



Nominees for NZTech Board seats 2024

Major Corporate Nominees

Conrad Morgan – Worldline

I am passionate about ensuring New Zealand tech businesses and Kiwis are well-positioned to be competitive locally and internationally. I want to serve on the NZTech Board to help promote and develop the New Zealand tech sector during this critical time.

With 25 years of expertise in Fintech and payments industries, I believe I can bring valuable experience and insights to the board. My diverse background in Banking, Payments, Telcos, and Fintech SaaS sectors, as well as my leadership in delivering digital product innovations, would be an asset to the board. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the future of the New Zealand tech sector.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Lewis Mills – Microsoft

I am excited to be considered for membership of the Board of NZTech. I have worked in senior corporate affairs roles for Uber and Microsoft and consulted for local tech companies on regulation and reputation issues. I have a track record of working with Government and other stakeholders to promote an enabling regulatory environment for tech to flourish. I am a lawyer by background, serving as a Crown Prosecutor and regulatory lawyer at Meredith Connell, in-house counsel in the public sector, and as a judge's clerk in The Hague.

I believe I would bring a tech-specific public and Government affairs lens and expertise to the work of NZTech, a strong appreciation for the importance of partnership between larger and smaller players in the local tech ecosystem, and a focus fostering public trust and confidence in the responsible use of emerging technologies. Because of my experience in criminal law, I have a particular interest in how technology can help keep New Zealanders safe. I would love to contribute to the mission of NZTech as part of the Board.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Timothy Wixon – BNZ

I am the Head of Technology Industries at Bank of New Zealand (BNZ). I 'founded' BNZ's Technology Industries portfolio in 2015 as a Partner and now lead BNZ's portfolio and proposition for over 1500 debt financed technology companies across New Zealand and many more with their transactional banking - supporting those companies through their full lifecycle from start-up to maturity through non-dilutive financing, expertise and networks. As part of our approach, I lead a team of leaders in

tech sub sectors including FinTech, PayTech and Emerging Payments, EmergingTech, Climate & CleanTech and CreativeTech as well as 3x business development managers across BNZ's Growth Sectors.

My professional mission is to support and enable the growth and innovation of the technology industries in New Zealand and I would more than welcome the opportunity to contribute more broadly (than through BNZ alone) through a Board role with the NZ Tech Alliance, bringing a unique observation point (both in the New Zealand and global context), experience and creative approach.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Victoria Lyons – Spark New Zealand

I am passionate about building a more sustainable New Zealand for my children and our future generations, unlocked by the advancement and adoption of technology. With over 15 years in NZ's leading digital services organisation, I have a breadth of senior leadership experience, including Executive and Board exposure.

The connection with NZTech's purpose and my own motivations, is why I'm excited to put forward a nomination to sit on the NZTech Board. Bringing a unique mix of business experience, predominately in the technology sector – from Marketing, Product & Portfolio Leadership, Transformation, Agile and People Experience. I believe I'd offer diverse and valuable perspectives, as a dedicated addition to the NZTech Board.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Corporate - Other Nominees

Andy Prow - Qubit Cyber

I've been on the NZTech Board for the last year, and I currently Chair the Digital Safety Sub-Board. I'd love to remain on the board and continue the epic Digital Safety journey that we're just starting. I've been working in the tech sector for nearly 30 years, mainly in cyber-security. Technology is so embedded into our daily lives that we need to mature our thinking from "is this computer system secure?" to the more meaningful question of "is this product safe?". Whether it's the digital safety of our daily interactions, to the safety of our finances, to the safety of our physical selves and our families from real-world tech like med-tech, modern transport, smart cities, smart homes, IoT, drone-tech, agri-tech and critical infrastructure... We need to ensure that the tech we rely on every day is not only cyber-secure but safe, and if it's unsafe then who's accountable. This is the purpose of the Digital Safety sub-board, and why I'd love to stay on and continue this work.

I truly believe that if we get Digital Safety right then long term there is an opportunity for NZ to build a brand as a global leader in Digital Safety, and I'd love to help us lead the way and set the bar on the world stage.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Ben Rose – Binance New Zealand

I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the NZTech Board because I am deeply committed to advancing New Zealand's technology sector. Formerly a founding board member of FintechNZ and InsurtechNZ, as well as a current Executive Council member for BlockchainNZ, I understand the industry, its challenges and - with the right vision and leadership - the opportunities ahead of us. With over 20 years of experience in growing businesses at the intersection of technology, finance and professional services both onshore and offshore, I believe I can bring real-world insight, energy and experience to benefit the broader industry.

Having previously worked in software development, banking, life insurance, health insurance and now in the digital asset sector in my current role as ANZ Regional GM for cryptocurrency leader Binance, I have worked at the cutting edge of the technological landscape as well as in more traditional businesses here and overseas. I also bring experience in non-profit board governance not only from previous NZTech group boards, but additionally from my current voluntary role as Deputy Chair at Ronald McDonald House Charities of New Zealand. I am passionate about leveraging my skills to help NZTech navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, ensuring New Zealand's tech sector continues to thrive and innovate to benefit New Zealand to its full potential.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Lance Burgess – PikPok

I have worked in public practice-chartered accountancy for over 20 years before becoming CFO of PikPok, NZ's largest digital game development studio. I support the CEO of PikPok in the financial direction of the studio and governance at a board level. I am also on the board of the NZ Game Developers Association where I support the board as Treasurer with governance, government relations and successful lobbying efforts in recent times.

I would like to serve on the board of NZTech Association as I have a passion to advance technology in New Zealand. I believe I have the skill sets required to bring strong value to my nomination.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Mitchell Pham – CodeHQ

NZTech is not only a community that connects, promotes and advances the technology industry and its members, but at the same time also serves as a platform for collective impact of tech on our economy, society and environment. The board of NZTech is where all of these purposes and objectives come together in full view, where Board members serve with vision, passion, commitment, diligence, and responsibility. This is why I would like to serve on this board.

Under the above parameters, I have had experience in establishing FinTechNZ, InsurTechNZ, WealthTechNZ, EdTechNZ, AgriTechNZ, and most recently the NZTech Sustainability Sub-Board as the co-chair. This sub-board has produced the NZ Climate Technology Roadmap Framework Report in collaboration with Government and bringing together diverse industry voices. The report was recently co-launched with the Minister of Climate Change and of Revenue, Simon Watts. So as to not lose the momentum that we have been building up over the past 12 months on this new ClimateTech frontier for NZTech and the industry, I would like to continue leading this work by

serving on the board of NZTech. I am most grateful for the opportunity to continue serving our members, industry and country.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Sam Minnée – Silverstripe

I've proudly spent 25 years in New Zealand's tech sector and would love a chance to give back to our tech community by representing Silverstripe on the NZTech board. I am passionate about the potential for the tech sector to drive New Zealand's economy, bringing in more export dollars and creating high-paying jobs for a wider range of New Zealanders, and helping to lift our country.

I'm particularly interested in helping NZ software companies become established exporters, inclusively nurturing the next generation of tech talent, and working with the Government on their AI and technology policies to best empower the local sector. From my time at Silverstripe and elsewhere, I bring experience in business and technology leadership, management finance, technical community building, governance, advisory boards, and mentoring.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Government / Education Nominees

Mahsa McCauley - Auckland University of Technology

I have been honoured to serve on the NZTech Board for the past four years. During this time, I had the opportunity to work with the Inclusion and Diversity Sub Board and the Executive Council, where I collaborated with groups like AIForum and EdTechNZ. The NZTech Group's mission to help create a safer, more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous Aotearoa New Zealand underpinned by responsible technology is deeply aligned with my own passions.

My goal has been to help bridge the industry, Government and university ecosystems to address critical challenges like the gender gap in tech and the skills gap between industry and academia. Serving as the education representative on the Board has been invaluable, allowing me to contribute my perspectives and learn from this experienced team. I would be privileged to continue supporting NZTech's important work and new strategic initiatives, which have immense potential to drive positive change at scale, both nationally and globally. It would be an honour to remain part of this dedicated team as we work to fulfil NZTech's vital mission.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Parag Bhatnagar – Health New Zealand/Te Whatu Ora

I am honoured to apply for a position on the NZTech Board, driven by my commitment to advancing technology in New Zealand's public sector. I currently lead the Intelligent Automation capability at Health New Zealand, leveraging Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance efficiency, transparency, and service delivery in public health. As part of the Northern Region Health IT team during the COVID-19 pandemic, I witnessed first-hand the critical need for continued innovation and investment into technology.

I aim to bring a unique perspective to the NZTech Board that bridges the public sector and technology, leveraging my diverse experiences. I am committed to collaborating with fellow board members to ensure NZTech continues to advocate for technology's role in enhancing New Zealand's

economic and social well-being. I am an experienced board member, currently serving a large not-for-profit association. My previous professional roles include positions at NetSafe, Fulton Hogan, PwC New Zealand, The University of Auckland, and Health New Zealand. Additionally, I have facilitated and participated in local and national hackathons. I hold an Electrical Engineering degree, a Master's in Computer Science, and an MBA.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Ruth Cooper – Media Design School

With over 25 years leadership in New Zealand's tertiary education sector, I bring extensive experience in senior executive management and a strong commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion. My career has focused on bridging gaps and creating opportunities, particularly for underrepresented groups such as Māori, Pacific Islanders, and women. I have led two of New Zealand's top digital and creative technology institutions, Media Design School and Yoobee School of Design. Recognising education's transformative power, I advocate for closing digital skills gaps in Aotearoa, emphasising cultural diversity and gender equality in tech—an alignment with NZTech's inclusive tech ecosystem mission.

Committed to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations, I ensure inclusive decision-making and equitable outcomes. With robust financial acumen and governance experience, I am well-prepared to contribute strategically to NZTech's digital skills development and tech education initiatives. If elected to the NZTech Board, I will offer visionary leadership, a collaborative approach, and a profound dedication to enhancing diversity and educational excellence in tech. I am eager to leverage my skills to support the Board's mission of fostering a diverse and inclusive tech ecosystem, preparing New Zealanders for the digital future.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Business (SME/Start Up) Nominees

Adrian Smith – BlinkPay Global

I am the Chief Product Officer and Co-Founder of the Māori fintech start-up BlinkPay. I am a current member of the NZTech Board and the API Council of New Zealand. I have deep technical expertise in digital technology and have doggedly pursued my passion for this since 1995, when the internet first came to the Waikato University computer labs. I have significant experience leading large complex organisations, having been a Digital Director of the global British bank Barclays. I am a proud Māori of Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Hine descent.

Continuing to serve on the NZTech Board would allow me to carry on the good work we are doing to shape the future of New Zealand's technology sector. We have a number of activities in-flight that I would like the chance to support through to their conclusion, which will help contribute to the development of a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking tech ecosystem in New Zealand. Moreover, I am based in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, and bring with me a regional view that helps to enhance our diversity of experience and thinking.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Daniel Merriott – Digital Skills Agency

I'm a British-born Kiwi with over 20 years in and around the tech industry, from IT support and enterprise IT infrastructure to now proudly leading a small Kiwi consulting business serving the tech community. My career grew from heavily technical roles at the start through to senior leadership roles in international organisations with increasing focus on and people and capability development. My experience in large and small organisations in the public and private sector has given me a wide perspective across the tech universe. Today I am the Managing Director of the Digital Skills Agency, helping Kiwi organisations understand and uplift their teams' digital capability. I am a strong advocate for digital skills and capability.

I have a lot of energy and excitement to give back to our industry. I have a track record for being very engaged and involved in the organisations I support. As well as my passion for digital capability, advocating for quality and professionalism is very important to me. I'm a Member of the Institute of Directors NZ. Some of my recent industry governance support includes: NZ representation on the SFIA Global Council, and President of the Institute of Management Consultants NZ. As a small business owner and leader, and as a trusted advisor to senior leaders in larger organisations across the public and private sector I would be a strong and engaged voice able to represent a wide range of our tech community.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Hanie Yee – Alimetry

I am writing to express my desire to pursue my nomination to join the NZTech Board. With over 23 years of international experience in the commercialisation of biotech and medical device industries, I offer extensive knowledge and expertise. I have worked with both large multinationals and startups, giving me a comprehensive understanding of the challenges businesses face at every scale. My recent roles including serving as the Chair of the Medtech Committee at Return on Science through UniServices has uniquely positioned me to bridge the gap between scientific and business realms, ensuring technological advancements translate into market-ready solutions.

I believe Medtech can revolutionise New Zealand's future by driving economic growth, improving healthcare, and enhancing quality of life. My passion for growing the Medtech ecosystem aligns with NZTech's objectives. I am committed to empowering the next generation of talent and fostering a collaborative environment. As an Associate Member of the Institute of Directors, Board Member of Titoki Mataora, and SheEO Activator, I have demonstrated my commitment to leadership and mentorship. My educational background in Molecular Biology, Medical Science, and Business Management further solidifies my capability to contribute strategically to the board.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Peter Harpur – Institute of Data

I am seeking board representation for the SME & Start Ups position on the NZTech Board. As the Co-Founder and CEO of the Institute of Data, I have successfully grown an education technology business from zero to over 150 staff members globally, with operations spanning the United States, Australia, and Singapore. I intimately understand the unique challenges of starting and scaling a

technology business here in New Zealand. I am passionate about leveraging my strengths to unlock the full potential of our tech industry. I believe that Aotearoa has the potential to excel beyond its current performance and that technology should be New Zealand's largest sector. I bring extensive knowledge and experience in growing a tech business and expanding into the United States, the world's largest economy.

I am deeply committed to contributing my expertise and energy to the NZTech Board. If given the opportunity to serve, I will work tirelessly to address our most pressing challenges in tech skills development and business growth. Together with members and fellow Board members, I am confident we can cultivate a thriving tech ecosystem that meets the demands of today but also paves the way for future success in our country. Thank you for considering my nomination.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Tessa Anton – CyberCure

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve on the Board of NZTech because I believe in the transformative power of technology and the vital role that cybersecurity plays in our digital age.

As an experienced cyber security professional, and the co-founder and CEO of a cyber security start up, I bring a fresh perspective and a unique blend of strategic leadership and hands on experience. I'm a digital native, I understand and can anticipate the needs and behaviours of our increasingly tech-savvy population which aids in strategic decision-making. My approach is deeply people focused, I foster a culture promoting innovation, gender diversity and inclusivity within our industry. I am passionate about building a sustainable tech ecosystem and want to inspire and mentor other young women to pursue careers in technology and cybersecurity.

With my skills and position in the startup market, I will provide the NZTech board with a real view of how startups are faring in the market and how we can support them to advance New Zealand's tech industry.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Warren Beard – Pantheon IQ

As the CEO of Pantheon IQ, I lead efforts to help SMEs embrace AI and automation, driving digital transformation for sustainable growth. Our work highlights the critical role SMEs play in New Zealand's economy, and I am passionate about advocating for their needs.

I am also pursuing a doctorate in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Otago, focusing on XAI and Governance. This positions me at the forefront of technological advancements. My membership at the Institute of Directors New Zealand has honed my leadership and governance skills, enabling me to navigate complex organisational dynamics.

With my professional, academic, and governance experience, I am uniquely qualified to represent SMEs and start-ups on the NZ Tech Board. I am committed to fostering innovation and ensuring SMEs and start-ups can access essential resources and support.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)

Mark Thomas – Serviceworks

I am the Managing Director of city technology business Serviceworks with a focus on city digitisation, climate and transport technology, and have worked extensively throughout the Asia-Pacific. I have been a member of the NZTech Sustainability Sub-board since 2022 and became Co-Chair this year. I jointly led the development of the Framework for Climate Technology Roadmap for New Zealand which NZTech launched with the support of the Technology and Climate Change Ministers in May. I am keen to see the tech solutions our members have playing a greater role across New Zealand industries to enhance the country's sustainability.

NZTech's tech associations are where its strength come from and I would like to add my technology, industry and networking experience to their efforts if elected to the NZTech board, as well as adding support to our vital NZTech Manifesto priorities in education, digital inclusion, digital safety, growing exports, lifting productivity and sustainability. I am an experienced director serving on the boards of Smart Cities Asia, digital technology organisation NZRise and the ASEAN New Zealand Business Council. I am a founding member of the Australia New Zealand Smart Cities Council's Future of Place Taskforce and wrote the first history of smart cities in New Zealand.

[View LinkedIn profile here](#)