INVESTORS

National Counterintelligence and Security Center

SECURE INNOVATION

INVESTORS SUMMARY

KNOW THE **THREATS**

- People are a business' greatest asset but, in some cases, they can pose an insider risk
- Weak IT protocols can provide an easy way for your portfolio companies to be exploited
- Your portfolio companies' assets could be stolen via physical access
- Adversarial government actors can operate more easily overseas than in the U.S.
- Investment can be used to gain access to, and influence over, your portfolio companies
- International expansion exposes businesses to jurisdictional risk from foreign laws and business practices
- Vulnerable or malicious suppliers could compromise your profits

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PRE-INVESTMENT

- Does the company have any investors that pose significant risks?
- Could the involvement of other investors inhibit future fundraising or sale of the company because of legal, ethical, or compliance issues?

SECURE **ENVIRONMENT**

- Is security owned and discussed at the Board level?
- Has the company identified its most valuable assets?
- Is security included in the company's risk register?
- Are security measures centered around the company's critical assets?

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SECURE **PRODUCTS**

- Has the company built security into their product(s) from the beginning?
- Does the company have a strategy to identify and manage their IP?

SECURE **PARTNERSHIPS**

- Does the company conduct due diligence on all prospective partners – investors, suppliers and collaborators?
- Has the company limited the data, information, and knowledge it shares to only who/what is necessary and within its risk tolerance?

SECURE **GROWTH**

Expand safely into new markets

- Has the company put in place proportionate and effective security procedures for any international travel?
- Is the company compliant with U.S. export laws and any other international export regulations that may apply?
- Is the company aware of local laws in countries into which they are expanding, and how those laws could affect the business?

Security for a growing team

- Has the company put in place pre-employment screening processes for all recruits?
- Does the company provide security training for all staff, including upon onboarding?

Prepare for security incidents

- Has the company established and tested an incident management plan?
- Does the company detect and investigate unexpected behaviors in IT and staff?

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