Tampa Bay's The Mainframe and UKBlackTech Announce International Partnership Focused on Strengthening Connectivity and Resources for Black Tech Talent

The Mainframe of Tampa Bay partners with UK-based UKBlackTech to strengthen international connectivity, expand resources and provide global opportunities for Black Tech talent.

Tampa, Florida | The Mainframe, a Tampa-based 501c3 non-profit focused on the development of Black technology talent, partners with United Kingdom's UKBlackTech for a notable international partnership hyperfocused on developing collaborative programming, cross-market opportunities, and engaging with government entities, corporations and universities.

Currently, only 7% of the tech workforce is Black (EEOC, US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) and just 1% percent of venture-backed founders were Black (Diversity in U.S. Startups, RateMyInvestor). Statistically placing them as the most underrepresented race among the sector. Only 16% of Black graduates with computer science or engineering degrees are working in technology related roles (Bui & Miller). A field that is projected to have 1 million more computing and coding jobs than qualified candidates by 2020 (The Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Founded in 2018, The Mainframe was established to develop a foundation for a black technology ecosystem in the Tampa Bay Area. Focused on workforce development, entrepreneurial support, research and funding through interactive events and workshops. Members of The Mainframe are also supported by an experienced mentorship network equipped to assist Black tech talent professionals and entrepreneurs.

"This is a partnership built on mutual admiration and a shared vision for growth," says James Faison, Founder of The Mainframe. "Partnering with UKBlackTech helps The Mainframe align with our goals to provide support and highlight Black tech talent worldwide. Working together will provide us with valuable insights on black tech talent and, in turn, allows us to develop custom resources to better support them."

UKBlackTech (UKBT) started in the United Kingdom in 2017 by Mark Martin and a group of UK tech leaders, with a similar mission to help Black and ethnic minorities thrive in the tech sector. They've created a platform to showcase innovation and ideas led by Black tech professionals. Early last year, UKBT brought together expert leaders from top tech companies around the world to share best practices with the UKBT community over the course of 18 months. The data from this engagement helped provide insights helpful to universities and education sectors. They also support digital businesses with various events and programming around areas like finance and building effective tech companies.

This partnership is primed to be a catalyst for creating new startups and jobs to develop a highly-skilled and qualified black tech talent workforce; which are contributing factors to a diverse tech industry, an increase of Black talent in corporations, and inclusion of diverse perspectives for creativity and innovation. UKBlackTech and The Mainframe plan to rollout U.S. and U.K. abroad opportunities, which will include joint accelerators and collaborative events -- connecting tech talent with investors, key stakeholders and other aspiring or established tech founders and professionals. Corporations, tech companies, government entities, universities and startups can also leverage UKBlackTech and The Mainframe's community of talent to build their organizations. One key area of focus for this partnership is equipping tech talent with transferable skills that allows for fluidity throughout the technology industry.

"This is a great opportunity to work with an overseas organisation that has similar goals and ambitions," added Mark Martin, Co-Founder of UKBlackTech. "The work The Mainframe is doing to build a top tech ecosystem in Tampa, Florida is outstanding. This partnership is a seed that if nurtured and pruned over the next few years no doubt it can blossom into a long lasting legacy that we will look back in a couple years from now and marvel."

Interested candidates, corporations, universities and businesses are encouraged to sign up for updates at: https://www.themainframeinc.com/join

About The Mainframe and UKBlackTech

The Mainframe:
The Mainframe is a 501c3 non-profit organization pioneering breakthrough interaction among Black tech entrepreneurs, innovators and professionals. We are committed to creating pathways that launch and grow technology-enabled ideas and careers.

UKBlackTech:
UKBlackTech is a grass root organisation that supports Black tech talent in the United Kingdom. We want to be the agent of change for our future generation and ensure that tech products, services and companies reflect us all.

Contact:
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