
Your Y Combinator Application

1 message

Y Combinator <apply@ycombinator.com>

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 1:31 PM

To: sudo@conscious.ai, [REDACTED]

Thanks for applying to Y Combinator. We're sorry to say that your startup was not selected to interview for the upcoming Y Combinator batch. We carefully reviewed thousands of applications and since there's a limit on the number of startups we can interview, we had to turn away a lot of promising companies.

Unfortunately we can't give you individual feedback about your application. [This page explains why.](#)

We hope you reapply for the next batch; in fact, we encourage it. The next batch will run from January–March 2025 and the deadline to apply for it is in October 2024. Applying multiple times does not count against you and a surprisingly large number of companies are funded after applying more than once. Over 50% of the startups we accept are repeat applicants.

Lastly, we find that many strong YC founders have learned how to start a startup by working at one. YC runs workatastartup.com to help you connect with founders and find a job at over 700 fast-growing and well-funded YC startups.

Best of luck,

—YC

YC s2024 Application Submitted

1 message

Y Combinator <apply@ycombinator.com>
To: sudo@conscious.ai
Cc: [redacted]

Fri, Apr 26, 2024 at 6:44 PM

Hello Boban,

Congratulations on applying to Y Combinator!

Your application to the s2024 batch for CONSCIOUS.AI d/b/a/ Consciousness Research Society || CRS has been submitted.

We've included the text of your application below.

Thanks,
YC

Founders

Founders

Table with 4 columns: Hacker News Username, Name, Email, Profile Updated. Row 1: bobandedovic, Boban Dedovic, [redacted], yes

Who writes code, or does other technical work on your product? Was any of it done by a non-founder? Please explain.

I design, plan out, and write all the code to prototype our projects, and then I rely on talented engineers within separate specialties to refactor the code when necessary. I also rely on these third parties when I encounter a technical problem that I cannot resolve myself.

Are you looking for a cofounder?

No, I'm not looking for a cofounder at this time; however, I am open to it so long as they are incredibly capable A-players, and we have a strong dynamic.

Founder Video

Please record a one minute video introducing the founder(s).

[Uploaded successfully]

Company

Company name:

CONSCIOUS.AI d/b/a/ Consciousness Research Society || CRS

Describe what your company does in 50 characters or less.

Research/development of 100x next-gen A.I.

Company url, if any:

https://conscious.ai

Please provide a link to the product, if relevant.

https://conscious.ai/work/project/angie-os

What is your company going to make? Please describe your product and what it does or will do.

AngieOS is going to be the world's first and only self-updating, self-aware, computation-efficient artificial general intelligence operating system. Its computational capabilities and practical applications will hopefully surpass human intelligence by orders of magnitude.

The demo product will essentially be a terminal where users can enter complex, structured queries related to future events, and the results are returned in the form of a statistical prediction, as well as an explanation (note: it is not a chatbot, but a developer tool).

Where do you live now, and where would the company be based after YC?

Las Vegas, USA / Delaware, USA

Explain your decision regarding location.

[Redacted text]

Progress

How far along are you?

We are currently in phase two of a three-phase journey. We have already developed novel computer science theory to address the unique challenges of A.I., and are currently working on our first real non-research product: AngieOS.

How long have each of you been working on this? How much of that has been full-time? Please explain.

I have been working on this full-time for the past six years. In 2018, I committed full-time to working on A.I. After a year, I discovered that current approaches to A.I. will never yield computational capabilities that can surpass human intelligence by orders of magnitude.

What tech stack are you using, or planning to use, to build this product?

For AngieOS, we anticipate using C and C++ as the base; and the operating system shell itself will be a proprietary scripting language we will build, called N. This proprietary language is designed around the needs of the task at hand: self-updating, self-aware, computation-efficient artificial general intelligence.

Are people using your product?

No

When will you have a version people can use?

We expect a robust working demo within one to two years. The reason for this delay is because a team of more experienced engineers is required to build it.

Do you have revenue?

No

If you are applying with the same idea as a previous batch, did anything change? If you applied with a different idea, why did you pivot and what did you learn from the last idea?

N/A

If you have already participated or committed to participate in an incubator, "accelerator" or "pre-accelerator" program, please tell us about it.

N/A

Idea

Why did you pick this idea to work on? Do you have domain expertise in this area? How do you know people need what you're making?

I picked this idea to work on for three reasons: (1) it is a hard but possible problem to solve; (2) I am uniquely qualified to work on it based on my training, background, and experience; and (3) I am extremely passionate about this matter such that I consider it my life's work.

As noted, I am uniquely qualified for building the product and I have extensive domain experience.

I know as a cold fact that people need what we are making because everyone, including Y Combinator, is interested in predicting the future. The need goes further than that, though. People and organizations need solutions to problems they didn't know existed, and before these problems have significant consequences. AngieOS is entirely focused on using data from known circumstances at the present time in order to predict future outcomes with a high probability of success.

Who are your competitors? What do you understand about your business that they don't?

The AngieOS product has no direct competitors that we know of. It has several indirect competitors, most of whom are engaged in the defense or financial sector. These include Palantir, Anduril, and many companies that work on predictive capabilities in the financial technology sector. They are indirect competitors because like OpenAI, Microsoft, and Google, all of them are better described as examples of artificial learning, not artificial intelligence, as shown in the next response.

(Let it be known that the answer below departs massively from humanity's current understanding of several important topics. I will do my best to substantiate all statements as briefly as possible; however, in my experience, unpacking the claims usually requires a longer form discussion so that the reader can ask precise, penetrating questions.)

The following list of claims reflect our contrarian opinions:

(1) Current approaches to computer science will never yield next-generation A.I. that can surpass human capabilities by orders of magnitude—no matter the amount of money invested or time spent.

In general, almost all computer scientists have certain assumptions that go entirely unchallenged. For example, Larry Ellison and many others have commented that computers are slaves to logic and can only do what they are told. Under this premise, everything humanity has created with respect to technology is the reflection of software that executes what engineers want. This approach has capability limits in proportion to the capabilities of the engineers who created the product.

We believe that this paradigm needs to be removed in order to build next-generation A.I. If we start by asking what computer science would look like if this restriction was removed, we now have a completely different branch of possibilities. If certain theoretical assumptions like these are modified with the expressed intent of building next-generation A.I., we believe that the results will be different. The comparison with humans makes this easiest to understand. Humans are not designed to be on the moon or to travel to Mars. However, we are able to do so, and it is only possible because humans are able to exercise intelligence in order to override biological limitations.

Our approach thus attempts to mimic our understanding of human capability and measurable achievement in order to replicate the results in an artificial context. (Note: this was thoroughly explained in our launch manifesto in 2019; see <https://conscious.ai/blog/launch>).

(2) Current technologies like ChatGPT by OpenAI, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, and others are examples of artificial learning, not artificial intelligence.

The CRS recently published a dedicated blog post that provides a robust explanation and examples (see <https://conscious.ai/blog/open-letter-artificial-learning-vs-artificial-intelligence>).

In general, most computer scientists confuse "learning" with "intelligence." To illustrate this, I may ask the reader to conduct a simple experiment: speak to at least five respected experts in A.I., and ask them to define, measure, and differentiate between the meanings of the words "learning" and "intelligence." In our experience, they begin by answering the questions with confidence, and when the two definitions are compared, there is clear inconsistency and confusion. The same is said when comparing answers between Expert A and Expert B.

(3) According to our proprietary definition of intelligence, self-awareness is required.

Our proprietary understanding of key terms and core assumptions in computer science compel us to take seriously the importance of self awareness with respect to any form of higher-level intelligence. That is, self-awareness is a critical component of intelligence. Our theoretical model indicates that it can be re-created artificially.

Ultimately, we believe that building A.I. is primarily a psycholinguistics problem, not a computer science problem.

How do or will you make money? How much could you make?

We plan to make money by means of licensing AngieOS as a piece of middleware or an add-on to other robotics and computer systems. At this time, we anticipate our customers to be governments, regulatory agencies, and large corporations.

The question of potential earnings in the future is difficult to answer because predicting the future is difficult. A conservative benchmark may be Palantir, which posted net income of \$93 million and revenue of \$608 million in its Q4 2023 earnings report. In any case, our goal is to be both the first mover, and last one standing in this enterprise. If executed correctly, there's an opportunity for monopoly profits comparable to a national electric company.

Where will most of your initial users be located?

US

Which category best applies to your company?

Developer Tools

Equity

Have you formed ANY legal entity yet?

Yes

Please list all legal entities you have and in what state or country each was formed (e.g. Delaware C Corp, Mexican SAPI, Singapore Pvt Ltd, etc.).

CONSCIOUS.AI d/b/a Consciousness Research Society [REDACTED]

OMNIKA Foundation d/b/a OMNIKA [REDACTED]

Please describe the breakdown of the equity ownership in percentages among the founders, employees and any other stockholders. If there are multiple founders, be sure to give the equity ownership of each founder and founder title (e.g. CEO).

Are you currently fundraising?

Yes

Please provide any relevant details about your current fundraise.

We are currently interested in raising a Series A round of funding and taking meetings. We declined two angel investment offers because we believe that more capital is required to build AngieOS, our first product.

Others

If you had any other ideas you considered applying with, please list them. One may be something we've been waiting for. Often when we fund people it's to do something they list here and not in the main application.

No, we are not considering applying with another idea at this time. However, we understand that pivoting may be required in the future, and we are open to this.

Curious

What convinced you to apply to Y Combinator? Did someone encourage you to apply? Have you been to any YC events?

I applied to Y Combinator because I think there may be an opportunity to progress more rapidly if accepted. Several of my peers in the technology space encouraged me to apply over the past few years. I have never been to any YC events, but I do follow Hacker News.

How did you hear about Y Combinator?

I first heard about YC around 2008 when it was called Startup News because I have followed technology since I gained access to the internet as a child.

If you have a referral code, enter it here.

N/A