

Mike Otworth

Executive Chairman & Co-Founder of Innventure (NASDAQ: INV)

Executive Summary

Strategic Company Builder

Building Billion-Dollar Ventures through Corporate Collaboration

Biography

Mike Otworth co-founded and serves as Executive Chairman of Innventure, bringing over 25 years of experience in founding, funding, and scaling technology companies that solve major market challenges. Through his leadership at XL TechGroup and subsequently at Innventure, Mike has guided six companies to successful IPOs, creating \$4.5 billion in market value while pioneering a systematic approach to technology commercialization.

What sets Mike apart is his unique journey from policy to entrepreneurship, beginning as a legislative aide in the U.S. House of Representatives before transitioning to technology venture creation. From founding multiple startups at XL TechGroup (1996-2008) to establishing Green Ocean Innovation where he partnered with pharmaceutical giants like Eli Lilly, Mike developed deep expertise in identifying which breakthrough innovations deserve commercialization. His path from Capitol Hill to ringing the NASDAQ closing bell as CEO of PureCycle provides compelling narratives about strategic vision, disciplined execution, and market transformation.

Having built PureCycle from early-stage concept to a \$1.6 billion public company in just six years—while simultaneously launching AeroFlexx, Accelsius, and Refinity—Mike delivers battle-tested insights on navigating the complete company lifecycle. His experience spans securing first commercial plants, managing successful public offerings, and creating sustainable solutions that address global challenges. Whether working with multinational corporation executives to commercialize breakthrough innovations, guiding entrepreneurs through hypergrowth, or advising investors on transformative technology opportunities, Mike provides strategic frameworks that turn promising technology solutions into industry-defining companies.

OFFICIAL BIO: ([website](#))

Areas of Expertise

Adaptive Strategic Positioning & Rapid Commercialization

Leading organizations through dynamic pivots and course corrections in early-stage markets while maintaining strategic clarity, developed through 25+ years founding and scaling ventures that created \$4.5 billion in market value through six successful IPOs

Building High-Performance Innovation Teams

Assembling and empowering teams with "athlete" mindsets who thrive in ambiguity, creating equity-aligned cultures where everyone has ownership stakes and collective success supersedes individual recognition in transformational technology ventures

Corporate-Startup Partnership Architecture

Structuring collaborative frameworks between multinationals and new ventures that accelerate commercialization of transformational R&D, aligning the strategic strengths of large corporations with the execution speed of entrepreneurial teams

Signature Speaking Topics

Corporate Innovation Partnerships: Building Value with Multinationals

Creating compelling value propositions that differentiate your company and win strategic partnerships

Key Insights:

- Building compelling value propositions for multinational corporate partners that cut through the noise of thousands of competing startups
- Structuring win-win frameworks where multinationals get innovation without distraction from core business
- From concept to \$1.6B public company: PureCycle's journey from P&G partnership to NASDAQ
- Understanding what large corporations need versus what they can execute internally

Early Stage Company Strategy: Navigating Uncertainty and Growth

Why rigid business plans fail and how successful ventures adapt in real-time

Key Insights:

- "You find out things about everything that are different than your original assumptions—you have to change with it"
- The blank sheet approach: Starting over when conventional solutions fail

- Building six companies to IPO: Pattern recognition in transformational company building
- High threshold for pain: Why thick skin matters more than perfect plans

Public vs. Private: Strategic Decisions for Technology Startups

Choosing the right path for your venture at different stages of growth

Key Insights:

- Strategic considerations for going public versus staying private in early-stage technology ventures
- Navigating SPACs and alternative paths to public markets with lower thresholds
- From startup to public company: Managing the transition to quarterly earnings focus
- Real-world experience from both worlds: the pluses and minuses of each path
- "The company was ready for somebody that was more purely execution focused—that's a different skillset"

Building Teams That Win: Hiring for Uncertainty

Why competitive spirit beats credentials in breakthrough ventures

Key Insights:

- "You need people with the mindset of an athlete—that competitive spirit, that determination to overcome adversity when you face it"
- Why everyone gets equity: Creating cultures of shared ownership and collective success
- The roadmap doesn't exist: Empowering teams to figure out how to get from Point A to Point B
- Case study: Building teams where people evolve into completely different roles as companies scale

Sustainability as Business Strategy

Turning environmental challenges into billion-dollar market opportunities

Key Insights:

- Addressing compelling global unmet needs with emerging technology solutions
- PureCycle case study: Converting plastic waste challenge into \$1.6B market opportunity
- Why sustainability innovations require different commercialization approaches
- Building companies that solve problems multinationals can't address internally

- Creating genuine, profitable value in the marketplace through environmental solutions

Leadership Evolution: From Founder to Strategic Chairman

Knowing when to lead differently as companies mature

Key Insights:

- Strategic formulation vs. operational execution: Matching leadership to company stage
- The evolution from startup CEO to public company chairman
- Building succession into company DNA from day one
- Understanding when your skillset best serves the company in a different capacity

Innovation Insights

"Our purpose is to address compelling global unmet needs with new emerging technologies," says Mike Otworth, Executive Chairman and Co-Founder of Innventure. "By partnering with multinationals who have breakthrough R&D but need rapid commercialization expertise, we're able to transform innovations that might otherwise remain unrealized into companies that solve real-world challenges."

- **On Adaptive Strategic Positioning:** "You have to be open to adaptations in the business model when you're executing something early stage. We call it 'adaptive strategic positioning.' You find out things about everything that are different than your original assumptions—you have to change with it."
- **On Building Championship Teams:** "We need people with the mindset of an athlete—that competitive spirit, that determination to overcome adversity when you face it. What's remarkable is watching these individuals grow and evolve, often thriving in completely different roles than where they started."
- **On Creating Ownership Culture:** "In our companies, everybody has an equity interest. What matters is that we're meeting our big picture goals, not who's getting credit for this or that. We're trying to succeed as a team, not as a set of individual contests."
- **On Leadership Evolution:** "When you're operating in an environment that's evolving, you have to look at disparate data points and understand how that impacts strategy. Sometimes the solution lies in starting with a blank sheet of paper and asking yourself—are there ways we should be doing this completely differently?"

- **On High-Threshold Innovation:** "Early stage companies are rife with both opportunities and challenges. You have to have pretty thick skin. When you run into problems, you just have to dig in and overcome those challenges, even when it's disconcerting for people who aren't used to it."
- **On Sustainability as Market Opportunity:** "We're addressing compelling global unmet needs with emerging technology solutions. When you solve real environmental challenges with the right business models, you create genuine, profitable value in the marketplace—PureCycle's \$1.6B valuation demonstrates this perfectly."

Media Appearances & Features

Featured Articles

- Tech Talks Daily with Neil Hughes (2025): [3319: Inside Innventure: Pivoting Big Ideas Toward Real-World Value](#)
- [Ep. 7 Mike Otworth CEO PureCycle – Agile Precision](#) (SoundCloud): Explored PureCycle's technology and economic value in recycling.
- Bloomberg: [The Public Company Unlocking Corporate Innovation](#)
- Forbes: [Commercializing Technologies Put On The Back Burner By Multinationals](#)
- [NASDAQ Listing Ceremony](#) (October 2024): [Rang the closing bell for Innventure \(\\$INV\) public debut](#)
- LinkedIn Article: [Building Innovation Teams That Thrive in Uncertainty](#)

Podcasts

- [3319: Inside Innventure: Pivoting Big Ideas Toward Real-World Value](#)
- [YOUTUBE: 3319: Inside Innventure: Pivoting Big Ideas Toward Real-World Value](#)
- [Ep. 7 Mike Otworth CEO PureCycle – Agile Precision](#) (soundcloud link)
(discusses the tech behind PureCycle Technologies and the strategic economic value it offers to the recycling industry)

Conference Presentations

- [Mid-America EDC Competitiveness Conference](#) (December 2024): Panel on "Navigating the Investment Landscape" with O'Leary Ventures and Wyoming Business Council

- [Haslam College of Business - Anderson Center Lunch & Learn](#) (October 2024): "Sustainability as Strategic Business Initiative - Turning Innovation into Impact" ([see short video from the talk here](#))
- Selected for prestigious 50-year program, presenting to senior honors and MBA students

Academic Engagements:

- **Haslam College of Business:** Executive-in-Residence appointment, mentoring sessions with entrepreneurship students
- **Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation:** Regular speaker on commercializing breakthrough technologies
- **Guest Lectures:** Corporate innovation strategy and building resilient teams

Media Coverage:

- **NASDAQ Closing Bell Ceremony** (October 2024): Led Innventure's public listing celebration
- **FORBES:** [Commercializing Technologies Put On the Back Burner By Multinationals](#)

Major Press Coverage:

- [Dow and Innventure Collaborate on Waste-to-Value Platform](#)
- [Nokia and Innventure Collaborate to Innovate and Scale Disruptive Technologies](#)
- [PureCycle Technologies is Proof of Concept for Innventure Business Model](#)
- Innventure Wins Gold for Most Innovative Service of the Year in Best in Biz Awards ([yahoo](#) / [stock titan](#) / [fox2now](#) /
- [Game-changing innovation](#) (Recycling Today)

Why Book Mike Otworth?

Mike delivers exceptional value to audiences, including:

- **IPO and Exit Expertise:** 25+ years founding and scaling technology companies with six successful IPOs creating \$4.5 billion in market value, including taking PureCycle from early concept to \$1.6B NASDAQ-listed company in just six years
- **Adaptive Strategic Positioning:** Pioneering frameworks for rapid pivots and course corrections in dynamic markets, enabling companies to thrive amid uncertainty through flexible execution rather than rigid business plans

- **Championship Team Building:** Distinctive approach to assembling high-performance teams with "athlete mindsets" who thrive in ambiguity, creating equity-aligned cultures where everyone has ownership stakes and collective success drives individual achievement
- **Corporate-Startup Bridge Building:** Unique perspective from Capitol Hill to C-suite on structuring win-win partnerships between multinationals and ventures, enabling rapid commercialization of transformational R&D that corporations struggle to execute internally
- **Sustainability Value Creation:** Actionable insights on converting environmental challenges into billion-dollar opportunities, with real examples from building PureCycle, AeroFlexx, Accelsius, and Refinity to address global unmet needs through market-driven solutions

Company Overview

Since 2015, Innventure has launched four companies from the ground up, including:

- **PureCycle Technologies (NASDAQ: PCT)**, which recycles polypropylene plastic based on technology sourced from Procter & Gamble
- **AeroFlexx**, which produces a sustainable, flexible liquid packaging solution also created with P&G technology
- **Accelsius**, which offers two-phase direct-to-chip liquid cooling technology
- **Refinity**, which seeks to commercialize advanced recycling technologies for conversion of plastic waste to drop-in chemicals in collaboration with The Dow Chemical Company

Quick Facts & Metrics

Background:

- Chief Executive Officer, Innventure (NASDAQ: INV)
- 30+ years in company creation, development, and scaling
- Applied mathematician, former space-borne imaging platforms specialist
- Director of dozen+ public and private companies globally

Executive Track Record:

- Led six companies to successful IPOs creating \$4.5 billion in market value across biotechnology, environmental technology, and medical devices
- Took PureCycle from early-stage concept to operational pilot to \$1.6B public company in six years

- 25+ years founding and scaling ventures at XL TechGroup, Green Ocean Innovation, and Innventure
- Expertise in rapid commercialization of transformational technologies from multinational R&D

Innventure Impact:

- 147 opportunities evaluated to launch 4 companies (2.7% acceptance rate)
- Built company valued at billions through systematic selection
- NASDAQ listing October 2024 creating liquid innovation investment vehicle

Innovation Heritage:

- Unique journey from Capitol Hill legislative aide to serial technology entrepreneur since mid-1990s
- Strategic partnerships with Fortune 500 companies including P&G and Eli Lilly/Elanco
- Pioneer of Adaptive Strategic Positioning methodology for navigating early-stage uncertainty with Dr. John Scott (Innventure co-founder)
- Building equity-aligned cultures where every team member has ownership stake

Philosophy and Approach

Mike's leadership is defined by four core principles:

- **Adaptive Strategic Positioning:** Embracing constant evolution in early-stage ventures, rapidly pivoting business models as new insights emerge about technology capabilities, market dynamics, and competitive landscapes, enabling agility that larger organizations cannot match
- **Championship Team Building:** Prioritizing individuals with athlete mindsets—competitive spirit, resilience under adversity, and willingness to tackle unfamiliar challenges—over narrow technical credentials, building teams that evolve and thrive in completely different roles as companies scale
- **Equity-Aligned Culture:** Creating ownership mentality where every team member has skin in the game, fostering environments focused on collective success over individual recognition, with shared accountability driving breakthrough performance
- **Rapid Commercialization Excellence:** Bridging the gap between multinational R&D and market reality through systematic evaluation and acceleration of transformational technologies, enabling corporations to realize value from innovations that don't fit their core business models

Availability

Mike is available for keynote speaking, institutional investor presentations, innovation workshops, corporate strategy forums, media commentary, and venture capital conferences. He tailors each presentation to align with audience objectives and event themes, drawing from his extensive background in systematic company creation and transformative value building.

Preferred Links

- Innventure Website: www.innventure.com
- Innventure LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/innventure](https://www.linkedin.com/company/innventure)
- Mike's LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/mike-otworth](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mike-otworth)
- Innventure X: <https://x.com/weareinnventure>
- Innventure YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@weareinnventure>

Additional Resources:

- [Innventure Website](#)
- [DownSelect® Methodology](#)
- [LinkedIn Profile](#)

Booking Information

To book Mike Otworth for your event, podcast, or media opportunity:

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Innventure (NASDAQ: INV) founds, funds, operates, and scales technology solutions that solve major market needs, collaborating with multinational corporations and technology innovators who seek to become early customers or distribution channels.