

Pioneering Palestine's Tech Future: Orion's Journey with TechStart

By: TechStart Team

In a land ripe with innovation, Orion VLSI Technologies "Orion" is blazing a trail in Palestine's tech industry as the first company to specialize in intricate chip design (VLSI).

Through support from UpSkill and Pioneer flagship programs under the Technology for Youth and Jobs – TechStart – project, Orion's groundbreaking work is providing ample chances for young Palestinian engineers to find employment opportunities and improve their talents.

UpSkill seeks to train students and IT professionals on niche technologies while supporting the business growth of IT companies.

It also supports the hiring of expatriates, including Palestinians in the diaspora, to help Palestinian companies develop their business and penetrate new regional and global markets. Pioneer seeks to support the introduction of new IT actors into the Palestinian ecosystem through various interventions which offer seed grants and incentives.

Orion was founded with the objective of establishing a Palestinian VLSI industry and is providing cutting-edge design services through staff augmentation, train-to-hire programs, and turnkey solutions.

The company leverages the expertise of its senior staff, who have held key positions in reputable international companies in the past, to develop the first ever chip to be designed in Palestine.

Young VLSI engineers engaged in this work are gaining invaluable hands-on experience by specializing in high-end technologies and advancing Palestinian innovation and excellence.

Orion's creation is a celebrated story of vision and collaboration. In 2023, the arrival of Dr. Nasib Naser, a Palestinian-American VLSI expert who works with ASAL Technologies marked a turning point for the company.

Dr. Nasib was hired through support from UpSkill as an expert who could help establish Orion and build a dedicated team of engineers to make new waves in the field of VLSI in Palestine.



PIONEER helped Orion launch by providing vital support to enable its first operations, while the company focused on investing in training programs across VLSI design cycle for new computer and electrical engineering students to fill a void in VLSI and semiconductor market.

With the establishment of Orion and the targeted training of its new trainees, Orion's ascendency towards growth and success began in earnest with the company growing from a team of 6 engineers in 2023 to a remarkable 42 engineers by mid-2024. This growth has been instrumental in showcasing the potential of the Palestinian IT sector in developing and advancing workstreams in R&D and chip design.



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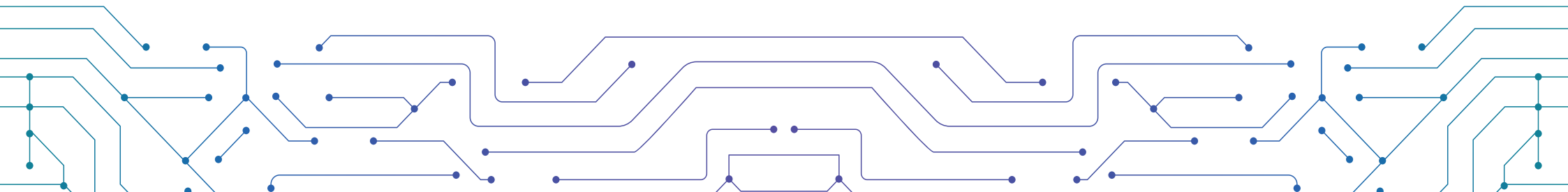
Orion's Business Development Manager,

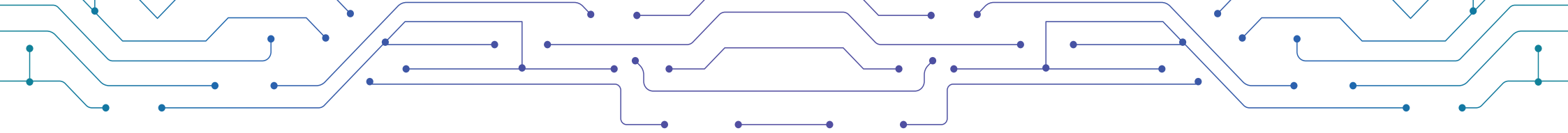
Pioneer gave us the opportunity to invest in building the capacities of fresh Computer engineers and Electrical Engineers graduates and equip them with the know-how in all aspects of the VLSI Design cycle. This has been a game-changer for us.

As Orion continues to build on the momentum gained through TechStart, its future goals are ambitious yet attainable.

The company aims to establish an export-oriented Palestinian VLSI industry, creating pathways for talented engineers eager for new opportunities.

TechStart has helped in setting Orion on a trajectory toward achieving these aspirations, positioning it as a key player in the global semiconductor landscape.





TechStart is a USD \$30 million project of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Economy and is supported by the World Bank, European Union, Government of Netherlands, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and is implemented by DAI Global UK.

The project aims to increase economic opportunities for IT service firms in the West Bank and Gaza by elevating the Palestinian IT value proposition, supporting the development of high-end niche technologies, and creating jobs for IT graduates and professionals.



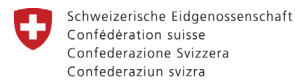
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