

STRAWPATH'S WORLDCUP UK STARTUP XI

SQUAD INTELLIGENCE REPORT · WHY THESE STARTUPS MADE THE TEAM

STARTING XI

11 STARTERS

COMPANY	SECTOR	WHAT THEY DO	WHY IT MATTERS FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES TECH
GOALKEEPER			
Nyobolt	ENERGY STORAGE	Ultra-fast charging batteries enabling 6-minute full charges for EVs.	Data centres and trading infrastructure demand always-on power; faster, denser energy storage reduces downtime risk and backup costs.
DEFENDERS			
Cloudsmith	SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY	Universal package management securing software supply chains at scale.	Financial services firms face growing regulatory pressure on software provenance; Cloudsmith addresses third-party dependency risk directly.
Archangel Lightworks	SPACE COMMS	Free-space optical comms delivering fibre-speed links without fibre.	Low-latency, resilient connectivity for trading, payments and remote financial infrastructure where fibre is unavailable or too slow.
Waiv Robotics	ROBOTICS	Dexterous robotic hands that learn manipulation from a single demonstration.	Physically autonomous systems for branch operations, document handling and secure vault management.
Cnuic	PHOTONIC CHIPS	Silicon photonics for ultrafast, low-power data centre interconnects.	Cuts energy and latency in the compute fabric underpinning AI-driven risk, fraud and trading systems.
HOLDING MIDFIELD			
Trent AI	AI SECURITY	Real-time AI threat detection built natively for enterprise infrastructure.	Financial institutions are the primary target of AI-augmented cyberattacks; native AI defence is essential for compliance and resilience.
Qoro Quantum	QUANTUM COMPUTING	Orchestrating classical and quantum hardware as a single unified execution environment.	Portfolio optimisation, intraday liquidity management and RTGS netting are computationally intensive problems where quantum-classical hybrid execution delivers measurable gains over classical infrastructure alone.
ATTACKING MIDFIELD & WINGS			
Fermtech	BIOTECH HARDWARE	Merging fermentation biology with precision hardware for next-gen biomanufacturing.	ESG-linked finance and green bond structuring will increasingly require verifiable bio-based supply chains backed by credible hardware.
Oxccu	CLIMATE TECH	Converting CO ₂ directly into sustainable fuels at industrial scale.	Directly relevant to climate-linked financial instruments, carbon credits and transition finance portfolios.
Rensair	CLEAN AIR HARDWARE	Hospital-grade air purification now entering commercial buildings globally.	Physical workspace resilience ties to operational risk; relevant to ESG property portfolios and insurance underwriting.
STRIKER			
Pulpatronics	SUSTAINABLE ELECTRONICS	Pioneering pulp-based PCBs to replace plastic in consumer electronics.	Low-cost, biodegradable RFID and sensor tags could transform asset tracking, card issuance and IoT-based financial infrastructure.

SUBSTITUTES

6 SUBS

COMPANY	SECTOR	WHAT THEY DO	WHY IT MATTERS FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES TECH
DEFENSIVE OPTIONS			
Ossprey	CYBERSECURITY	AI-native threat hunting platform closing the security talent gap.	Directly addresses the chronic shortage of security expertise inside financial institutions facing rising regulatory obligations.
Neuranics	NEURAL SENSING	Non-invasive neural interfaces for clinical diagnostics and rehab.	Longer term, biometric authentication and fraud-resistant identity verification at the neural level.
MIDFIELD OPTIONS			
Barocal	COOLING HARDWARE	Solid-state caloric cooling to replace refrigerants in heat pumps.	Reduces the energy cost of cooling AI and HPC infrastructure that financial services firms rely on for real-time analytics.
Stirlight	ADVANCED MATERIALS	Photonic metamaterials enabling lenses thinner than a sheet of paper.	Ultra-compact optics for next-generation biometric authentication devices and secure ATM or branch cameras.
ATTACKING OPTIONS			
Exergy3	ENERGY SYSTEMS	Modular thermal energy storage for industrial decarbonisation.	Critical enabler for data centre net-zero commitments that banks are increasingly required to demonstrate to regulators and investors.
Cado Security	CLOUD FORENSICS	Cloud-native digital forensics for instant incident response.	Financial regulators require detailed, rapid post-incident reporting; Cado cuts the time and cost of forensic investigation dramatically.

◆ DEEP FOUNDATIONS. BOLD AMBITION. GLOBAL IMPACT. ◆