



Building Malaysia's Day Zero Founder Pipeline

Antler supports the creation of new Malaysian ventures by widening access to early-stage capital, founder networks and company-building support for high-potential entrepreneurs.

Malaysia's next phase of economic growth requires a stronger pipeline of founder-led startups that can build new products, solve industry problems and compete regionally. For many aspiring entrepreneurs, the barrier is not ambition, but access. Limited early-stage capital, difficulty finding the right technical co-founders and lack of professional networks prevent experienced operators and domain experts from turning ideas into viable ventures. This is where venture capital partners such as Antler play a catalytic role: not only by providing capital after companies are formed, but by strengthening the founder pipeline from which new Malaysian ventures can emerge.



Antler's Malaysia Residency brings aspiring founders together to form teams, validate ideas, build minimum viable products and prepare to pitch for early-stage investment.

Fostering an Inclusive and Dynamic Innovation Ecosystem

Antler, a global early-stage venture capital firm, seeks to address these barriers through its founder-first approach. Antler's Residency programme provides an immersive environment for seasoned domain experts and technical talent, many of whom possess over a decade of corporate or startup operator experience. The programme offers essential institutional support and capital needed for experienced professionals to confidently transition away from corporate roles and launch their own competitive ventures.

This broadens entrepreneurship opportunities for high-potential individuals who might otherwise lack the initial capital networks, while also diversifying Malaysia's future startup leaders to include more Bumiputera founders and women entrepreneurs. Beyond supporting individual founders, Antler-backed startups also reinforce the broader innovation ecosystem. Many of these ventures

develop solutions that address operational challenges faced by businesses in Malaysia and the region, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). As these ventures scale, they create skilled employment opportunities, engage local suppliers and encourage traditional industries to adopt advanced digital tools and operate more efficiently.

Startups from Antler's Residency Programme



A construction software company, helps construction firms transform fragmented project information into structured, real-time intelligence. Beyond securing essential funding, COEX leveraged Antler's professional network and hands-on guidance which supported the company's next stage of growth and helped shape it into a more resilient and scalable venture.



A RegTech firm, streamlines institutional compliance and risk identification processes through advanced digital solutions. Following Antler's investment, Otonoco continue to pursue its growth journey and managed to secure a competitive tender from one of Malaysia's largest institutional fund managers, enabling the company to execute their roadmap to scale its solution across 70 business units.



Launched as a gift-giving company lacking the digital solutions to scale its operations. After connecting with the right technical partner through Antler's Residency programme, MessengerCo continue to pursue its growth and tripled in size. Today, it has established itself as a merchandise and corporate gifting company generating seven-figure revenue.

Khazanah's Role

Catalysing Early-Stage Capital and Ecosystem Access

Through Dana Impak, Khazanah's investment in Antler's Southeast Asia Fund II supported one of the earliest points in the company-building journey: the moment experienced operators, domain experts and technical talent decide to become founders.

By backing Antler, Khazanah helps bring structured company-building support, early institutional capital and regional founder networks into Malaysia's startup ecosystem. Through Antler's Residency programme, 27 local ventures and over 90 talent have been supported.

Khazanah's partnership also strengthens the broader ecosystem around these companies. By connecting Antler-backed startups with government-linked companies, institutions and other partners, the investment creates more opportunities for Malaysian ventures to pilot innovative solutions, engage larger customers and build confidence needed to scale beyond the domestic market.

Looking Ahead

AI as Infrastructure and Founder Resilience

Moving forward, Antler is sharpening its regional investment focus in Asia on AI outlier companies addressing core industrial and operational bottlenecks. Antler backs high-conviction founders building vertical and physical AI solutions in a region that delivers scalable, measurable impact to global enterprises and customers.

Simultaneously, Antler backs founders from outside Asia to build technology companies that can penetrate and scale within Asian markets. By backing software intelligence purpose-built for the region's industrial matrix, Antler accelerates cross-border go-to-market and connects specialised AI platforms with critical global supply chains.

Key Impact Metrics

24

Malaysian companies supported



90

skilled talent in Malaysia supported



93

total talent in Malaysia supported



For more information, visit
www.antler.co