map. (see pages 9-10)

The synergies across these groups are evident. Banks and credit unions need help in modernizing their tech stacks and building product offerings that appeal to a new generation of consumers and business customers. Fintechs need access to a broad base of customers and the "trusted agent" status Fls have earned over time. Fintechs can also benefit from Fls' demonstrated compliance expertise in navigating a highly regulated financial services industry.

Despite the marketing success of "non-banks" like Chime and SoFi, the fact remains that with very few exceptions, a licensed bank or credit union is a necessary player in virtually all US money movement. It's worth noting that SoFi has acquired a bank charter, while Chime processes payments through partnerships with a pair of FDIC insured banks.

Data from the Atlanta Fed- which leads payment research for the entire US Federal Reserve System-confirms that over three-quarters of US payments are made via debit, credit or prepaid card. Georgia fintechs play a dominant role in enabling these transactions (think Global Payments, Fiserv, FIS, InComm, Corpay), giving rise to the oft-quoted metric that two-thirds of US card transactions are processed by companies with significant Georgia presence. Georgia companies play similarly key roles in the remaining payment types such as check (Deluxe) and ACH (Fiserv, FIS)- again facilitated through banks.

Although most consumer transactions are made by credit/debit card, cash is still used by the greatest share of Americans.

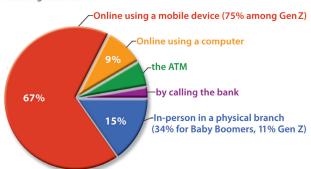


A separate Atlanta Fed study of consumer behavior offers a different perspective. Despite Americans' affinity for cards cash continues to hold the broadest reach, with 87% of consumers making a cash transaction in a typical 30-day period (compared to 73% and 67% for credit and debit cards, respectively), even as debit underpins the greatest number of transactions. This data is an important reminder that consumers value a variety of payment options, providing fuel for the innovative models of countless entrepreneurs.

As a new feature of this year's report, TAG's Fintech Society collaborated with the Georgia Fintech Academy to conduct a survey of 1,600+ consumers to better understand banking attitudes across multiple demographics. Our sample includes over 900 responses from Generation Z consumers, generating insights into a cohort of particular interest to financial services firms.

Our ongoing research reveals several key takeaways, challenging some commonly held perceptions while confirming others. For instance:

Most US consumers, across all age groups, are "mobile-first" banking customers



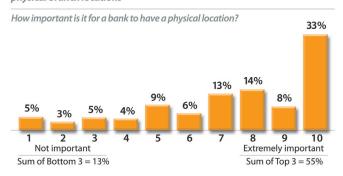
Source: TAG Fintech/Georgia Fintech Academy Consumer Banking Survey

- More than two-thirds of consumers are "mobile-first," reporting that they primarily engage with their FI through a mobile device. As expected this is most true of Generation Z (75%) but 67% and 60% of Millennials and Gen X, respectively, are also strong mobile users. When access via computer is added, even a majority of Baby Boomers (56%) prefer online options. Non-mobile online preference drops sharply between Gen X and Millennials.
- Contrary to the prevailing narrative, a solid majority of consumers continue to place importance on their FI having a physical location- even if they seldom visit branches. Although only 15% of respondents prefer the branch channel, all age groups value the availability of in-person support should the need arise.

- Perhaps most surprisingly, Gen Z's attitudes are not materially different from the population as a whole. For instance, 52% of Gen Z ranked branch access as important, a unexpectedly small gap from other age cohorts (sequentially increasing to 66% for Baby Boomers).
- Gen Z has lower trust in all types of financial institutions than do older cohorts. However, trust in online banks across all age groups is notably lower (by roughly half) than for other FI categorieslarge national banks, community banks, credit unions- each of which polled fairly similarly. It's unclear whether the underlying reasons extend beyond the lack of branch access. The primary motivator for those selecting an online bank appears to be early wage access.

Overall, customers are seeking a blend of modern digital tools and personalized, responsive service to enhance their banking experience. Such information is highly valuable to fintechs, whether in tailoring consumer direct strategies or better understanding bank/credit union pain points in order to address their needs as customers.

#### Contrary to popular belief, most US consumers still value physical branch locations



Source: TAG Fintech/Georgia Fintech Academy Consumer Banking Survey

Data from FT Partners documents the decline in investment dollars flowing into fintechs compared to an overheated 2021-22 period marked by ultralow interest rates and a "grow at all costs" playbook. Rather than collapsing, however, the market has largely stabilized at levels in line with 2019-20. Moreover, the number of financing deals has remained relatively steady throughout, implying that the perception of a "fintech funding winter" was driven by the absence of super-sized funding rounds for late-stage startups as well as lower valuations.

Investment in US fintechs returned to historical levels after heavy 2021-22 inflows. The number of deals, meanwhile, has remained fairly steady.



The Georgia Fintech Academy, a first-of-its-kind education and talent development initiative spanning all 26 public institutions across the University System of Georgia, recently achieved a pair of key milestones. Now completing its fifth academic year of operation, the GFTA has delivered college-level courses to over 10,000 students.

The fintech ecosystem draws upon a wealth of talents extending well beyond coding. Even for those pursuing non-STEM degrees, exposure to the foundational aspects of fintechs provides perspectives that will prove valuable in a multitude of roles across many career paths.

With more than 42,500 FTEs employed in Georgia's constantly expanding fintech ecosystem- and a pperpetual demand for talent from both within and beyond the state's borders- such initiatives are essential to supporting and continually refreshing a sector with boundless oportunities for growth and innovation.

#### **About the Survey**

TAG's Fintech Society, with input from the Independent Community Bankers Association, designed a survey exploring US consumers' banking behaviors and attitudes. Georgia Fintech Academy students recruited 1,633 individuals to complete this survey across June-July 2024.

By design, the population oversampled Generation Z consumers (born 1995-2012) to emphasize insights from this key demographic. We also obtained meaningful samples of 110-330 responses from each of these groups: Baby Boomers (born 1946-64), Generation X (1965-79) and Millennials (1980-94).

This survey is an ongoing initiative, with students analyzing the results as part of a classroom project with additional review/analysis from industry leaders. We welcome community input to help refine future iterations.

#### The "Death of the Branch" is Mostly Overstated

It's become conventional wisdom that no one goes to bank branches anymore- particularly customers under the age of 40- and that branches are rapidly joining rotary phones and VCRs as relics of bygone eras. There's a problem with that storyline, thougha closer look at the data reveals a more nuanced picture.

According to Bancography's analysis of Georgia bank branch counts over 20 years, Georgia reached an alltime high of 5,250 branches in 2008, coinciding with the start of the Great Recession. Since then Georgia has lost 15% of its branches- an average of 47 per year-leaving 4,495 as of year-end 2024. The greatest declines occurred as part of COVID's upheaval (2021-22) and also in 2017. Since then, net branch losses have slowed to their lowest figures since 2009.

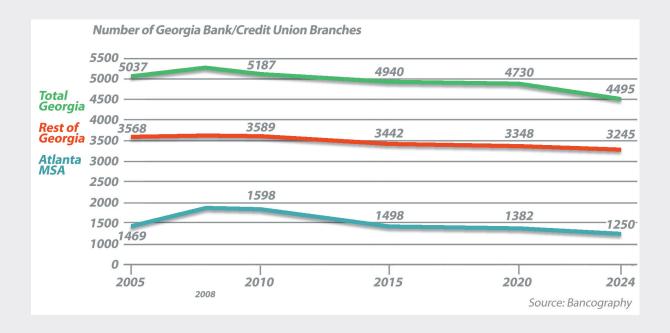
A more granular breakdown highlights some different trends. Over the past decade credit unions have actually \*added\* six branches, while banks shed 500. The lost branches are evenly split between Metro Atlanta and the rest of the state. Given that

72% of Georgia branches are located outside Metro Atlanta this means ATL's rate of decline has been more than twice as high (17% vs. 6%). This is hardly comforting for those in remote communities left with long drives to their nearest branch, however.

Slicing the data another way, roughly 80% of closures since 2014 have come from Georgia's top ten nameplates (by deposit share). This reflects well on Georgia's community banks, which have contracted by less than three percent of their branches over the past decade.

It's worth noting that branches are being opened as well as closed- Georgia has averaged 50 new branches over the past seven years, even in the COVID years marked by the highest number of closures.

Data courtesy of www.bancography.com, whose 2025 Industry Outlook is now available at https://bancography.com/outlook2025/



#### The Rise of AI- A Real Transformation Play for Banks and Credit Unions



By Abhinav Vij Co-Founder, Sirius Al

Data analytics and machine learning have been integral to the financial services industry for over two decades, transforming key domains such as marketing, sales, credit underwriting, fraud detection, customer retention, process automation and pricing. These technologies have consistently delivered value, enabling efficiency, precision, and growth.

While large language models (LLMs) have been in development for years, their capabilities went mainstream in late 2022 with the launch of ChatGPT, ushering in a new era of financial services transformation through Generative AI.

By Sirius Al's estimates, Generative Al will impact 70% of financial services use cases within the next two years.

For 20% of use cases Generative AI now tackles previously unaddressed workflows, solving challenges previously constrained by ROI or technical limitations from Traditional(Core) AI.

The adoption of AI in banking and credit unions started with Traditional (Core) AI used to transforming functions such as risk management, customer acquisition, cross-selling, and operations. Generative AI follows a more focused path, that addresses narrow, well-defined workflows rather than complete functional overhauls as of now.

This measured approach recommended by Sirius AI reflects the deliberate strategies of financial institutions, driven by two factors:

- 1. Experimentation to Balance Risk and Return:
  Banks and credit unions are piloting Generative
  Al in specific use cases to assess impact and
  minimize risks before expanding adoption.
- Agent-Based Deployment: Generative AI is used to process complex data, generate insights, and provide tailored outputs. This requires fine-tuning models with proprietary data to align with the unique knowledge and processes of each institution.

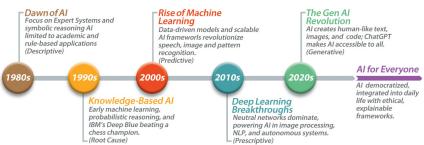
While initial applications have been domainspecific, early successes pave the way for broader adoption. For example, a New York-based bank used Generative AI to analyze transaction data and generate actionable insights for senior executives, cutting analysis time from days to minutes.

#### **Key Components for Success**

The success of Generative AI deployments in financial services depends on three critical components:

- 1. **Proprietary Data**: Leveraging internal, highvalue data is essential for creating differentiated Al capabilities that drive bottom-line value.
- 2. **Advanced Models**: Access to sophisticated Al tools from providers like OpenAl and Meta enables seamless integration into workflows and allows the models to evolve with the underlying technology.
- 3. **Structured Data Enablement**: Access to well-organized and actionable data, whether through internal systems or fintech partnerships, accelerates the adoption of Al initiatives, helping financial institutions implement use cases more efficiently.

Evaluate how you want to leverage pre-packaged solutions vs developing custom systems or integrating third-party tools, the focus remains on balancing impact, speed, and cost.



## Transforming Functions – Where AI is Being Deployed

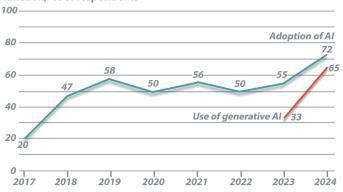
Generative AI transforms financial services through highly domain-specific workflows that change how tasks are executed and insights consumed.

For instance, front office employees benefit from dynamically generated insights tailored to specific problems they face, delivered in visual, conversational formats. Similarly, data and technology teams experience greater productivity as Generative AI reduces the burden of custom data and insight requests.

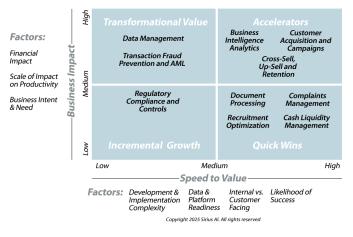
#### From Tasks to Agent-Based Workflows

Generative AI evolves from handling individual tasks to **agent-based deployments**, where an orchestrator AI coordinates workflows across specialized models, APIs, and processes.

Organizations that have adopted AI in at least 1 business function, 1% of respondents



#### Business Impact and Speed to Value



Generative Al's ability to orchestrate workflows and deliver actionable insights is revolutionizing how financial institutions operate, driving innovation and efficiency across workflows.

#### Making AI Actionable: How to get Started?

Success with AI begins with identifying and prioritizing use cases based on two key factors: **Business Impact and Speed to Value**.

In our experience, some of the most impactful use cases end up being Accelerators or Quick wins but the priority is very specific for every Bank or Credit Union.

Evaluation Framework recommended by Sirius AI:

- Align Al with Organizational Priorities: Start with brainstorming and prioritizing Al use cases that align with strategic objectives. Misaligned implementations often become experiments without meaningful traction.
- Leverage Expertise: Consider accelerators like external partnerships or fintech solutions to build the foundation and train internal teams. Starting internally without expertise can slow progress and dilute results.
- 3. **Adopt a Full-Stack Approach**: Generative Al alone isn't the solution. High performing financial institutions use a mix of data science, machine learning, automation, and Gen Al to address diverse challenges effectively.

SiriusAl provides financial institutions, payments companies, and Fintechs with Al Consulting and development of measurable outcomes with Al Solutions. SiriusAl is proud to serve multiple banks, fintechs, and other institutions across Georgia. Learn more at www.SiriusAl.com/

#### Three Digital Asset Forces Driving Significant Changes in Traditional Finance



By Tony Erwin

The constant stream of digital asset news can be overwhelming. Distilling this activity to what truly matters provides crucial insight into the industry's future. I see three "forces" rapidly developing and gathering steam in 2025. I call them "forces" because they are forcing traditional financial organizations and enterprises alike to take a hard look at what is coming and driving change in how they do business. These forces are treasury management, tokenization of real-world assets (RWA), and stablecoin and

The second force, RWA tokenization, is the technology that allows the creation of a digital representation of a physical asset such as US Treasuries, real estate, precious metals, stocks and bonds. This digital representation can then be made available on a blockchain and used for trading, as leverage, earning yield in DeFi, and more. According to Citi, "Tokenization is expected to grow by a factor of 80x in private markets and reach up to almost \$4 trillion in value by 2030." The chart above displays the rapid growth in recent years. This enormous demand is being driven by the 24/7 availability on-chain, composability, access to global liquidity, and transparency. In a recent report about tokenized financial assets, McKinsey & Company said, "Adoption is not yet widespread, but

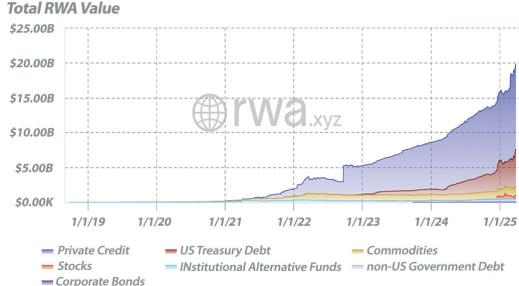
> financial institutions with blockchain capabilities in place will have a strategic advantage."

> The final force to discuss is the activity around the globe regarding Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) and stablecoins. Virtually every major central bank in the world is exploring a CBDC. The Bank for International Settlements (BIS), based in Switzerland and owned by the world's 63 largest central banks, refers to itself as "a bank for central banks." The BIS is actively working on multiple projects for

central banks." The BIS
is actively working on
multiple projects for
"next-generation financial infrastructures", including
CBDCs, in order to "respond to the technological
innovation that is rapidly transforming the financial
landscape".

All three of these changes mentioned will undoubtedly bring tremendous shifts in how traditional finance works today and what we think of as "money." Financial institutions and enterprises alike should be looking at each of these forces and determining where and how their organization may need to respond.

Tony Erwin is the State of Georgia Representative for the U.S. Blockchain Coalition (USBC) and an ambassador for the Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC).



central bank digital currency advancements. A treasury-backed token, such as those from Ondo Finance, is a digital representation of a U.S. Treasury bill typically backed 1:1 by a pool of U.S. T-Bills and USD. There are already over \$5.2B of tokenized US treasuries and their use is growing rapidly. The growing popularity of this offering is due to liquidity management, participation in DeFi (Decentralized Finance), plus instant 24/7 redeemability and access to the funds. Players in this space include Blackrock, Franklin Templeton, Mountain, Ondo, and OpenEden, among others. This is effectively like getting access to a savings account on a blockchain offering higher yields and more flexible investment options but backed by US Treasuries.

#### Why TTV Capital Invested in a B2B Stablecoin Company



By Neil Kapur, TTV Capital

Our investment approach at TTV has always been one of "inductive reasoning." We work to identify a problem first through observable events, then search for founders who are building applications that leverage emerging technologies to solve the problem. We've seen the biggest opportunities when new technologies become relevant to a specific problem, rather than trying to fit a technology into the business model because it's trendy.

The complex and lengthy settlement time for cross-border payments has long been a challenge for consumers and businesses alike. For decades, sending payments internationally required utilizing a service like Western Union or MoneyGram to move funds, which is costly and takes days to settle, with many humans in the loop. Service providers like PayPal, Wise, and Payoneer are able to hold local balances, which speeds up the process but comes with hefty fees for each transaction.

In announcing his company's \$1 billion acquisition of stablecoin platform Bridge last fall, Stripe CEO Patrick Collison predicted that "businesses around the world will benefit from significant speed, coverage, and cost improvements" from the use of stablecoins. Bridge's founder Zach Abrams envisions stablecoins becoming "a core, global, regulated payment platform."

Bridge – along with other startups that are using stablecoins to settle international payments, like TTV portfolio company Higlobe – are disruptors turning the current fee-based model on its head. Since stablecoin settlement takes seconds and costs cents (or even fractions of a cent), the entire paradigm for international payments becomes ripe for reinvention. Companies leveraging stablecoin infrastructure no longer need to rely on transaction-oriented fees to cover the high cost of moving funds; instead, an entirely new monetization approach is suddenly economically viable – for example, charging a monthly or annual subscription fee to send potentially unlimited transfers.

This framework is likely another reason why Bridge was appealing to Stripe; incumbents recognize the need to adapt, but many are unable or unwilling to

do so if it cannibalizes their current business model. Stripe sees where the industry is headed and is positioning its business for the future.

Higlobe was founded in 2020 with a vision to move the world's money instantly and at no cost. To make that vision a reality, Higlobe has built unique infrastructure; the company has relationships with banks to take payments in fiat currency, settle with stablecoin, then disburse through local bank or card partners. The company's proprietary network enables real-time global settlement at effectively zero cost.

Higlobe's laser focus on global B2B payments is an important differentiator. This vision led us to make our initial investment in February 2022. Today, Higlobe remains the only stablecoin payments platform focused exclusively on serving mainstream professionals and businesses.

In addition to its proprietary network, Higlobe stands out for its enterprise-grade security and regulatory compliance. The company is registered as a Money Services Business (MSB) and is regulated by the U.S. Treasury Department's FinCEN. Higlobe uses USDC to settle transactions, which holds itself to accountability and transparency with regard to reserves. It is our understanding that Higlobe is the only stablecoin player with SOC 2 Type II certification.

TTV Capital's Eight Fintech Unicorn Investments To Date

Bill	Greenlight
Cardlytics	MX
Featurespace	SmartAsset
Greendot	TaxBit

**Green** denotes Georgia-based companies

Higlobe may be TTV's first stablecoin investment, but it likely won't be our last. As we've seen with the internet, cloud, mobile, and now Generative AI, enabling technologies have the potential to turn specific, complex problems into massive market opportunities.

Neil Kapur is a Partner at TTV Capital, where he focuses on early-stage investments. Since its founding in 2000, Atlanta-based TTV Capital has invested \$750M+ in more than 100 early-stage fintech companies across six funds.

#### Georgia's Thriving and Constantly Evolving Fintech Ecosystem

**Private Fintech Companies** 

Aiazing Alogent

Appraisal Bureau

Apptega Aptys

Aquina Health

Arbo Arcanum Arcum Auditocity

Aurora Payments

Avivatech BabyFever

Bank of America Merchant Services

**Bank Shot** 

Benchmark Technology Group

Believ Al

Better Forecasting
Bitcoin Depot
BitMinutes
BitPay
BlinkSky
Blue Penguin

Bluefin Payment Systems Brightwell Payments

Buckle
bZx
CampBX
Candescent
CAN Capital
Cantaloupe
Capital on Tap

CardSystems Solutions

Carputty

Castles Technology

CATALIS
Catbird
CeloPay
Charityvest
Cinc Systems
Cloverly
Codoxo
Coinwallet

ConnexPay

Construction Check
CoreCard Software

Corlytics

Corserv
Curae
CypherFace
DataSeers
DefenseStorm
Defer Ally
Defynance

Delta Data Software

DialMyApp Digilence

Digital Opportunities Group

Ditch

**Drum Technologies** 

eBanqo Econocheck eCredable EnrichHER Entersekt Epoc Harvest eStreamly

eVance Processing
FactorCloud
Featurespace
FI Navigator
FilmHedge
Finastra
Fincast

Findevor FINEOS Finosec FinQuery FINSYNC Finwello

First Performance Global

FirstView Fold FormFree

FSS Technologies
Funding University

Gabriel Money

GHX qoEBT Good Agriculture

GoProcure Gravy

Green Payment Processing
Greenlight Financial Technology

GreenSky
Greenwood
GroundFloor
Guap Coin
H2cryptO

**Hive Financial Systems** 

iCoreConnect
IDology
iLumen
InComm
Infinite Giving
Ingo Money
Instant Financial
InsurAware

International Payments Processing
IPC Systems
Ivy Lender
Jootal

Intellekt

Keep Financial
KyckGlobal
Layr
Lazlo

Ledgible
Lending Science
LendingPoint
MapZot Al
MassPay
MAXEX
MaxRewards
Medxoom
MerchantE
MeridianLink
MessageGears

Momnt Technologies

myFloc

MicroBilt

Nasdag eVestment

Nectar

NetRoadshow

Neuravest

nFront Security

Novae NOW Nxt Moves

Oceanviews Al Octave

OmegaFi Orion

Oversight Systems P2PCash

ParkMobile Patientco PayDN

Payrix Payroc Payscape

PaySett
Pidgin
Pindrop

Polygon.io PPRO

PrimeRevenue Prolific Banking ProText

Purchasing Power

Pull Logic Rainbook Rainforest

Relay Payments Revel Systems

Rialtic Roadie RoadSync Safe Systems Safely

SAI Global US SavaPay

Secure Bancard Securegive

Sionic SmartPath Sobi Analytics Softgiving Splitit Springbot

Stance (Aegis LLC)

Stax

Steady Strategic Link Studious Solutions

Sunday Swipe Credit

Systems & Methods Inc. (SMI)

Tax Closure
TaxSlayer
Telrock
TermStreet
Tern

Thanks Again TIFIN Wealth TmrO

TransacXion Technologies Transend Financial Trusted Sale

Uberfi UL Unscrambl Urjanet

Vanco Payment Solutions

Verdata Verde International

Vericast
VeriCheck (VCI)
Verifacto

Verifone VerticeAl Vesta Viking Cloud Vital4

VIVA Finance Voyatek

VSoft Wayflyer

Wealth Migrate
Worldnet Payments

Worldpay Yellow Card Yonga Tech Zurly **Public Fintech Companies** 

ACI Worldwide (NASDAQ: ACIW)

ADP (NASDAQ: ADP)

American Express (NYSE: AXP) (includes Kabbage)

Atlanticus Holdings (NASDAQ: ATLC)
Bakkt BTC (USD) (NYSE: BKKT)

Block (NYSE: SQ) (Includes CashApp)
Bottomline Technologies (NASDAQ: EPAY)

Cardlytics (NASDAQ: CDLX)
CoreLogic (NYSE: CLGX)
Corpay (NYSE: CPAY)
Deluxe (NYSE: DLX)
Ebix (NASDAQ: EBIX)
Equifax (NYSE: EFX)

EVO Payments Inc (NASDAQ: EVOP)

FIS (NYSE: FIS) ((includes 45% stake in Worldpay)

Fiserv (NASDAQ: FISV) Global Payments (NYSE:GPN)

InterContinental Exchange (NYSE: ICE)

Invesco (NYSE: IVZ)
IOU Financial (CVE: IOU)

Jack Henry & Associates, Inc. (NASDAQ: JKHY) LexisNexis Risk Solutions (NASDAQ: RELX) Morgan Stanley (NYSE: MS) (includes E\*Trade)

nCino (NASDAQ: NCNO) NCR Atleos (NYSE: NATL) NCR Voyix (NYSE: VYX) Paya (NASDAQ: PAYA)

Priority Technology Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ: PRTH)

Q2 (Gro Solutions) (NYSE: QTWO)
Repay Holdings (NASDAQ: RPAY)
Synchrony Financial (NYSE: SYF)
Transunion (NYSE: TRU)

Transunion (NYSE: TRU)

Trust Stamp (NASDAQ: IDAI)

U.S. Bancorp (NYSE:USB) (includes Elavon)

VISA (NYSE:V)

Worldline (OTCMKTS: WRDLY) (includes Ingenico)

This is a crowdsourced initiative; if you aware of Georgia companies not on our list reach

out with details.

Find more information on these companies

and ongoing updates at:

https://www.tagonline.org/societies/fintech/

fintech-companies/

## Georgia's Thriving and Constantly Evolving Fintech Ecosystem Notable Mergers, Acquisitions and Funding Events

2025 (through mid-April)

Global Payments announced a definitive agreement to acquire Worldpay from GTCR and FIS for \$24.25 billion

In a concurrent transaction to the above, FIS announced a definitive agreement to acquire Global Payments' Issuer Solutions business (essentially the legacy TSYS business it acquired in 2019) to FIS for \$13.5 billion

Corpay acquires Brazilian vehicle payment company Gringo

Vocap Partners announced it has exceeded the \$100 million goal for its early-growth equity fund with a focus on B2B software companies addressing fintech, supply chain, and health care

Trust Stamp announces a reverse stock split as well as a \$3.5 million direct stock offering

### 2024

NCR Voyix sold its digital banking business, which was renamed Candescent, to Veritas Capital for \$2.4 billion. Canapi Ventures subsequently made an additional investment into Candescent.

Visa acquires Featurespace for an undisclosed sum (Featurespace had been identified as a "Unicorn," implying a valuation of over \$1 billion)

Fisery acquires earned wage access provider Payfare

Corpay acquires cross-border payments company GPS

InComm acquires digital gift card provider Mafin

Global Payments acquires UK firm TakePayments

FLEETCOR rebrands as Corpay (NYSE: CPAY)

Venture capital, IPO and spinoff transactions

Mergers and acquisitions

#### 2023

Momnt raises \$15 million in equity capital

OneTrust secures \$150 million investment led by Generation Investment Management

Rainforest secured \$11.75 million in seed funding, including \$8.5 million equity

NCR completed its split into two public companies, NCR

Atleos (ATM-focused) and NCR Voyix (Digital Commerce-focused)

Splitt secures a \$50 million investment from Motive Partners

TTV Capital closed its sixth fund at \$250 million, reflecting a \$100 million oversubscription

Greenwood acquires Kinly and The Gathering Spot

NOW Corp launched a \$225 million credit facility, backed by Goldman Sachs and the Urban Investment Group

Goldman Sachs sells GreenSky to a consortium led by investment firm Sixth Street

Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) bought Black Knight for \$12 billion, rebrands the unit to Dark Matter Technologies

FIS sold a controlling interest in Worldplay to private equity firm GTCR in a transaction valued at \$18 billion (with FIS retaining a 45% non-controlling stake in Worldpay)

Fleetcor bought Mina EV Charging

## 2022

Bakkt acquires Apex Crypto LLC for up to \$200 million (combined cash and stock)

ConnexPay received a \$110 million investment led by FTV Capital

Global Payments agrees to acquire EVO Payments for \$4 billion

Global Payments sold the consumer portion of its Netspend business to Searchlight Capital

Urjanet is acquired by Arcadia for an undisclosed amount

DefenseStorm completed a \$15M Series C raise led by JAM FINTOP

Ledgible raises \$20 million in Series A funding from investors including EJF Capital, TTV Capital and Thomson Reuters Ventures

Keep Financial raises \$9 million in seed funding led by Andreesen Horowitz

FilmHedge closes \$100 million in debt financing

Intercontinental Exchange announces plan to acquire Black Knight for \$13.1 billion

FIS acquires Payrix for \$800 million

nCino acquires SimpleNexus for about \$270 million

Merchant e-Solutions is acquired by Integrum Holdings from Cielo for \$290 million

Groundfloor announces \$118 million in investments from Medipower and a large number of individual investors

Verdata raises \$3 million in seed funding

Wayflyer raises \$150m in Series B financing co-led by DST Global and QED Investors

REPAY acquires Payix for \$115 million

Trust Stamp begins trading publicly on NASDAQ (ticker symbol IDAI)

## Follow the Money - Building a Thriving Payments Banking Practice in Georgia



By Nathan Ottinger

Every business needs a solid corporate banking relationship. For those in the Payments/Fintech industry, where moving money and financial data is the core business, a banking partner's expertise and transaction reliability are of even greater importance. For this very reason, Georgia Banking Company (GBC) decided to build its payments and technology banking practice in Georgia.

GBC's investment thesis in building out its payments practice focused on three key business drivers: access to talent, access to clients, and access to decision-makers. The payments business at GBC could not have been built and scaled without access to a deep pool of banking, risk management, payments operations, and compliance experts. Our clients require such expertise to support their unique business requirements. The local talent available to GBC has the requisite experience and possesses skills that are as unique as they are essential in the payments banking world. These capabilities have allowed GBC to scale from \$600 million to \$2.4 billion in assets over the past four years.

Georgia is well known for its global payments prowess, with large corporate names such as Global Payments, Fiserv, Equifax, and Corpay. Equally important for a \$2.4 billion asset-sized bank like GBC are the hundreds of emerging growth businesses like OnPay, Nxt-Moves, and Priority Payments that require payment transaction expertise to continue building their businesses.

A payments company's choice of a banking partner is a highly strategic decision. Ongoing access to bank decision-makers enhances clients' prospects for success. GBC is fortunate to be located geographically in the center of Georgia's payments environment, a landscape that will continue to drive growth for both Georgia Banking Company and its clients.

Nathan Ottinger is President of Payments & Technology Banking at Georgia Banking Company. GeorgiaBanking. com | Member FDIC

#### Good Agriculture Wins Tenth Annual TAG Fintech Innovation Challenge

Good Agriculture, an Atlanta-based startup with a mission to help community farmers find new funding sources, manage their finances and reach more customers, won TAG FinTech's 2024 Innovation Challenge.

Co-Founder Alex Edquist accepted the \$25,000 cash grant on the main stage of Fintech South following a pitch-off that also included finalists Better Forecasting and Ditch. Their business models were assessed by a panel of judges that included representatives from the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office, Truist Bank, TTV Capital, the Independent Community Bankers of America, and fast-growing Atlanta startup Momnt.

In a highly bifurcated farming industry, Good Agriculture focuses on supporting community farmers-essentially small businesses, often sole proprietors and/or family operations still keeping records on pen and paper in their "spare time." In such a scenario, even the task of gathering documentation to apply for credit can be overwhelming. In a highly regulated industry, the nuances of taxes and required filings are also daunting.

According to Edquist, the average age of a US farm owner is 59. Good Agriculture has first built traction with a younger generation of farmers, however, providing bookkeeping support as well as identifying available grant opportunities. Most small farms can be eligible for as many as 25 such programs.

Co-Founder Kirsten Simmons is herself a farmer, and also a data scientist- a dual threat in identifying pain points and opportunities to streamline administrative processes.

Soon after winning Innovation Challenge honors Good Agriculture closed \$650,000 of pre-seed funding, and plans to pursue a seed round in 2025.

## Past TAG Fintech Innovation Challenge Winners:

2023 - Vertice Al

2022 - Arcum

2021 - Yunit

2020 - EnrichHer

2019 - StackFolio

2018 - Qoins

2017 - Truststamp

2016 - Split

2015 - DoubleNet Pay



#### Georgia's Financial Services Regulatory Landscape



By Barry Hester Counsel, Alston & Bird LLP

Georgia's financial services industry operates within a well-developed but evolving regulatory framework. The state's history and promising future as a hub for technology services and payments make it an attractive choice for early-stage companies, established providers with aims to expand or establish a U.S. presence, and investors looking to draw on its talent pool and other resource advantages. Compliance requirements can impact such plans, and the financial services industry is among the most highly regulated in the U.S. Through a range of bank and non-bank charter and license types, and a flexible approach to regulated activities generally, the state boasts a friendly environment in which do to business from a regulatory perspective.

#### **Banking and Related Charters**

Georgia is home to hundreds of state-chartered banks, credit unions, and similar institutions that are authorized to conduct deposit and related banking activities. The state's banking regulators can also charter non-depository trust companies and other specialized institution types. Both state-chartered and federally chartered depository institutions benefit from laws that facilitate the conduct of banking business across state lines, an increasingly important consideration for mobile, digital, and other modern offerings. In addition to the state's Department of Banking and Finance, Georgia's depository institutions are commonly subject to supervision and regulation by a number of federal agencies such as the FDIC and OCC, most of which maintain regional or supervisory offices in Georgia. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta continues to play a major role in the industry's product and regulatory developments.

#### **Non-Bank Licensure**

In addition to depository institutions, Georgia's regulators administer a variety of non-bank licenses under applicable law, including money transmitters, check cashers, installment lenders, and mortgage brokers. These license types address specific forms of payments and lending activities and are usually less burdensome to acquire than a banking charter. Unlike most state and federal banking charters, however, these license types generally do not authorize interstate activity and are driven by the state in which

a provider's borrowers or other customers reside. In recent years, Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) and similar initiatives have taken steps to facilitate the conduct of multi-state payments or lending business by such licensees. For example, under these initiatives, a provider can submit certain common application elements to a central clearinghouse (the NMLS system) for concurrent review by regulators from multiple states. Georgia has been active in this area and has also taken steps to adopt model legislation that has resulted in some additional efficiency for non-bank licensees.

#### **Key Consumer Protection Laws**

Major policy focal points reflected in Georgia's financial services laws address customer protection matters, both from the standpoint of required disclosures intended to highlight applicable fees and other material terms, and from the perspective of the overall safety and soundness of the provider. These can apply differently to different types of providers but generally seek to ensure transparency and the protection of customer assets. For example, the state's licensed money transmitters are required to meet minimum net worth and other solvency requirements. State regulators examine both bank and non-bank providers on a regular basis.

#### **Overlay of Federal Laws**

Even if a Georgia institution is not FDIC- or National Credit Union Administration (NCUA)-insured, a variety of federal laws can apply to its activities, such as the Truth in Lending Act. The intersection of federal and state financial services regulations can be a complex matter, as illustrated by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision earlier this year in Cantero v. Bank of America, N.A. In general, federal law takes priority in the event of a conflict but can often be supplemented by the standards of a more rigorous state law and in other circumstances.

## Considerations and Takeaways for Doing Fintech Business in Georgia

Partnerships between banks and non-banks, and the delivery of financial services generally, involve a variety of regulatory considerations. Chief among these are a particular partner's authority to conduct regulated activities and the responsibilities of each partner for addressing applicable laws and regulations. Georgia's framework for licensing and supervising its bank and non-bank financial institutions provides a relatively clear and business-forward environment for authorizing and allocating these activities and responsibilities.

#### AML Compliance is a Two-Way Street



By **Sarah Beth Felix** CAMS, M.F.S. President | Palmera Consulting LLC

Most people attribute the United States' status as a global leader in fintech startups to our entrepreneurial "land of opportunity" culture and robust venture capital markets. A less appreciated factor is likely our relatively nascent regulatory environment compared to other developed nations as well as smaller and emerging economies. As we've seen throughout 2023 and 2024, an unclear regulatory environment can breed innovation, but not necessarily responsible innovation. It shifts the regulatory burden onto hyper-regulated entities – bank partners – that serve as the on-ramp to the fintech's financial ecosystem. Without bank partners, there is no "fin" in fintech.

While many fintech advisors and agencies will point to a wide array of US regulations, they are typically speaking of state-level consumer or lending compliance. The majority of enforcement actions levied against banks, however, involve antimoney laundering (AML) and Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) sanctions compliance. This nuanced but critical aspect of any financial product must be at the center of any innovation. Instead, what we often see is a tangle of issues that wind up stifling financial inclusion and innovation. We've long struggled with most bankers "zoning out" as soon as someone starts talking about AML compliance.

Based on my 20+ year experience in the AML world, we are still seeing that most bankers don't give enough focus to AML compliance until it's too late. This leaves bank partners not asking the questions or requiring the right AML compliance framework for their fintech/BaaS clients. Fintechs, often with little to no AML regulatory oversight, rely on bank partners for this expertise and can develop a false sense of security.

It doesn't stop there. Many venture capital firms do not sufficiently review AML in their due diligence before investing in a fintech. There are many pain points encouraging innovation, but not an equal focus on a solution's associated AML and sanctions threats. Both of these aspects are inherent in the ideation process. It is a murky, muddy swamp of unclear expectations, outdated views of AML risks, and confusing regulations. As we saw in 2024's

Synapse Banking as a Service fiasco, the ripple effect that can be detrimental to any fintech, at any stage – from original tech stack to IPO.

The bright side of this problem – while we wait for clear definitions and regulations pertaining to fintechs – is that the tech part of fintechs are best positioned to incorporate AML and sanctions compliance as early as they can in their tech stack. There are several benefits to this –

1 It future proofs the fintech as regulatory expectations will most certainly catch up

2 it establishes the fintech as the expert on the money laundering and sanctions threats pertaining to their particular products, generating market and investor confidence

3 If a fintech is de-risked, it is better prepared to be onboarded by a bank partner because they the framework is appropriate for their specific threat matrix, not just a generic bank partner checklist

4 For fintechs aiming to do business outside of the U.S., it prepares the company for what other countries – from Bahrain to Brazil – require from an AML perspective

5 It demonstrates to investors that AML and sanctions compliance is a top priority for the fintech rather than an afterthought, which should streamline any fundraising round

Banks have a regulatory obligation to vet fintech partners. However fintechs should in return always, always vet bank partners. If a bank is not requiring much of a fintech, that is a sign of future derisking risk. It's a sign that there will be regulatory criticism or orders that require that bank to tighten procedures, which often leads to jettisoning fintech relationships. This is where benefit #1 from that list really pays off- when fintechs invest resources into hiring in-house AML experts- rather than compliance generalists- roadblocks to growth can be avoided further down the road.

Innovation and fintechs thrive when there are longterm, stable relationships with bank partners – and both the fintech and the bank are pulling their own threat-specific weight.

Sarah Beth Felix has over 20 years of experience in AML and sanctions with operational, audit and consulting roles, working with banks, payment firms, and global Fintechs.

#### The Rise of Blockchain in Metro Atlanta



By Marlon Williams

Metro Atlanta has long been recognized as a national hub for financial technology with global reach in payments and financial services processing. The city's fintech ecosystem has processed 300 billion payment transactions to date, employs over 42,500 people, and is home to six of the ten largest U.S. payment processing firms. Georgia's "Transaction Alley" is responsible for over two-thirds of U.S. card transactions, with 275 fintech companies generating billions in revenue. Beneath the surface of this fintech stronghold, another technological revolution is quietly taking root—blockchain, crypto and Web3.

Blockchain represents a shift in how we think about finance, data security, and digital ownership, and Atlanta is uniquely positioned to be a leader in this transformation.

Georgia's role in blockchain goes back further than some might realize. The city has already made its mark on the industry with notable contributions from pioneers like Jeff Garzik, a former Bitcoin core developer, and Morehouse graduate Shawn Wilkinson, the founder of Storj, one of the earliest decentralized storage platforms. Moreover, Atlanta is home to BitPay, a global leader in crypto payments, as well as firms like Bakkt, Bitcoin Depot and Yellowcard, further cementing its reputation as a crypto-friendly city. CleanSpark has added to Georgia's reputation as a key player in the space with its acquisition of five Bitcoin mining facilitiesa significant investment that strengthens the state's position as a hub for sustainable blockchain practices, particularly in the realm of crypto mining.

The Atlanta Blockchain Center (ABC) has become a central force in this local blockchain movement. Since its establishment in February 2022, ABC has hosted over 125 events, offering free education and fostering community among blockchain enthusiasts, entrepreneurs, and investors. ABC's Immutable Founders initiative has incubated 27 diverse startups, providing a platform for underrepresented founders to thrive. Projects such as Fanfundr, Project Pi and Instarails have secured early-stage funding from ABC's parent company, Starter Labs, while others have been awarded technical grants to advance their

blockchain initiatives. Meanwhile, ABC's Immutable Scholars program nurtures the next generation of blockchain leaders by providing students with scholarships and educational opportunities to engage with emerging technologies.

Through the Atlanta Web3 Alliance, and leaders like Jonathan King of Coinbase Ventures, the city is actively working to broaden blockchain's reach and impact. Collectively, these partnerships are fostering a dynamic and collaborative blockchain landscape in the city. Entrepreneurial activity is flourishing, from startups emerging through the Immutable Founders program to the vital contributions made by players like W3 Studio, KITT Labs, and 404 DAO in supporting infrastructure, creativity, and community governance. These initiatives are laying the groundwork for the next generation of financial and decentralized applications.

A significant milestone in blockchain advocacy within Georgia has been the rise of the Stand With Crypto initiative, spearheaded by Coinbase to support pro-crypto policies. The Georgia chapter, led by Ant Mathis, has played a pivotal role in driving conversations around blockchain regulation. Through efforts such as visits to Capitol Hill, Georgia's blockchain community has been actively contributing to national policy discussions, advocating for a balanced regulatory environment that fosters innovation while ensuring sustainable growth, thereby positioning the state as a leader in the blockchain space.

The convergence of blockchain and fintech in Metro Atlanta is creating a unique window of opportunity. Blockchain isn't just a disruptive force—it's a transformative one, with the power to redefine payment systems, enhance security, and unlock entirely new ways of managing financial data. For fintech leaders the opportunity is clear: by engaging with these innovations now, they can be part of shaping the future of finance and reaping the rewards of early adoption.

The time to act is now. Metro Atlanta is fast becoming a global leader in blockchain, crypto and Web3, and those who move quickly will be best positioned to benefit from the rapid evolution of these industries. Don't miss the chance to help drive this wave of innovation—waiting too long could mean watching the future unfold from the sidelines.

Marlon Williams is Founder at the Atlanta Blockchain Center and Starter Labs

#### Deluxe CEO Barry McCarthy Receives 2024 Georgia Fintech Hall of Fame Honor

Barry McCarthy, whose 40-year career includes successes spanning virtually every angle of financial technology and who has spent the last 20 years in leadership roles shaping the Metro Atlanta landscape, received the 2024 Georgia Fintech Hall of Fame Award during a main stage conversation with TAG President and CEO during Fintech South.

McCarthy's multi-faceted career well equipped him for his current role as CEO of Deluxe Corporation, leading the transformation of the 110-year-old Fortune 1000 company from a check printer into a modern payments and data company. Today, Deluxe processes electronic payments comprising roughly 15% of US GDP- nearly \$3 trillion annually.

Prior to Deluxe, Barry was a key member of the leadership team of First Data (now Fiserv) for 14 years, becoming the only C-suite executive to persevere and thrive from the firm's leveraged buyout (by KKR) to IPO and beyond. Among other milestones, he led First Data's collaboration with Apple that supported the launch of ApplePay.

Previously, at Verisign he scaled the business leading to its acquisition by PayPal. He also co-founded, built, and sold MagnaCash, a Silicon Valley micro-payments company, While at Wells Fargo, he created the first cloud-based ATMs and modern UI and UX still in use today.

McCarthy recently completed his term as Board Chair for the American Transaction Processors Coalition, representing Deluxe and advocating for the US payment processing sector. His contributions also include serving as the chair of TAG, the founding Chair of Fintech Atlanta, and a foundational member and champion of the Georgia Fintech Academy. He also serves as a trustee or director for several local and national non-profits.

"I am truly honored and humbled," McCarthy said. "The Georgia Fintech Hall of Fame is a who's who of industry giants, and I extend my gratitude to TAG and our fintech community for this recognition. I am incredibly proud of our industry and specifically what we're building at Deluxe. I look forward to the bright fintech future, continuing to do this important work together."

The TAG Fintech Society has honored Georgia Fintech innovators for nearly 15 years, recognizing industry pioneers whose achievements made a lasting impact on Georgia's thriving fintech ecosystem.

## Five Impactful Georgia Fintechs Earn 2024 Advance Awards

TAG Fintech established its Advance Award program to recognize fintechs of all sizes with demonstrated success in making a difference for financial institutions and/or their consumer business customers. The award was designed as a complement to the Innovation Challenge, offering visibility to creators that have advanced beyond the startup stage.

The judging criteria include at least one client reference as well as a strong tie to Georgia. The 2024 Advance Award winners, announced at Fintech South, are:

**Alogent**, a service provider focused on improving banks' and credit unions' back office performance, was recognized for its Unify product, which uses a single API to automate and apply a transaction level approach to (typically batch-oriented) deposit processing.

Cantaloupe which powers over a million storefront locations worldwide, competes in the "self-service commerce" unattended physical point of sale space. The firm streamlines the process and creates positive experiences for both shoppers and merchants while prioritizing loss prevention.

Capital on Tap established is US headquarters at Ponce City Market to launch its small business credit card in the States. It touts the firm's "use of automated decisioning and real-time transaction data enables us to deliver credit limits within minutes and virtual cards within hours" as its differentiator.

FormFree, a 15-year old Athens-based company, uses its Passport app and RIKI (Residual Income Knowledge Index) to help consumers "unlock their borrowing power and better understand their ability to pay." FormFree markets to both borrowers (consumers) and lenders (mortgage companies, banks).

**Sunday** is addressing a longstanding point of frustration- closing out a tab at a restaurant- "saving millions of people minutes at the end of their meal, with a tiny 4x4cm QR code." It's another welcome example of a European company identifying Atlanta as an ideal base for US operations.

#### Driving Irish Investment in the USA, Enterprise Ireland Opens an Atlanta Office



By: Adam Rooney, Trade Development Executive, Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland, the Irish government's trade and innovation agency is intensifying its focus on driving investment in the USA by Irish companies. We are committed to supporting Irish companies across multiple sectors to invest and scale in the U.S. Supporting this agenda.

Enterprise Ireland are excited to announce the opening of our seventh US office, located at 999 Peachtree Street in Midtown Atlanta. This expansion of our U.S. footprint and team underscores our unwavering dedication to increasing the economic value that Irish companies bring to the USA, reflecting the deepening economic ties between both nations.



We support nearly 950 Irish companies to invest and scale in the USA, and in the past 18 months alone, we have assisted more than 80 Irish companies in establishing new U.S. presences, bringing jobs, investment, and enhanced partnerships to American industry. With decades of investment in the USA, the top 10 Irish employers in the country employ over 116,000 American citizens and support tens of thousands of indirect jobs. Moreover, major Irish employers and manufacturers in the USA purchase

billions of dollars' worth of U.S. raw materials, goods, and services annually, with plans for further expansion and investment, solidifying the U.S. as a critical destination for Irish companies and one of our most important international markets.

Our Atlanta expansion represents a strategic move to support our thriving Irish fintech ecosystem. Ireland has established itself as a world-class center for fintech excellence, generating €11 billion in exports – equivalent to 6.3% of our country's 2022 GDP. As the 6th largest exporter of financial services globally, we bring significant expertise and innovation to international markets.

Atlanta, often called "Transaction Alley," presents exceptional opportunities for our Irish fintech companies. From start-ups to unicorn, several of our innovative Irish firms have already established strong presences in the region and already making their mark in Atlanta's thriving fintech landscape.

FINEOS, a global leader in core systems for life, accident, and health insurance, has a long-standing Atlanta presence, offering its innovative FINEOS Platform for enhanced insurer efficiency. Keeper Solutions, an Irish software specialist, recently partnered with Atlanta-based fintech Momnt to bolster its embedded lending solutions, incorporating Keeper Tokens for workforce management. Swoop, an Irish funding platform, has launched a global partnership with Sage to revolutionize business funding and cost-saving tools.

Sobi Analytics, an Al-driven business intelligence firm from Ireland, has expanded to Atlanta, forming local partnerships to drive financial sector innovation and job creation. Additionally, TransferMate, a unicorn and leading provider of cross-border payments, has a growing presence in Atlanta, further strengthening our fintech footprint in the region.

Our new Atlanta office will provide crucial resources, expertise, and connections to help our Irish fintech companies navigate and succeed in the Southeast. We are excited to grow our fintech presence alongside Atlanta's vibrant ecosystem and look forward to bringing more innovative Irish solutions and Irish investment to this dynamic market.

Enterprise Ireland, the Irish government's trade and innovation agency, is intensifying its focus on driving investment in the USA by Irish companies. We are committed to supporting Irish companies across multiple sectors to invest and scale in the U.S.

#### **Gold Sponsors**



Georgia Banking Company is a commercial bank headquartered COMPANY in Atlanta, GA, and is noted for its innovative approach to banking.

GBC's Payments & Technology Banking team offers the ideal solution for companies seeking reliability, expertise, and responsiveness. With advanced technology, top-notch security, and unparalleled customer service, GBC is the partner your business needs to stay ahead of the game. Our robust payment systems, digital platforms, and financial technologies enable you to streamline operations, enhance customer experience, and grow your business. Providing industry-leading payment and technology solutions is at the core of our service standard.

To learn more about Georgia Banking Company and its commitment to innovation please visit GeorgiaBanking.com. Member FDIC.



Enterprise Enterprise Ireland is the Irish government's enterprise development

agency. We invest in and support the development of Irish-owned companies on their journey to achieving greater scale and to become global leaders in their field. This provides a platform for strong economic growth, and creating and sustaining jobs in communities around the country. Our teams in Ireland and across our network of 39 international offices help Irish companies to develop high-growth strategies and to enter new markets with innovative and sustainable solutions.

enterprise-ireland.com

#### **Silver Sponsor**



The ATPC was created to protect, promote and preserve the interests of this critical Georgia and American industry through proactive public relations and government affairs activities. Most people don't know about the industry and its impact, which is why the ATPC was developed to tell the story of more than 40,000 employees right here in the state and an additional 105,000 people around the world on

atpcoalition.com

the payroll of Georgia companies.

#### **Bronze Sponsor**

MPS Group, a certified NMSDC Minority-Owned Business, is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, with a global presence, delivering Software Development GROUP and IT Staffing Services. We provide onshore, nearshore, and offshore solutions, specializing in Application Development, Enterprise Architecture, QA/Testing, DevOps, Cloud, Data Analytics, AI, and Digital Transformation, empowering businesses with agile, future-ready solutions that drive innovation and growth.

https://mps-group.us

#### About The Technology Association of Georgia (TAG)

TAG's mission is to Connect, Promote, Influence and Educate Georgia's technology ecosystem to advance the innovation economy. Through those four foundational strategies TAG serves the technology community. helping to support, grow and ignite tech leaders, companies and the overall Georgia economy. TAG serves more than 31,000 members statewide through regional chapters in Metro Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Macon/Middle Georgia, and Savannah. TAG hosts more than 150 events each year and serves as an umbrella organization for 20+ professional societies. TAG provides networking and educational programs, celebrates Georgia's technology leaders and companies, and advocates for legislative action that enhances the state's economic climate for technology.

