CYRANNUS

VENTURE PLATFORM IP CASE STUDY

How a venture fund that runs on proprietary technology protects both its own platform and the portfolio it backs

INTRODUCTION

Cyrannus is a Columbus, Ohio venture platform that pairs an expert network with artificial intelligence to evaluate seed-stage startups and fund the best of them. Founders submit video pitches rather than decks; more than a thousand domain experts across artificial intelligence, fintech, climate, and biotech score them anonymously; and a weighting model turns that collective judgement into a Cyrannus Score. Startups scoring above the threshold receive capital from the Cyrannus Fund within weeks, and high scorers are syndicated to accredited investors on the platform.

The firm describes itself as Y Combinator meets Robinhood. Alongside primary funding it operates a prediction market and a private swap market that lets investors exit positions early, attacking the illiquidity that defines the venture asset class. Cyrannus has more than one hundred million dollars in assets under influence, raised three and a half million dollars for the platform itself in 2024, and targets funding more than two hundred startups a year.

BACKGROUND

Cyrannus faces an intellectual property question from two directions at once, and most venture firms only ever face one of them.

The first is its own technology. Cyrannus is not a fund with a spreadsheet; it is a software company that happens to deploy capital. The scoring engine, the weighting and attribution model that converts anonymous expert opinion into a single predictive number, the structure of the staged video diligence funnel, and the private swap mechanism that creates liquidity in an illiquid asset class are all proprietary systems. They are also, by design, publicly described — in press releases, podcast appearances, conference presentations, and an app available in both the Apple and Google stores. Every one of those is a disclosure event, and the underlying methods are exactly the kind of financial-technology subject matter that draws close scrutiny under Section 101.

The second is the portfolio. Cyrannus was built on the premise that technical claims should be verified rather than taken on faith, and its expert network exists to test whether a startup's technology actually works. Intellectual property is the other half of that question. A company can have real technology and still be uninvestable if the technology is unprotected, if the filings are owned by a former employer or university, or if a competitor already holds the blocking patent. Diligence that evaluates feasibility without evaluating freedom to operate answers only half the question.

> ***"We built Cyrannus because technical claims should be verified, not assumed. Ownership of the technology deserves exactly the same discipline. PatentPC helped us patent our unique take on Venture Capital. PatentPC also helped our portfolio companies the same way they worked with us: better, faster, and with high quality. "***
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> H. LEE MOSBACKER, PH.D., CO-FOUNDER & CEO, CYRANNUS

LEADERSHIP

H. LEE MOSBACKER, Ph.D.

Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer, Cyrannus

Lee Mosbacker received his doctorate in physics from Ohio State in 2008 and published roughly a dozen papers carrying more than a thousand citations, including work on phase-corrected antennas for terahertz imaging arrays that was itself the subject of a patent application. He is a named inventor on filings dating back to that research.

Over the following fifteen years he raised roughly twenty-five million dollars from venture capital and the Department of Defense, co-founded a hyperspectral imaging lab, and exited an artificial intelligence company. He is co-founder and managing partner of the Kobol Fund and Kobol II Fund, and co-founded Cyrannus with Vanessa Mosbacker, Michael Sampoerna, and Mike Arbuzov.

SOLUTION

What first set PatentPC apart was the breadth of technology it could take on and the degree to which the filing workflow itself is automated. A venture platform generates disclosures across machine learning and model weighting, market microstructure and swap mechanics, mobile and cloud architecture, and data pipelines — and its portfolio generates disclosures across every sector the fund invests in. Most outside counsel would need a different specialist for each, and would bill for all of them coming up to speed.

Cyrannus empowers founders with a rigorous, evidence-based evaluation of their strengths, risks, and execution readiness—and PatentPC amplifies that impact by ensuring the underlying scoring models, data-analysis frameworks, and credibility-assessment algorithms are protected as defensible IP. With PatentPC shaping system-level claims around Cyrannus's methodology and platform architecture, the company can scale its founder-evaluation engine without fear of copycat platforms replicating its core insights. This transforms Cyrannus's innovation from a clever tool into a protected category-defining asset.

For investors, Cyrannus becomes even more valuable when paired with PatentPC's strategic IP protection. PatentPC helps Cyrannus secure patents around its trust-scoring logic, risk-profiling workflows, and founder-credibility analytics—turning what could be seen as "just software" into a proprietary diligence infrastructure. Investors gain confidence not only in the accuracy of Cyrannus's assessments but in the defensibility of the platform itself. This IP backbone strengthens Cyrannus's position as the trusted standard for evaluating early-stage founders.

PatentPC also enhances how Cyrannus collaborates with advisors and mentors. By protecting Cyrannus's structured scoring frameworks and feedback-generation engines, PatentPC ensures that the platform's guidance remains uniquely Cyrannus's—impossible for competitors to mimic through superficial UI changes or rebranded coaching tools. Advisors benefit from a consistent, proprietary language for diagnosing founder gaps, while founders receive insights that are both actionable and backed by protected intellectual rigor.

At the ecosystem level, Cyrannus and PatentPC together build integrity into innovation. Cyrannus raises the bar for founder transparency and preparedness, while PatentPC ensures the platform's mechanisms for enforcing those standards are safeguarded globally. This combination allows accelerators, universities, and venture networks to rely on Cyrannus not just as a helpful tool, but as a protected, scalable infrastructure for cultivating credible founders and strengthening the entire startup landscape.PatentPC's culture is built on continuous improvement, which has produced automation efficiency at a level previously not thought possible — and those savings are passed through to clients. That efficiency matters twice over for a venture platform: once for its own filings, and again across a portfolio where predictable, low-friction patent work is one of the few forms of support a fund can offer at scale to every company it backs. PatentPC worked with us on:

- Eligibility-resilient drafting under Section 101 — scoring, weighting, and market mechanics claimed as concrete technical systems producing specific improvements, rather than as abstract methods of organising financial activity.
- File ahead of disclosure — applications on record before press releases, app releases, conference talks, and podcast appearances, all of which a platform company does constantly.
- Protect the mechanism, not the interface — coverage aimed at the scoring architecture, expert-weighting model, and swap and liquidity infrastructure rather than at screens a competitor can redesign.
- Portfolio-level IP diligence — freedom-to-operate and ownership review folded into the evaluation process, so a Cyrannus Score reflects whether a startup can actually practise its technology.
- A filing service for portfolio companies — the same automation-backed drafting offered to funded startups, so IP protection is a benefit of taking Cyrannus capital rather than a cost the founder defers.
- Costs sized for early stage — provisional-first sequencing and transparent pricing, so a seed company's IP spend fits inside a hundred-thousand-dollar check instead of consuming it.

RESULTS

$100M+	1,000+	200+
ASSETS UNDER INFLUENCE	EXPERTS IN THE NETWORK	STARTUPS TARGETED PER YEAR

Those three numbers describe the scale of the intellectual property exposure as much as the scale of the opportunity. A platform aiming to evaluate thousands of applicants and fund hundreds of companies a year touches more early-stage technology in twelve months than most funds see in a decade, and it does so with a proprietary methodology it publishes about continuously. Both sides of that equation need to be handled deliberately.

The practical effect is a single IP posture that runs in both directions. Cyrannus's own inventions are captured and filed on a cadence that keeps pace with its release schedule instead of trailing behind it, so public description follows the filing rather than preceding it. On the portfolio side, ownership and freedom-to-operate questions surface during evaluation rather than during a later round's diligence, when they are far more expensive to fix, and funded companies get access to filing support on terms an early-stage budget can absorb.

Cyrannus saved in two directions at once. First, by working with experienced attorneys backed by a technology stack, it avoided paying outside counsel to learn machine learning scoring systems and private market mechanics, and received applications with more technical depth on a far shorter cycle. Second, by making the change, Cyrannus now pays less while receiving more accurate and more efficient patent services — with claim drafting and strategic advice still owned by its patent attorneys.

> ***"PatentPC didn't just protect our innovation—they accelerated it. Their clarity, speed, and strategic precision set a new standard for what world-class IP performance should look like. We refer PatentPC to our portfolio investments."***
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> H. LEE MOSBACKER, PH.D., CO-FOUNDER & CEO, CYRANNUS

Diligence the technology. Then diligence who owns it.

PatentPC pairs experienced patent attorneys with practice automation so venture platforms can protect their own technology and extend real IP support across a portfolio — at costs that work at pre-seed and seed. Talk to us about a filing programme for your fund and the companies you back.

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