

TE TAUMATA

# Wāhine Hangarau Post report



British  
High Commission  
Wellington



Callaghan Innovation  
Te Pokapū Auaha



NEW ZEALAND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE  
Manatū Aorere



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Wāhine Hangarau Post-Report

Ngā mihi maioha,

To our esteemed partners—the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the British High Commission, and Callaghan Innovation**—we express our heartfelt thanks for your invaluable support. Your partnership has been instrumental in the success of this programme, enabling us to build meaningful international connections and advance the presence of Māori tech businesses on the global stage.

To our exceptional wāhine applicants, thank you for your courage, determination, and innovation. Your participation in this programme is a testament to the strength and potential of Māori women in the tech industry. You have not only represented yourselves but have also carried the aspirations of our communities, inspiring future generations to pursue their dreams in technology.

### Special Mentions:

- Maia Royal - Co-founder of The Pure Food Co.
- Angela Nasser - France Director at the Women in Tech Global lunch.
- Thomas Fauvel - Deep Tech Industry Expert at Choose Paris Region.
- Elaine Coughlan - Participated in a roundtable in Dublin.
- Michelle Doyle - Senior Manager at Innovation Partnerships, NovaUCD.
- Austin Dowling - Senior Executive at Technology Ireland.
- Alyssa Gilbert - Associated with the Undaunted Cleantech accelerator at Imperial College
- Station F - Business incubator
- Aer Lingus - travel arrangements.
- Dogpatch Labs - Dublin.
- IDA (Industrial Development Agency) - expansion information sessions.
- Ambassador Trevor Mallard, NZ Embassy in Dublin
- Ernest Stokes, Second Secretary, NZ Embassy in Dublin
- High Commissioner Phil Goff, NZ High Commission in London
- Ambassador Caroline Bilkey, NZ Embassy in Paris
- Thomas Konterski, NZ Embassy in Paris

We acknowledge each of you for your contributions, and we look forward to continued collaboration as we work together to create a thriving, innovative, and inclusive future for wāhine Māori in the tech world.

*Ngā manaakitanga,*  
**Te Taumata Board**



## Highlights for Wāhine Businesses

### FRANCE

France, particularly Paris, offers a strong support system for startups, with a focus on innovation in AI, sustainability, mobility, and health. Paris is an ideal hub for wāhine businesses aiming to expand into European markets.

#### Opportunities:

- Supportive Ecosystem: Organisations like Choose Paris Region assist in international expansion and connect businesses with local resources.
- Women-Led Initiatives: Paris incubators and accelerators, such as those at Station F, have strong support for women-led startups.
- Aligned Markets: France's focus on responsible consumption and the circular economy aligns well with many wāhine business values.
- Networking: Extensive opportunities to connect with investors and partners within the Paris ecosystem.

### DUBLIN

The Nova Innovation Hub at University College Dublin (UCD) offers a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem, supporting both university spinouts and external startups with funding, mentoring, and commercialization assistance.

#### Opportunities:

- Research Commercialisation: Effective translation of academic research into marketable products, with strong industry collaboration.
- Funding: Government programs like New Frontiers and AI accelerators guide startups from validation to investment readiness.
- Diversity and Inclusion: While challenges exist, sectors like fintech offer better support for female founders, with programs focused on connecting diverse entrepreneurs to resources.

### LONDON

Strategic Engagement: The Te Taumata Wāhine in Tech Programme emphasises strengthening relationships in the UK, with a focus on increasing the export value of Māori tech businesses and promoting cultural diplomacy.

#### Opportunities:

- Bilateral Engagements: The programme facilitates collaborations between Māori tech leaders and UK counterparts, opening doors for joint ventures and knowledge exchange.
- Economic Growth: Participation in the UK market is expected to boost revenue for Māori tech businesses, contributing to New Zealand's overall economic growth.
- Cultural Diplomacy: By showcasing Māori values and practices, the programme enhances New Zealand's cultural influence in the UK, fostering deeper connections.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INAUGURAL WĀHINE IN TECH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The Inaugural Wāhine in Tech Knowledge Exchange marked a significant milestone for Māori women in the technology sector. This pioneering initiative, guided by the principles of Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga, Kotahitanga, and Kaitiakitanga, provided a unique platform for wāhine Māori to expand their horizons, share knowledge, and build international connections.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Wāhine in Tech Knowledge Exchange brought together twelve leading wāhine Māori in tech, embarking on an immersive journey across three major European cities—Paris, Dublin, and London. This journey was not only about exploring new markets but also about showcasing Māori innovation on a global stage, embodying the strength and creativity of our wāhine.

## LONDON TECH WEEK

The programme's highlight was participation in London Tech Week, one of the world's leading technology festivals. Here, our wāhine leaders engaged with international tech giants, shared insights, and demonstrated the unique perspectives that Māori bring to the global tech industry. Their presence at this prestigious event underscored the importance of diversity and cultural inclusivity in technology.

## CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Integral to this knowledge exchange was the infusion of Māori values and practices, which resonated deeply with international audiences. By weaving these values into every interaction, our wāhine not only highlighted the distinctiveness of Māori culture but also strengthened New Zealand's international relationships. This exchange was more than just a business endeavour; it was a celebration of identity, culture, and the power of collaboration.





## LOOKING AHEAD

The success of this inaugural exchange sets the stage for future programmes that will continue to empower wāhine Māori, ensuring that they are well-prepared to lead and innovate in the global tech arena. This initiative is a step towards creating a more diverse, inclusive, and dynamic technology sector, where the voices and talents of wāhine Māori are recognised and celebrated worldwide.

As we reflect on the achievements of this inaugural exchange, we are reminded of the whakataukī: **"Wahine toa, wahina kaha, e kore e taea te whakahinga"**. Our wāhine are strong and determined, and their contributions to the tech industry will continue to grow, inspiring the next generation of Māori innovators.

*He toi whakairo, he mana tangata.  
Where there is artistic excellence, there is human dignity.*

**"To empower and equip wāhine Māori leaders in the technology sector with the knowledge, international networks, and cultural confidence necessary to succeed in global markets, while showcasing Māori innovation and fostering meaningful partnerships that drive economic growth and cultural diplomacy for New Zealand."**

This goal encapsulates the essence of the programme, emphasising empowerment, skill development, global networking, and the promotion of Māori culture and innovation on the world stage.





# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

## INCREASE EXPORT VALUE

The primary goal was to boost the export potential of Māori tech businesses by equipping them with the necessary tools, knowledge, and international networks required for success in global markets.

## BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

The programme fostered bilateral engagements between Māori tech leaders and their counterparts in the UK, Ireland, and France. These engagements explored collaborative opportunities, shared best practices, and laid the groundwork for potential joint ventures and partnerships.





# BENEFITS REALISED

## ECONOMIC GROWTH

The programme directly contributed to New Zealand's economic growth by enabling Māori tech businesses to enter new markets, thereby increasing their revenue streams and creating additional job opportunities within their communities.

## CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Promoting Māori culture and values through international business exchanges played a significant role in enhancing New Zealand's cultural diplomacy. The goodwill generated through these exchanges has deepened connections with our international partners and strengthened New Zealand's global presence.

## TOURISM AND EDUCATION

The increased visibility of Māori businesses on an international platform has had a positive ripple effect on tourism and education. The exposure garnered abroad is expected to attract visitors and students keen to learn more about Māori culture and innovation.

## PROMOTING MĀORI IN TECHNOLOGY

The programme significantly elevated the profile of Māori in the technology sector, showcasing their contributions and innovations on an international stage. This visibility is likely to inspire future generations of Māori to pursue careers in technology, contributing to a more diverse and inclusive tech industry.





# RISKS AND MITIGATION

## NON-PARTICIPATION CONSEQUENCES:

Failure to engage in international markets would have resulted in missed opportunities for Māori tech businesses, limiting their potential for growth and diminishing their global competitiveness.

## FUNDING AND EXECUTION:

Securing sufficient funding and ensuring the programme's effective execution were identified as critical risks. Inadequate funding could have compromised the programme's objectives, while poor execution might have affected its credibility and overall impact. To mitigate these risks, potential challenges such as health and logistical issues were proactively addressed, ensuring participant well-being and smooth operations throughout the programme.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Enhance Communication:** Improving communication channels and considering participants' well-being more comprehensively can enhance the overall experience of future programmes.
- **Leadership Guidance:** Providing clearer leadership guidance and fostering an inclusive environment that aligns with individual goals can contribute to the programme's success.
- **Secure Adequate Funding:** Ensuring sufficient funding is crucial to support the programme's objectives and mitigate risks associated with financial constraints.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Forming strategic partnerships with key stakeholders will bolster the programme's impact and reach, making it more sustainable in the long term.
- **Cultural Integration:** Continuing to integrate Māori values and practices into the programme will maintain its unique cultural perspective and further diplomatic benefits.





*The Te Whāriki o Te Mātau strategy model can be structured around three key pillars: Deliver, Advocate, and Model. Each pillar aligns with Māori values and the overarching goals of the Wāhine in Tech Knowledge Exchange Programme.*

## TE WHĀRIKI O TE MĀTAU: STRATEGY MODEL

### 1. DELIVER (WHAKAPUTA)

- **Knowledge and Skills Development (Whakaako):** Deliver high-quality, culturally relevant learning experiences that equip wāhine Māori with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the global tech industry. This includes technical training, leadership development, and international business acumen.
- **Cultural Integration (Te Reo me ngā Tikanga Māori):** Ensure that all content and delivery methods are infused with Māori language, values, and cultural practices. This fosters a sense of identity and belonging among participants and enhances the authenticity of the programme.
- **Global Exposure (Whānui te Ao):** Provide opportunities for participants to engage with global tech leaders, attend international events, and explore new markets. This exposure is key to understanding global trends and building international networks.

### 2. ADVOCATE (WHAKATAIRANGA)

- **Promote Māori Innovation (Whakanuia te Hangarau Māori):** Advocate for the recognition and promotion of Māori innovation within the global tech sector. This includes highlighting the unique contributions of wāhine Māori and ensuring they are seen and heard on international platforms.
- **Cultural Diplomacy (Te Māngai o te Ahurea):** Use the programme as a vehicle for cultural diplomacy, advocating for the inclusion of Māori values in international business practices. This fosters deeper understanding and respect for Māori culture globally.
- **Supportive Policy (Kaupapa Here):** Work with partners, including government agencies and international organisations, to advocate for policies and practices that support the growth of Māori businesses and the inclusion of indigenous perspectives in tech.

### 3. MODEL (WHAKATŪ)

- **Exemplify Māori Leadership (Whakaatu Rangatiratanga):** The programme itself serves as a model of Māori leadership in action. This includes demonstrating the integration of Māori values in all aspects of business, from governance to operations.
- **Sustainability and Kaitiakitanga (Te Taiao me te Tiaki):** Model sustainability by embedding principles of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) in the programme. This involves making decisions that consider long-term impacts on the environment, communities, and cultural heritage.
- **Inclusive Innovation (Auahatanga mō te Katoa):** Model inclusivity by creating spaces where diverse voices are valued, and innovation is driven by collaboration. This approach not only benefits Māori but also contributes to a more equitable and diverse tech industry globally.



# STRATEGIC CONTEXT

## GLOBAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The Wāhine Hangarau aligns with New Zealand's broader trade objectives, particularly through the Māori Economic Trade and Cooperation chapters embedded in recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the European Union and the United Kingdom. These chapters focus on cooperation, capacity building, and economic empowerment for Māori businesses, which opens up significant opportunities for increased trade and investment on a global scale.

## CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND DIPLOMACY

A critical component of the programme was the promotion of Māori values and practices through cultural exchanges. This approach not only strengthened New Zealand's international relationships but also positioned Māori culture as a unique asset in global markets. The diplomatic value of integrating cultural elements into business exchanges cannot be overstated, as it enhances mutual understanding and respect among international partners.





# PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN TECH

Introducing expanding the Women in Tech program through strategic partnerships and collaborations provides a vital avenue to enhance the resources, reach, and impact of the initiative. These partnerships can help leverage technology, expertise, and networks to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for wāhine Māori in the tech industry.

## 1. INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

- Tech Companies: Collaborate with leading tech companies for sponsorship, mentorship programs, and internship opportunities tailored to wāhine Māori. These partnerships can also facilitate access to cutting-edge technology and platforms for training purposes.
- Startups and Innovation Hubs: Partner with startups and innovation hubs to provide practical experience and entrepreneurial skills development, supporting wāhine Māori to launch their own tech startups.

## 2. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Universities and Polytechnics: Develop joint programs with educational institutions to offer specialised courses, workshops, and seminars that focus on areas such as software development, data science, and artificial intelligence, with cultural perspectives integrated into the curriculum.
- Scholarship Programs: Establish scholarship programs specifically designed for wāhine Māori in tech-related fields, funded by corporate partners or through government grants.

## 3. GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

- Local and National Government: Engage with governmental bodies to secure support and funding for expanding tech education and training for Māori women. This can include lobbying for policies that support diversity and inclusion in the tech sector.
- Non-Profit Organisations: Collaborate with NGOs focused on gender equality and indigenous rights to align efforts and amplify impact. These partnerships can help in advocacy, outreach, and providing comprehensive support systems for participants.



#### 4. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

- Global Tech Initiatives: Link with international tech initiatives and forums to ensure wāhine Māori have a presence on global platforms, promoting international exchange and cooperation.
- Cross-Cultural Programs: Develop exchange programs with other indigenous communities worldwide to share knowledge, strategies, and technologies that support the advancement of indigenous women in tech.

#### 5. CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

- Event Sponsorship: Secure corporate sponsorships for hosting tech conferences, hackathons, and networking events that showcase the achievements and innovations of wāhine Māori.
- Product Donations: Work with tech companies to secure donations of hardware and software, which can be used to equip learning centers and provide the necessary tools for tech training programs.

#### 6. MEDIA AND PUBLICITY

- Media Partnerships: Engage with media outlets to highlight success stories and promote the Women in Tech initiative, increasing visibility and attracting further support.
- Social Media Influencers: Collaborate with influencers who align with the mission to increase outreach and engagement through social media platforms.

By strategically leveraging these partnerships and collaboration opportunities, the Women in Tech initiative can significantly enhance its effectiveness and sustainability. These relationships not only bring in necessary resources but also help create a supportive ecosystem that empowers wāhine Māori to thrive in the global tech industry.





# TE WHĀRIKI O TE MĀTAU: A KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE IMPACT MODEL

## 1. WHAKAPAPA (FOUNDATION AND CONTEXT)

- Connection to Ancestry and Heritage: The programme begins by acknowledging the whakapapa, the genealogical connections that ground participants in their identity as Māori. This foundational context influences the way knowledge is shared, valued, and applied.
- Cultural Relevance: Ensure the content and approach of the knowledge exchange are deeply rooted in Māori traditions and relevant to the unique needs of wāhine Māori in the tech industry.

## 2. WHANAUNGATANGA (BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS)

- Networking and Collaboration: Focus on establishing and nurturing relationships among participants, international partners, and communities. The strength of these relationships is crucial for long-term success.
- Mutual Support: Encourage an environment where participants support each other's growth, reflecting the collective strength of the group.

## 3. MANAAKITANGA (RESPECT AND RECIPROCITY)

- Knowledge Sharing with Integrity: Knowledge is shared in a manner that respects the mana (dignity) of all involved. Participants are encouraged to give back to the communities they engage with, fostering a reciprocal exchange of ideas.
- Caring for Well-being: The programme includes elements that ensure the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of participants, understanding that these aspects are interconnected and vital to effective knowledge exchange.

## 4. KAITIAKITANGA (GUARDIANSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY)

- Sustainability of Knowledge: Knowledge acquired through the exchange is seen as a taonga (treasure) that must be protected and used responsibly. Participants are stewards of the knowledge, tasked with ensuring it benefits their communities.
- Long-term Impact: The programme emphasises not just immediate outcomes but also the long-term impact on participants' careers, their communities, and the broader tech industry.





## 5. KOTAHITANGA (UNITY AND COLLECTIVE ACTION)

- Shared Vision and Goals: All participants and partners are united by a common vision to advance the role of wāhine Māori in technology, ensuring that the benefits of the programme extend beyond individual success to collective advancement.
- Collective Achievement: Success is measured not only by individual accomplishments but by the collective progress of the group, reinforcing the idea that the strength of one is the strength of all.

## 6. RANGATIRATANGA (LEADERSHIP AND SELF-DETERMINATION)

- Empowering Leadership: The programme fosters leadership among wāhine Māori, encouraging them to take control of their narratives, make decisions that reflect their values, and lead with confidence in the global tech space.
- Self-determination: Participants are empowered to define their paths in the tech industry, guided by their cultural values and the knowledge gained through the exchange.

## 7. OUTCOME AND REFLECTION (PŪRONGO AND WHAI WHAKAARO)

- Measuring Success: Success is evaluated not only by traditional metrics but also by how well the programme has upheld and integrated Māori values. This includes the depth of relationships formed, the sustainability of knowledge shared, and the cultural impact.
- Reflective Practice: Continuous reflection on the process and outcomes ensures that the programme evolves and adapts, remaining true to its cultural roots while meeting the changing needs of wāhine Māori in tech.





# TRADE IMPLEMENTATION OUTCOMES

The following table summarises the key outcomes of the Wahine in Tech Trade Implementation:

OUTCOME	DETAILS
INCREASED EXPORT READINESS	Enhanced readiness of participants to enter and succeed in international markets.
NEW BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS	Established new bilateral engagements with tech leaders in the UK, Ireland, and France.
ECONOMIC GROWTH	Contributed to New Zealand's economic growth through expanded market presence and increased revenue.
CULTURAL DIPLOMACY	Promoted Māori culture and values internationally, fostering goodwill and deeper connections.
TOURISM AND EDUCATION	Boosted tourism and educational exchanges through increased visibility of Māori businesses.
ENHANCED NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION	Strengthened networks and fostered collaboration among wāhine Māori tech leaders and international partners.



# CASE STUDY: GIRL NATIVE



## OVERVIEW:

Rawinia Rimene recently participated in a significant delegation trip to Europe with nine other leading Māori women in tech. Sponsored by Te Taumata, the delegation aimed to forge international connections and explore opportunities under the EU-NZ Free Trade Agreement.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Paris Meeting: Engagements with high-level officials and business leaders, including LVMH's Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Vanessa Mounzar, to discuss tech partnerships and cultural exchange.
2. Cultural Insights: Rawinia emphasised the importance of cultural identity and connection, particularly highlighting the unique Māori practice of Pepeha, which fosters deeper interpersonal connections.

## OUTCOME:

The delegation not only showcased Māori innovation on an international stage but also strengthened cultural ties and highlighted the potential for future collaborations between New Zealand and European tech industries.

This case study exemplifies the integration of cultural heritage with modern technological pursuits, promoting diversity and inclusion within the global tech landscape.



# CASE STUDY: ARA JOURNEY

## OVERVIEW:

Amber Taylor participated in a significant delegation organised by Te Taumata, aimed at fostering international connections and exploring business opportunities in Europe. The delegation was particularly focused on enhancing the visibility and networking opportunities for Māori businesses in the tech sector. Amber's participation in this delegation was marked by strategic engagements and the cultivation of potential partnerships, which were instrumental in her exploration of the European market.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

1. **Engagement with New Zealand Representatives:** Amber highlighted the invaluable support received from key New Zealand representatives such as Ambassador Mallard in Ireland, who played a pivotal role in facilitating meaningful connections in Dublin. This support was crucial for Amber as it helped her navigate the business landscape and initiate promising discussions.
2. **Networking Opportunities:** Another significant aspect of her trip was the opportunity to meet and interact with other members of the delegation. Notable figures like Mel and Robin provided Amber with fresh perspectives on the tech industry, which were beneficial for her professional growth and understanding of the sector.
3. **Cultural and Professional Exchange:** Amber appreciated the cultural exchanges that took place during the delegation, which not only allowed her to represent her business but also to immerse herself in a learning environment that was rich in diversity and knowledge sharing.

**OUTCOME:** THE DELEGATION PROVED TO BE A FRUITFUL VENTURE FOR AMBER, MEETING HER EXPECTATIONS IN SEVERAL KEY AREAS:

- **Expansion of Network:** The trip enabled her to expand her network significantly, which is likely to yield long-term benefits for her business endeavors.
- **Insights into European Market:** Amber gained valuable insights into the business ecosystem in Europe, which could guide her future business strategies and decisions.
- **Enhanced Visibility:** Her participation enhanced her visibility and that of her business within the international tech community, setting a foundation for future international collaborations.





## OVERVIEW AND KEY INITIATIVES:

The conversation detailed various initiatives aimed at supporting wāhine Māori in the tech industry. A significant focus was on creating an ecosystem of collaboration for wāhine Māori tech entrepreneurs. This included mentorship from more experienced tech leaders and developing opportunities for those not selected for the initial delegation but still showing potential and interest in the tech sector.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

1. **Mentoring and Support:** There was a strong emphasis on mentoring, with the goal of fostering a supportive community among wāhine Māori in tech. This is aimed at creating a robust network that encourages and facilitates the sharing of knowledge and opportunities.
2. **Educational Initiatives:** Educational programs, particularly those focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), were highlighted as essential for developing future tech leaders. These initiatives are pivotal in providing pathways for Māori youth interested in technology, fostering a strong foundation from which they can launch successful careers in the tech industry.
3. **Job Creation and Economic Impact:** The initiatives also aimed at job creation, particularly through engagements in renewable energy sectors and tech innovation. The potential for these sectors to provide substantial employment opportunities for Māori communities was emphasised.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE DIRECTION:

1. **Strengthen Partnerships:** To enhance the effectiveness of these initiatives, it is recommended to strengthen partnerships with tech companies, educational institutions, and government agencies. This would provide more resources, opportunities, and a broader platform for wāhine Māori in tech.
2. **Expand Funding and Investment Opportunities:** Increasing investment in tech initiatives specifically tailored for wāhine Māori can accelerate growth and innovation. Engaging with potential investors and creating attractive investment packages is crucial.
3. **Focus on Scalability and Export Opportunities:** There should be a concerted effort to prepare these entrepreneurs not only for local success but also for scaling their operations to tap into international markets. This includes leveraging free trade agreements and export incentives.
4. **Comprehensive Mentorship Programs:** Developing comprehensive mentorship programs that cover various aspects of business and personal development can enhance the skills and capabilities of wāhine Māori in tech. These programs should include components of leadership, innovation, and market expansion strategies.
5. **Regular Review and Adaptation of Strategies:** Regularly reviewing the outcomes of these initiatives and adapting strategies based on what is working or not can ensure the programs remain relevant and effective. This agile approach can help quickly address challenges and capitalise on new opportunities as they arise.

**By focusing on these areas, the initiatives can not only support the growth of wāhine Māori in the tech industry but also contribute significantly to the broader goals of economic growth and sustainability for the Māori community.**



# CONCLUSION

The Wāhine Hangarau was a transformative initiative that empowered Māori women, strengthened New Zealand's global presence, and contributed to a more inclusive and dynamic tech industry worldwide. By leveraging foundational values of Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga, Kotahitanga, and Kaitiakitanga, the programme is well-positioned to support wāhine Māori tech leaders in becoming export-ready by 2030. Addressing potential risks and implementing the recommended actions are crucial for the continued success of this initiative.





# SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES



**Pāua Interface (Robyn Kamira):** Specialises in digital initiatives, including data and digital advisory services, maturity assessments, strategies, projects, and stakeholder engagement. Pāua Interface is export-ready and aims to understand local market dynamics and establish international ventures.



**ARA Journeys (Amber Taylor):** A digital technologies studio merging indigenous storytelling with VR and AR technology. Exporting to the UK and Europe, ARA Journeys seeks to engage with education, tourism, heritage, and culture sectors, and learn from indigenous leaders in Ireland.



**CiRCLR (Sara Smeath):** A B2B platform helping businesses decarbonise by adopting circular economies and rewarding sustainability. CiRCLR is looking to relocate to EU markets, connect with corporate VC opportunities, and engage with policy and compliance for scope 3 emissions.



**Taurus Concrete (Hanna Hegan Ngatai):** Utilises 'smart crushing' technology to recycle waste rubble concrete into usable aggregates, reducing landfill waste and mining. Taurus Concrete aims to build international connections in the construction and demolition sectors.



**IndigiShare (Maria Ngawati):** Empowers the indigenous economy through a unique payment gateway that redistributes funds back into the community. IndigiShare is emerging as an export-ready business, focusing on fintech and community lending.



**Girl Native (Rawinia Rimene):** A natural skincare and beauty brand developing an app for virtual skin analysis. Girl Native is interested in partnerships with major beauty brands and expanding into the UK and European markets.



**RIPA Global (Mel Gollan):** An ethical enterprise platform that helps governments and healthcare providers deploy support funds and information. RIPA Global aspires to sign pilot agreements with government agencies and expand its services internationally.



**Go Media (Andrea Rongonui):** Aotearoa's largest independently owned out-of-home media company specialising in digital and static billboards, and bus and train advertising. Go Media aims to connect with global marketing software companies and out-of-home advertising firms.



**Cloverbase (Meg Smith):** A digital enablement consultancy focused on developing leaders' digital mindsets. Cloverbase's target market includes board members and C-level executives, and it seeks to expand its mentoring challenge globally.



**AWWA and Ehoa (Michele Wilson):** AWWA is dedicated to providing sustainable and innovative menstrual products that cater to the needs of modern women. Ehoa focuses on delivering wellness and lifestyle products designed to empower individuals and promote a balanced, healthy lifestyle. Both businesses are looking to expand their market presence internationally and establish strong partnerships in the UK, Ireland, and France.



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