× dealroom.co

INVEST NY × DEALROOM.CO · NOVEMBER 2026

Aerospace, defense and quantum startups in Upstate New York



For Future of Air & Space, November 5, 2026, at the Innovare Advancement Center in Rome, New York.

By Yoram Wijngaarde and Meredith McKenzie, Dealroom.co

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. New York Ventures

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Division of Science, Technology & Innovation
A Division of Empire State Development

GRIFFISS INSTITUTE

UPSTATE CAPITAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

AT A GLANCE

Venture capital into aerospace, defense and quantum startups more than doubled in 2025

26

VC-backed aerospace, drone, defense and quantum startups

$107M

venture capital raised in 2025

$379M

venture capital raised in total

$65M

Hidden Level's Series C in 2025, the largest round

Another 101 Upstate companies carry the same Dealroom tags but are not VC-backed. They are left out of this deck.

Source: Dealroom.co

WHERE THEY ARE

The 26 VC-backed startups by segment

Each startup is listed once, with the city of its headquarters

Drones 11

Hidden Level Syracuse
Intrinsiq Materials Rochester
Flox Intelligence Syracuse
Modovolo Utica
A Robotics Company Ossining
EagleHawk One Buffalo
Mod Tech Labs Buffalo
Astrabeam Greenburgh
Strayos Buffalo
Dropcopter Syracuse
SkyStage Philipstown

Aerospace & space 7

Ursa Space Systems Ithaca
Sentient Science Buffalo
Dimensional Energy Ithaca
VeriTX Aurora
United Aircraft Technologies Troy
Wright Electric Malta
3D Usher Syracuse

Defense 6

Natrion Binghamton
Inso Biosciences Ithaca
Circle Optics Rochester
Optimax Systems Ontario
Full Spectrum Research Annsville
Liberty Leaf AI Albany

Quantum 2

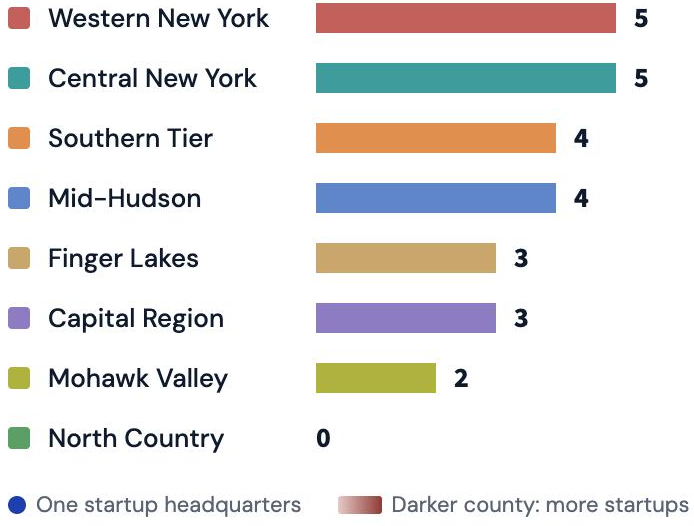
SeeQC Greenburgh
BQP Syracuse

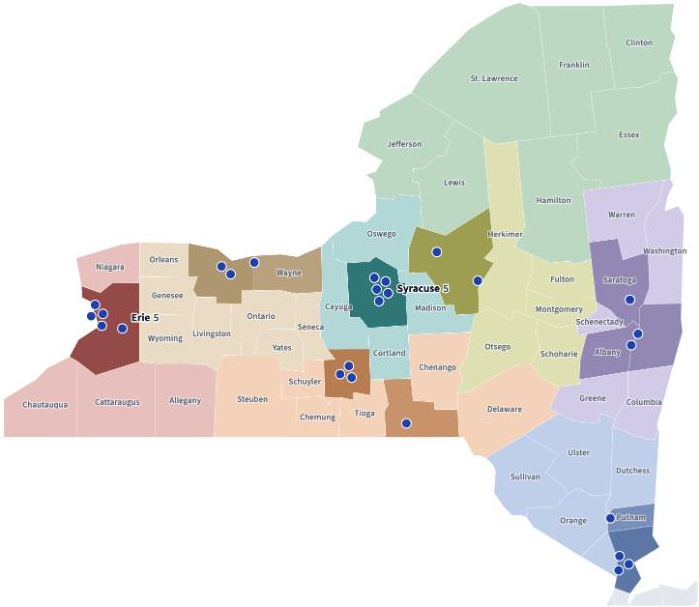
Source: Dealroom.co

WHERE THEY ARE

Erie and Onondaga counties have five startups each

VC-backed startups by economic region. Erie County is Buffalo; Onondaga County is Syracuse.





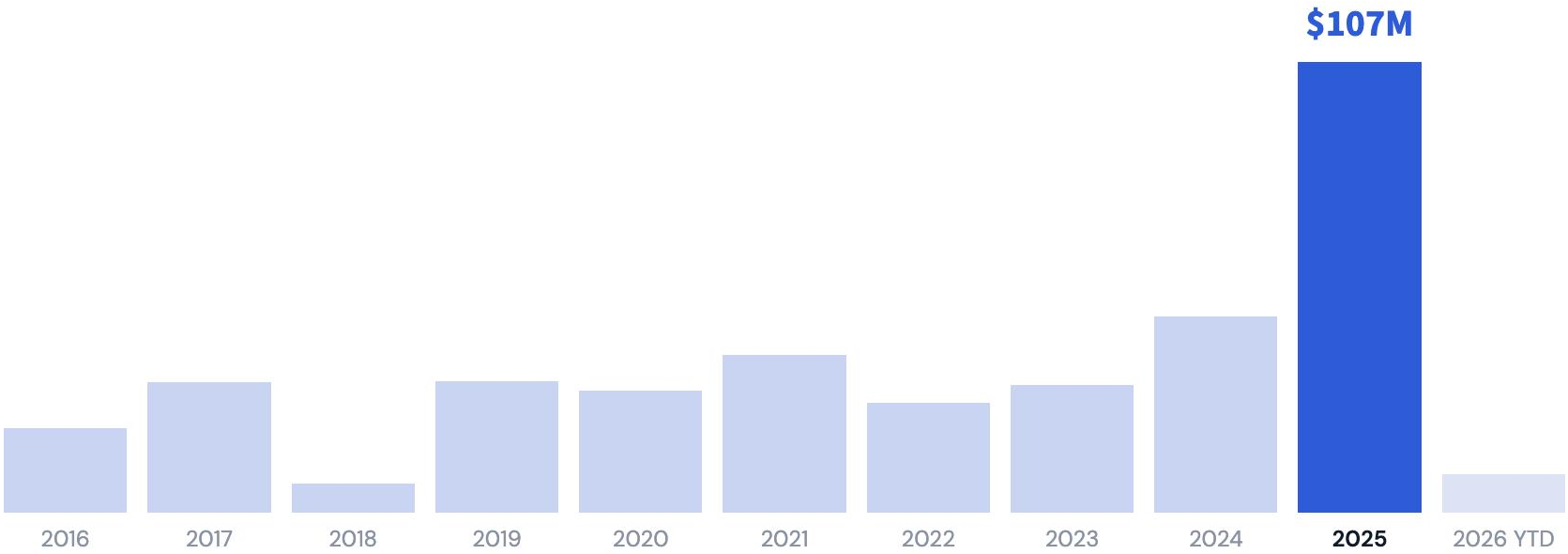
 Source: Dealroom.co

dealroom.co

VENTURE CAPITAL

Venture capital into these startups reached $107M in 2025

Venture capital raised by year, Upstate New York aerospace, defense and quantum startups



 Source: Dealroom.co

VENTURE CAPITAL

Aerospace and drones each count 11 startups

The 26 VC-backed startups by segment. A startup can count in more than one segment.



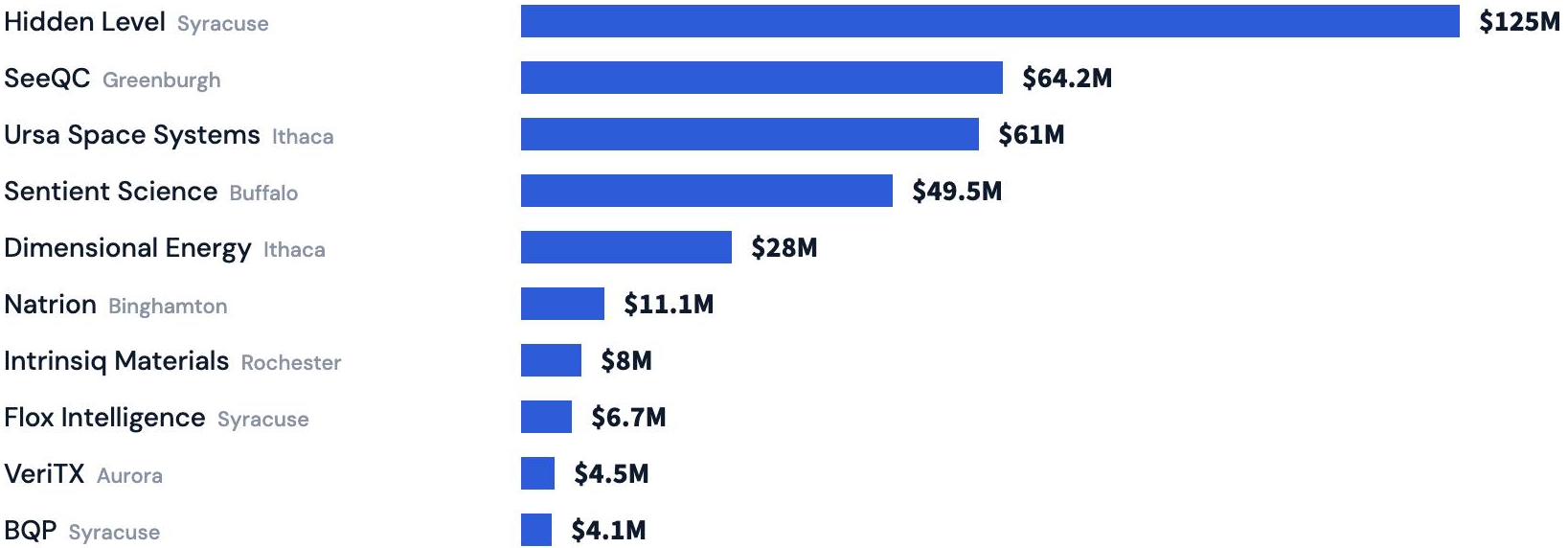
 Source: Dealroom.co

dealroom.co

VENTURE CAPITAL

Hidden Level and SeeQC have raised the most venture capital

Total venture capital raised, top 10



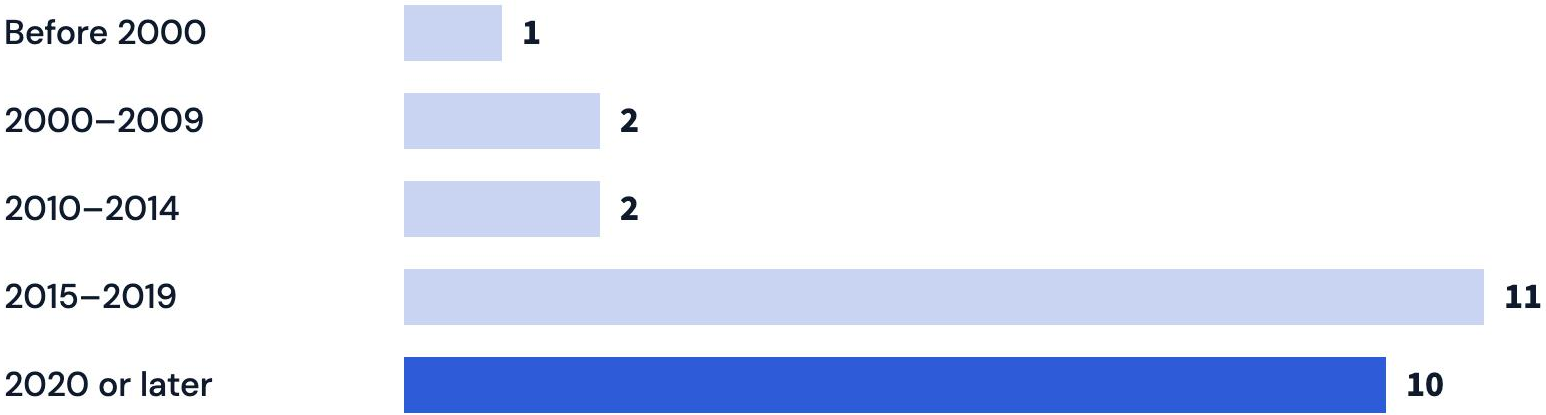
 Source: Dealroom.co

dealroom.co

VENTURE CAPITAL

10 of the 26 VC-backed startups were founded in 2020 or later

VC-backed startups by year founded



 Source: Dealroom.co

FUTURE OF AIR & SPACE

The nine startups at Future of Air & Space

November 5, 2026 · Innovare Advancement Center, Rome, New York

Astrabeam

Sensing · Westchester

Radar and AI perception for robots operating in degraded environments.

BQP

Quantum · Syracuse

Quantum-enabled and quantum-inspired engineering simulation and optimization.

EMPEQ

Defense · Ithaca

AI-powered equipment and parts intelligence for asset management and defense sustainment.

Flyhound

Sensing · Syracuse

Drone-mounted payload detects and locates mobile-phone radio signals.

Full Spectrum Research

Defense · Oneida County

Defense R&D and technology transition, showing PRISM sensor fusion and command and control.

Modovolo

Aircraft · Utica

Modular uncrewed aircraft designed for adaptable payloads.

Revolute Robotics

Aircraft · outside New York

Robots alternate between rolling and flying for inspection and monitoring.

Skyfire AI

Aircraft · Maine, Alabama

AI-enabled multi-aircraft operations and drone-first-responder systems.

Vigilare AI

Defense · Syracuse

TitanOps turns sensor and video inputs into operational intelligence.

Source: Dealroom.co, Upstate Capital

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. New York Ventures · GRIFFISS INSTITUTE · UPSTATE CAPITAL · dealroom.co

FUTURE OF AIR & SPACE

Test sites, programs and research around the showcase

Public and program figures, not venture capital

$27M

GENIUS NY program investment

Nine completed rounds since 2017

>$500M

Participant follow-on funding

GENIUS NY-reported, cumulative

1,900 sq mi

BVLOS-authorized airspace

NUAIR-reported access

50 miles

Central NY–Mohawk Valley drone corridor

Documented infrastructure

$13M

SkyDome project completed in Rome

Public capital project

$7.5M

Rome quantum network, phase 2

Part of an earlier $21.1M award

 Source: government, operator and company announcements

WHAT THIS MEANS

Upstate New York raised more venture capital for aerospace, defense and quantum startups in 2025 than in any earlier year. Hidden Level and SeeQC account for most of it.

The nine showcase startups range from drone payloads and radar to quantum simulation. The region's companies and investors are on Invest NY, the startup ecosystem platform for New York State, powered by Dealroom.

investny.org · dealroom.co/resources/upstate-ny-aerospace-defense-quantum

Source: Dealroom.co