

Hatch Blue opens doors to fresh batch of startups

Hatch Blue has unveiled the nine participants selected for its revamped flagship accelerator program, which is known as Crest.



Representatives of the nine companies in Hatch Blue's inaugural Crest accelerator program.

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Their technologies span multiple sectors – including farm hardware, nutrition, novel farming systems, animal health and regenerative aquaculture – and the Crest program kicked off in July with a week-long on-site workshop at [NELHA](#) in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is one of the few places on Earth where aquaculture entrepreneurs can be exposed to such a wide range of species and farming operations and also meet world-class aquaculture mentors," reflects Benedict Tan, Crest program director.

One key change in the program is its flexibility. Previously, participants in the accelerator visited four different aquaculture hubs over a four-month period, but there's now a range of options over the next 18 months when they can join visits to Norway, Singapore and Vietnam.

“I am excited to spend time with the teams using Hatch Blue’s expertise to accelerate their business development. The goal throughout the Crest program is validating our investment rationale and identifying follow-on investment opportunities, in line with our accelerator-driven investment model,” notes Caitriona Kelleher, Hatch Blue’s managing director of early stage investments.

NELHA's Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park hosted the accelerator's launch

Greg Barbour, executive director of NELHA, said: “We are excited to welcome the startups on the new Hatch Blue Crest accelerator to the Big Island of Hawaii and to support them as best we can.

Every accelerator thus far has been able to shape some exceptional entrepreneurs and transformative technologies.