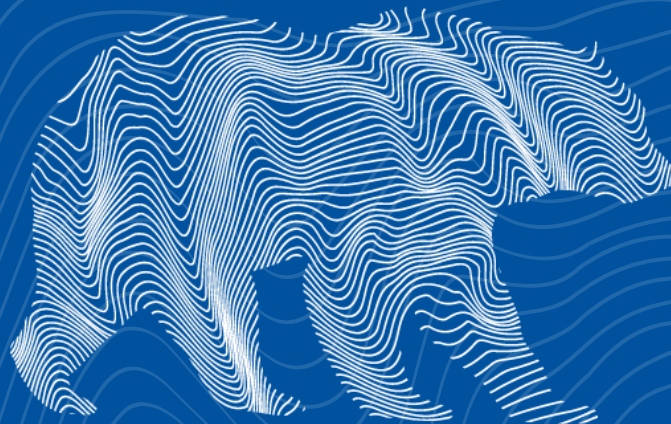


QUANTUM CALIFORNIA CONVENING

OCTOBER 22-23, 2026



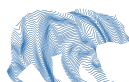
QUANTUM CALIF[✶]ORNIA

Agenda

UCLA Covell Commons · Los Angeles, California

Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23, 2026 · Grand Horizon Room, 3rd floor

HOSTED BY



CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

UCLA

QUANTUM CALIFORNIA CONVENING

Day 1: Thursday, October 22, 2026

Registration opens 8:00 AM · Program 9:00 AM · Reception 5:10 PM · Speakers and times are subject to change

8:00 AM

Registration and Networking

9:00 AM

Welcome Remarks

Speakers set the stage for the day ahead, share insights on California's leadership in the quantum sector following the launch of Quantum California the prior year, and discuss how this convening sets up participants for ongoing engagement and collaboration.

Barak Bussel, Managing Partner, 7i Capital; Chair, Center for Quantum Science and Engineering, UCLA

Julio Frenk, Chancellor, UCLA

Dee Dee Myers, Senior Advisor to the Governor and Director, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)

9:15 AM

Keynote: The Momentum Behind Quantum California

How the future of quantum is happening in California, and how the Golden State's research and academic institutions position it to lead for years to come.

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee, California State Assembly (14th District)

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee, California State Assembly (46th District)

9:35 AM

UCLA's Quantum Ecosystem and the UCLA Research Park

A brief history of UCLA's work in quantum, the transformational UCLA Research Park now under construction with \$200M in state funding, and state investment through California Jobs First.

Eric Hudson, Davis Saxon Presidential Chair and Professor of Physics and Astronomy; Director, Center for Quantum Science and Engineering, UCLA

10:00 AM

Fireside Chat with IBM and HRL: A New Chapter in California

Following IBM's acquisition of HRL Laboratories, leaders from both organizations discuss why the deal came together, how HRL's silicon qubit work fits IBM's roadmap, and what the combination means for California's quantum ecosystem and the road to fault-tolerant machines.

MODERATOR **Jamie Garcia**, Director, Strategic Growth and Quantum Partnerships; Senior Research Executive, IBM Research

Thaddeus Ladd, Chief Scientist, Qubit Systems Laboratory, HRL Laboratories (an IBM company)

Matthew Borselli, Vice President, Qubit Systems Laboratory, HRL Laboratories (an IBM company)

10:25 AM

Networking Break

10:45 AM

Fireside Chat with Oratomic: From Breakthrough to Buildout

Oratomic's founders discuss the result that put a 10,000-qubit neutral-atom architecture on the map, the \$775M raise that followed, and what it takes to turn a breakthrough paper into a company building machines in California, from talent and facilities to the partners and customers it needs next.

MODERATOR **Ray Jayawardhana**, President, Caltech

Dolev Bluvstein, Co-Founder and CEO, Oratomic; Visiting Associate Professor, Caltech

11:20 AM

CIQC Renewed: Realizing the Quantum Ecosystem and Building Future Quantum Talent

Academic and research partners behind the recently renewed \$37.5M NSF Quantum Leap Challenge Institute discuss how federal investment in California's quantum research apparatus continues to strengthen industry architectures, advance R&D, and cultivate future generations of workforce talent.

INTRODUCTION **Miguel García-Garibay**, Dean of Physical Sciences; Senior Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences, UCLA

MODERATOR **Shimon Kolkowitz**, Roger Herst Chair Associate Professor of Physics, UC Berkeley; Director, NSF Challenge Institute for Quantum Computation (CIQC)

Wes Campbell, Professor of Physics, UCLA

Ania Bleszynski Jayich, Professor of Physics; Co-Director, NSF Quantum Foundry, UC Santa Barbara

John Preskill, Richard P. Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics; Director, Institute for Quantum Information and Matter, Caltech

Justin Perron, Associate Professor, CSTEM Physics, CSU San Marcos

12:10 PM

Lunch

1:10 PM

Accelerating California's Quantum Workforce

The California Workforce Development Board shares how the State is aligning its workforce and education systems with the needs of the quantum industry, and how employers, colleges, and training partners can plug in.

Kaina Pereira, Executive Director, California Workforce Development Board

1:20 PM

Google Quantum AI

Google Quantum AI shares the latest from its Santa Barbara lab, from the Willow processor and the Quantum Echoes verifiable-advantage result to the path toward a useful quantum computer.

Sergio Boixo, Director, Quantum Computing, Google Quantum AI

1:40 PM

Panel: Quantum California, State Strategy and Investment in Motion

Members of the Governor's Cabinet and legislative leaders share the State's investments, what they have learned, and what is on the horizon, including how programs such as Jobs First work in tandem with industry to encourage commercialization, workforce development, and the integration of quantum technology.

INTRODUCTION **Ah-Hyung "Alissa" Park**, Ronald and Valerie Sugar Dean; Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, UCLA Samueli School of Engineering

MODERATOR **Nani Coloretti**, Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Senator Tim Grayson, Chair, Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee; Senate Majority Whip, California State Senate (9th District)

Dee Dee Myers, Senior Advisor to the Governor and Director, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)

Theresa A. Maldonado, Vice President for Research and Innovation, University of California Office of the President (UCOP)

Breakout Sessions I

Attendees choose one of three concurrent sessions.

2:45 PM

1A Investment and Acceleration **North Ridge Room, 3rd floor**

How venture and institutional capital are accelerating the growth of California's quantum companies.

MODERATOR **Barak Bussel**, Managing Partner, 7i Capital; Chair, Center for Quantum Science and Engineering, UCLA

Alan Ho, Co-Founder and CEO, Qolab

Carmen Palacios-Berraquero, Founder and CEO, Nu Quantum

Tim Day, Chairman and CEO, Monarch Quantum

Dolev Bluvstein, Co-Founder and CEO, Oratomic; Visiting Associate Professor, Caltech

2:45 PM

1B Testbeds and Proving Grounds West Coast Room, 3rd floor

The latest on how California's national laboratory, university, and space-focused testbeds are expanding access to the facilities where quantum technology is developed and proven.

MODERATOR **Claire Cramer**, Executive Director, Berkeley Quantum and the Challenge Institute of Quantum Computation (CIQC), UC Berkeley

Chris Spitzer, Quantum Research Program Manager, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Gunther Haller, Chief Technologist, Technology Innovation Directorate, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

Jason Hyon, Director, Quantum Space Innovation Center (QSIC), NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Ramesh Rao, Director, Qualcomm Institute (Calit2); Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, UC San Diego

2:45 PM

1C Local to Global Quantum Ecosystems, Crafting Regional Strategies and Partnerships South Bay Room, 3rd floor

How international and regional partnerships and investments are turning California's regions into industry clusters for manufacturing, supply chain, testing, and more.

MODERATOR **David Steuerman**, Executive Director, Center for Quantum Science and Engineering (CQSE), UCLA

Tanya Bennett, Australian Consul-General, Los Angeles, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Josh Boswell, Vice President of Strategy and Policy, REACH Central Coast

Jermaine Hampton, Vice President, Workforce Development and Strategic Initiatives, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC)

Stefano Spagna, Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Quantum Design

3:30 PM

Networking Break

Breakout Sessions II

Attendees choose one of three concurrent sessions.

3:40 PM

2A Quantum Industry, Applications and Algorithms North Ridge Room, 3rd floor

Where quantum applications are headed and which use cases are closest to delivering commercial value.

MODERATOR **Kristi Beck**, Director, Livermore Center for Quantum Science, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Russell Stutz, Senior Director, Product Technologies, Quantinuum

Martin Roetteler, Vice President, Quantum Applications R&D, IonQ

Khadijeh Sona Najafi, Quantum Solution Manager, IQM Quantum Computers

Elica Kyoseva, Director, Quantum Applications, NVIDIA

3:40 PM

2B Manufacturing and Production West Coast Room, 3rd floor

What it takes to move quantum hardware from lab-built prototypes to commercial-scale manufacturing, and how to clear the bottlenecks in enabling technologies.

MODERATOR **Chee Wei Wong**, Tannas Professor of Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, UCLA

Lawrence Lee, Senior Director, Commercialization Group; Program Director, NIST Quantum Manufacturing Engineering Center, SRI International

Robert Larisch, Senior Vice President, Global Supply Chain, PsiQuantum

Robert Visser, Vice President, Engineering Technology, Office of the CTO, Applied Materials

Saeed Seyed, Senior Vice President, System Hardware Engineering, Rigetti

3:40 PM

2C Connecting the Workforce and Talent Pipeline South Bay Room, 3rd floor

How California's education and workforce systems are preparing the talent pipeline for careers in quantum.

MODERATOR **Richard Ross**, Program Director, Master of Quantum Science and Technology (MQST), Department of Physics and Astronomy, UCLA

Brian Monacelli, Professor and Director of Laser Technology, Pasadena City College

Ania Bleszynski Jayich, Professor of Physics; Co-Director, NSF Quantum Foundry, UC Santa Barbara

Javier Sanchez-Yamagishi, Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy; Assistant Director, Eddleman Quantum Institute, UC Irvine

4:30 PM

Panel: Quantum Advantage Through Shared Opportunity

International partnerships shaping California's quantum future, with a focus on the growing collaboration between California and the United Kingdom.

MODERATOR **Tricia Utterback**, International Trade and Investment Representative, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)

Paul Rennie OBE, British Consul General in Los Angeles

5:05 PM

Closing Remarks and Preview of Day 2

Wrapping up the day and looking ahead to Day 2.

5:10 PM

Reception

Day 2: Friday, October 23, 2026

Breakfast 8:00 AM · Program 9:00 AM · Optional lab tours 1:35 PM · Speakers and times are subject to change

8:00 AM Breakfast and Networking

9:00 AM **Welcoming Remarks**

Speakers set the stage for the day ahead and share how California's research institutions and public partners are carrying Quantum California forward.

Shouleh Nikzad, Chief Technologist, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Lark Park, Executive Director, California Education Learning Lab; Regent, University of California

9:25 AM **Expanding in the Golden State**

Leaders of quantum companies that have chosen to locate and expand in California and the Los Angeles area discuss what drew them to the state, from proximity to research institutions, talent, and testbeds to capital, and what will keep them growing.

INTRODUCTION **Kelly LoBianco**, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity

Alex Shih, Vice President of Product, Q-CTRL

Jay Guilmart, Lead Product Manager, Q-CTRL

Reza Nejabati, Head of Quantum Research and Labs, Cisco

Stefanie Tardo, Chief Operating Officer, Dirac

Keith Wright, Head of US Business Development, Quantum Machines

10:30 AM **Building the California Ecosystem**

Research and education institutions across the state, from Pasadena to Riverside to San Diego, discuss how a connected regional ecosystem strengthens California as a whole.

Rosa Di Felice, Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Quantitative and Computational Biology, USC

Hiroshi Ooguri, Fred Kavli Professor of Theoretical Physics and Mathematics; Kent and Joyce Kresa Leadership Chair, Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy, Caltech

Michael Sailor, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry; Director, NSF Materials Research Science and Engineering Center; Co-Director, Institute for Materials Discovery and Design, UC San Diego

Nathaniel Gabor, Professor of Physics and Astronomy; Principal Investigator, Center for Quantum Vibronics in Energy and Time (QuVET), UC Riverside; Technical Lead, Quantum Sciences, Apsidal

11:25 AM **Networking and Coffee**

11:45 AM

Panel: Opportunities in Aerospace, Maritime, and Defense

How quantum materials, sensing, timing, and communications technologies are opening new opportunities in aerospace, defense, and maritime applications, and how California's defense economy strengths position the state to lead.

MODERATOR **Karl Jacob**, Commercial Strategy Office, DARPA; Strategic Advisor, USC Information Sciences Institute

Jay Lowell, Principal Senior Technical Fellow and Quantum Technology Leader, Boeing Quantum Systems

Andrew Mollner, Principal Director, Electronics and Photonics Laboratory, The Aerospace Corporation

Joanna Ptasinski, Branch Head, Cryogenic Electronics and Quantum Research, Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Pacific

12:40 PM

Lunch and Presentation: Quantum California, Strategy and What's Next

Lunch is served while GO-Biz presents the next phase of Quantum California: the priorities ahead, upcoming investments, and how participants can stay engaged in the year to come.

Trelynd Bradley, Deputy Director, Innovation and Emerging Technologies, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)

1:30 PM

Closing Remarks

Closing reflections on the two days and the commitments carried forward, from GO-Biz and UCLA.

1:35 PM

Site Tours and Visits (Optional)

Guided tours of UCLA quantum research labs, including trapped-ion quantum computing, quantum optics, and superconducting qubit facilities.

Questions? Contact innovate@gobiz.ca.gov about the convening, registration or Quantum California.