

Toolpath Company Overview

Toolpath is an AI-driven software company focused on automating CNC machining workflows. Its platform helps product designers, engineers, and machinists rapidly prototype and manufacture precision parts by automating key steps from design to production. In other words, Toolpath provides *“flexible automation for machining to make it faster, easier, and less expensive for product designers and manufacturers to prototype and produce high-precision CNC parts”*. The company’s mission is to *“accelerate innovation by making it faster, easier, and less expensive to prototype and produce CNC machined parts”*, ultimately helping manufacturers bring new products to life more efficiently.

Founded in 2021 in Atlanta, GA, Toolpath has quickly achieved significant milestones in its short history. The startup was co-founded by Andy Powell (a serial entrepreneur who previously built CallRail to over \$100M ARR) and Justin Gray, Ph.D. (a former NASA technologist and optimization expert). In 2024, Toolpath appointed AI Whatmough – a veteran who led Autodesk’s Fusion 360 CAM product team for nearly a decade – as CEO to guide the company’s vision. Under this leadership, Toolpath has assembled a world-class team (with experience ranging from Autodesk to aerospace) to tackle the productivity challenges in CNC manufacturing.

Leadership Team:

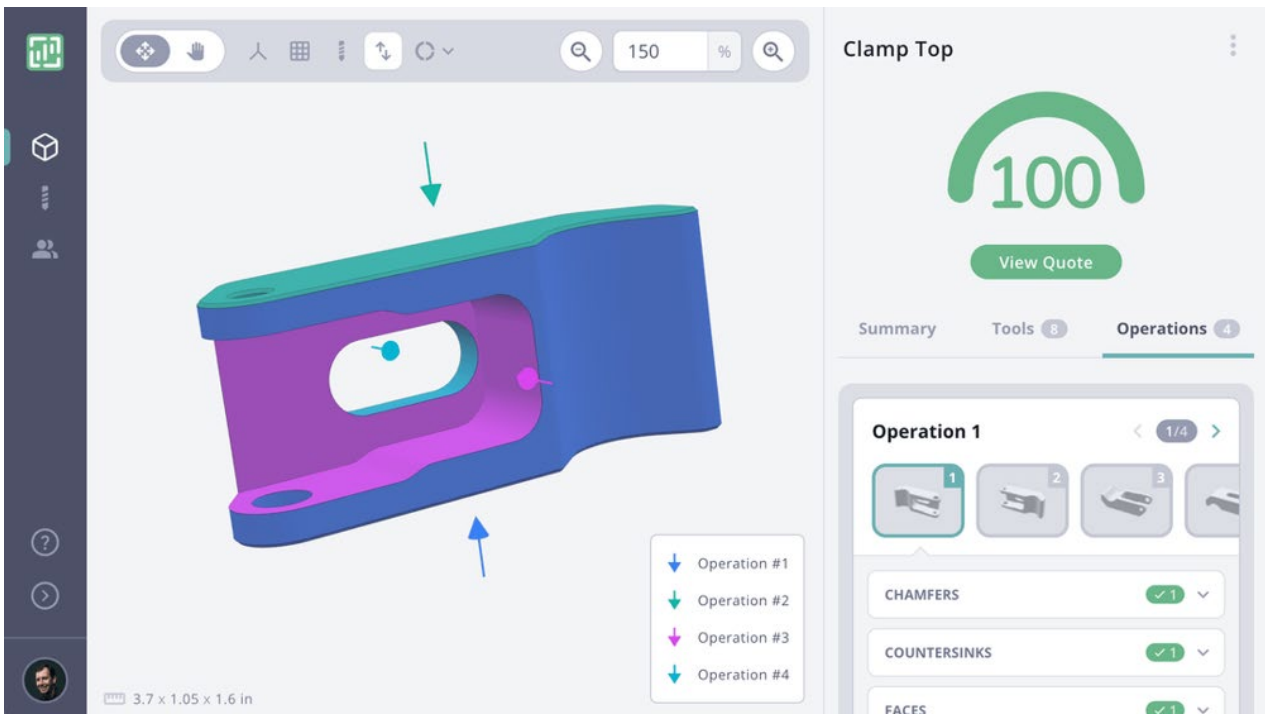
Toolpath’s key executives bring deep industry expertise:

- **AI Whatmough (CEO):** A visionary in CNC automation with 10+ years at Autodesk (Fusion 360 CAM), now leading Toolpath’s mission to streamline manufacturing. He is a machinist by trade and a former Director of Product Management at Autodesk, known for integrating CAM into Fusion 360 (which grew to 4.6M+ users under his watch).
- **Andy Powell (Co-Founder):** A lifelong entrepreneur who previously co-founded CallRail and grew it into a \$100M+ ARR business. He founded Toolpath in 2021 after seeing an opportunity to apply AI and automation to the machining industry. Andy supports the team, leveraging his experience in building successful software companies.
- **Justin Gray, Ph.D. (Co-Founder & CTO):** An aerospace engineer and computer scientist with ~20 years in software and design optimization. Justin co-founded Toolpath after a career developing NASA-backed engineering software (he is a lead developer of the OpenMDAO framework). He architected Toolpath’s proprietary “Part Comprehension Engine”, bringing advanced optimization and AI to CNC programming.

Toolpath is headquartered in Atlanta, GA, with a distributed team and an R&D machine shop in Bedford Heights, Ohio. The company has attracted prominent advisors and board members from the machining community, notably YouTube influencer and SMW founder John Saunders, who joined Toolpath’s Board in 2025. Backed by industry-leading investors and guided by experienced founders, Toolpath is poised to transform the future of manufacturing by *“making it easier, faster, and less expensive to go from model to metal”*.

(Key milestones in Toolpath’s history include its founding in 2021; the appointment of AI Whatmough as CEO in 2024; a \$10M seed funding round in late 2024; and strategic acquisitions/partnerships in 2024–25 as detailed below.)

Product / Service Info



Screenshot of the Toolpath platform identifying features on a 3D part and suggesting machining operations.

Toolpath's product is a cloud-based, AI-powered CAM automation platform designed to boost productivity for CNC machine shops. It automatically analyzes 3D CAD models for machinability, generates detailed cost and time estimates, and even creates the CNC toolpaths needed to produce the part. By acting as an "autopilot" for front-end machining workflows, Toolpath allows machinists and engineers to focus on high-value tasks while mundane steps are handled by AI.

Key features and capabilities include:

- Design for 'Machineability' (DFM) Analysis:** Users can upload or email a CAD model to Toolpath, which then analyzes the part for difficult or critical features and potential CNC machining challenges. The software flags "challenging features" and provides manufacturability feedback that engineers can use to refine designs. This happens automatically in the background, using the user's own tool libraries and shop-specific configurations to ensure tailored, actionable insights.

- **Tool Recommendation Engine:** Toolpath's platform intelligently detects when a required machining feature cannot be completed using tools from the user's current library. When this happens, the system automatically recommends appropriate tools from the user's selected vendor libraries. This saves hours of manual research across tooling catalogs and ensures shops can quickly identify the best tooling for the job – without leaving the Toolpath platform.



- **Intelligent Cost Estimation:** Toolpath's AI generates accurate cycle-time and cost estimates for machining a given part, using either the shop's own tooling database or Toolpath's library. It evaluates the part geometry and "calculates the cost estimates based on real-world variables like [the shop's] actual tooling and machining resources". This means shops can get rapid cost estimates instead of spending hours on manual calculations, helping them decide which jobs to prioritize. The estimation process is highly detailed yet fast – one investor noted that estimating traditionally "demands the highest level of machining skill" and pulls machinists off the floor, a pain point Toolpath aims to eliminate.
- **Automatic CAM Programming:** Toolpath goes beyond quoting by automatically planning the machining strategy and generating CNC toolpaths. It creates complete CAM programs which can be sent directly to Autodesk Fusion 360. In fact, Toolpath offers a Fusion 360 add-in that "seamlessly integrates into Fusion's manufacturing workspace," allowing users to import Toolpath's AI-generated setups and toolpaths with one click. This tight integration means "reducing manual effort" and saving time – Toolpath "takes the repetitive work out of CNC programming". Machinists get the benefit of automated CAM without leaving their familiar Fusion environment.
- **Key Differentiators:** Toolpath's major USP is its AI-driven automation tailored for CNC machine shops. Unlike traditional CAM software, which only focuses on manual CAM programming, Toolpath automates from estimating through to toolpath generation. The platform is built "for machinists, by machinists," with the goal of enhancing human productivity rather than replacing it. As CEO Al Whatmough explains, "Toolpath's vision is to empower manufacturing professionals from the front office to the shop floor with a tool that, much like an autopilot in aviation, allows them to focus on higher-value tasks" instead of

tedious planning and programming. This practical, workflow-focused approach to applied AI is what sets Toolpath apart in the manufacturing software space.

In summary, Toolpath provides an end-to-end SaaS solution for CNC machine shops: from the moment a 3D model is received, through quoting and process planning, to sending optimized G-code to the machines. By *"making it 10× faster to go from digital design to a high-precision machined part"*, Toolpath helps shops take on more jobs, reduce quoting errors, and start cutting metal sooner – ultimately accelerating innovation in physical product development.

Press Releases & Key Announcements

Toolpath regularly shares company news through press releases on its blog. Below is a chronology of notable announcements and milestones the company has publicized:

- **\$10M Seed Funding (Sept 2024):** Toolpath announced the closure of a \$10 million Seed Round of financing led by Leaders Fund. This large seed round, joined by investors like Tech Square Ventures, BLH Venture Partners, and industry angels including Carl Bass (former Autodesk CEO) and John Saunders, was a major milestone in Toolpath's growth. *"This funding enables us to accelerate our technology"* and tackle the front-end challenges of machining (estimating, planning, CAM) with AI, the company noted. The press release included endorsements from investors: *"Toolpath has shown up with a practical approach to address a much-needed gap in the manufacturing industry,"* said Stephen DeBacco of Leaders Fund, highlighting strong confidence in Toolpath's vision. [Toolpath Press Release, Sept 9, 2024](#)
- **Technology Partnership – ModuleWorks (Sept 2024):** [Toolpath entered a multi-year technology partnership with ModuleWorks](#), a leader in CAM toolpath and simulation technology. Announced on Sept 9, 2024 from the company's Ohio facility, this partnership focuses on integrating ModuleWorks' advanced toolpath algorithms into Toolpath's cloud platform for even faster and more reliable machining planning. By teaming up with ModuleWorks, Toolpath aims to accelerate the development of its AI CAM engine and eventually incorporate *"the full range of ModuleWorks functionalities into the Toolpath platform."* ModuleWorks' founder Dr. Yavuz Murtezaoglu noted the aligned vision between the two companies to *"empower professionals in manufacturing with the best technology."* [Toolpath Press Release, Sept 9, 2024](#)
- **Acquisition – NC Viewer (Sept 2024):** In late September 2024, Toolpath announced it had acquired NC Viewer, a popular browser-based G-code visualization tool used worldwide by machinists and hobbyists. NC Viewer allows users to simulate and preview CNC toolpaths in a web browser. By acquiring it, Toolpath expands its product capabilities in toolpath visualization and verification. *"We're pleased to announce our acquisition of NC Viewer,"* Toolpath stated, noting NC Viewer's widespread use and importance to the CNC community. (This move complements Toolpath's core automation by ensuring users can review G-code output easily.) [Toolpath Press Release, Sept 30, 2024](#)
- **Sales Partnership – DSI (Nov 2024):** To meet growing demand, Toolpath partnered with DSI (Design & Software International) as its exclusive sales arm in North America. DSI is an experienced Autodesk CAD/CAM reseller and support firm, and this partnership was aimed at expanding Toolpath's market reach across the U.S. and Canada. *"We're excited to partner with DSI, whose deep expertise in solution sales and long-standing history of supporting the metalworking community aligns perfectly with our mission,"* said CEO AI Whatmough. As part of this deal, DSI even began including a one-year Toolpath subscription in its premium service bundle, signalling strong confidence in Toolpath's value. [Develop3D news on Toolpath-DSI partnership, Nov 22, 2024](#)

- **Partnership – TRAK Machine Tools (Jan 2025):** In early 2025, Toolpath and TRAK Machine Tools announced a partnership to bring AI-driven solutions to machine shops across the US and Canada. TRAK (known for ProtoTRAK CNC machines) will showcase Toolpath’s software alongside its equipment. The goal is to enhance the machine shop experience by bundling Toolpath’s estimating/programming automation with TRAK’s CNC machines, helping small shops modernize their operations. [Toolpath Press Release, Jan 27, 2025](#)
- **Strategic Acquisition – Chatter (Feb 2025):** Toolpath revealed that it has acquired “Chatter,” a machine connectivity and shop-floor monitoring startup, as part of its vision for connected/closed-loop manufacturing. *“With Toolpath’s acquisition of Chatter, we’re taking a significant step toward achieving true closed-loop manufacturing, where insights from the shop floor actively improve estimation, programming, and machining,”* wrote CEO AI Whatmough. The integration of Chatter will happen in phases, eventually incorporating real-time machine data feedback into Toolpath’s AI planning process. This development underscores Toolpath’s commitment to not only plan machining operations intelligently but also learn from execution data to continuously improve those plans. [Toolpath Press Release, Feb 14, 2025](#)

(For a full archive of Toolpath’s press releases and news updates, see the [Toolpath Blog](#).)

Notable Coverage & Social Proof

Toolpath’s innovative approach has earned it recognition in the press and endorsements from industry leaders:

- **Media Coverage:**
 - The company was profiled by tech news outlets like [Hypepotamus](#), which called Toolpath an “AI startup with ATL roots ready to update the machining industry.” The Hypepotamus feature highlighted Toolpath’s mission to give the CNC industry “an AI and automation upgrade” and noted the team’s strong credentials.
 - Trade publications have also taken note – for example, [DEVELOP3D](#) described Toolpath as “a company leveraging AI to optimise CNC machining” and detailed how its platform “intelligently assesses parts and processes, allowing manufacturers to make strategic decisions on job quotations, precise cost estimation, and optimised planning for machining operations.”
 - Toolpath’s leadership team has also made numerous appearances on industry-leading podcasts, such as the [IMTS hosted TLC podcast](#) and [MakingChips](#), where CEO AI Whatmough [discussed the future of automation and AI in manufacturing](#).

This positive coverage underscores Toolpath’s role as an emerging leader in the manufacturing tech space.

- **Founder & Investor Credibility:**
 - Toolpath benefits from a high-profile founding team and backers. Co-founder Andy Powell is a proven entrepreneur who previously built a successful SaaS company ([CallRail](#)) – an experience that “proved [him] to be an entrepreneur who experienced a problem, then built a large and profitable business solving it.”
 - The startup’s investor roster brings additional clout:
 - Carl Bass (former CEO of Autodesk) has publicly expressed his belief in Toolpath’s impact, stating, “Within five years, the way machines are programmed will change... I believe Toolpath will have a significant impact on the industry.”

- Stephen DeBacco (General Partner at Leaders Fund), [who led Toolpath's \\$10M seed round](#) and described the company as *"a practical approach to address a much-needed gap in the manufacturing industry."*
- John Saunders (a prominent CNC YouTuber and owner of Saunders Machine Works) was so impressed by Toolpath that he became an investor and board member. Saunders remarked: *"I was struck by how Toolpath's AI-driven software could intelligently recognize solid model features and automate CAM processes... Bringing on AI Whatmough, a proven industry leader, further highlights Toolpath's capacity to spearhead the transformative changes AI will bring to manufacturing."*

Such testimonials from respected industry figures provide strong social proof of Toolpath's value.

- Customer and Partner Testimonials:

As Toolpath begins rolling out to machine shops, early users have reported significant improvements. For instance,

- Christian Welch, CEO of Swissomation (a precision machining company), invested in Toolpath and noted that quoting "demands the highest level of machining skill but doesn't directly generate revenue... Toolpath helps prevent [costly] oversights and has the potential to free me up to focus on more critical tasks." This reflects the real-world value Toolpath provides to shop owners.
- Moreover, partnerships with established industry players (Autodesk, ModuleWorks, TRAK, DSI, etc.) serve as further validation. Each partnership comes with endorsements – e.g., ModuleWorks' director said, *"ModuleWorks and Toolpath have an aligned vision... we want to develop the best technology – empowering professionals in manufacturing."*

These voices from customers, partners, and influencers together paint a picture of a company that is highly trusted within its domain.

Key Stats & Metrics

- **Founding & Headquarters:** Founded in 2021; Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia (USA), with an R&D center (machine shop) in Ohio. Toolpath's team is distributed, including experts in the US (Georgia, Ohio, California), Canada, and abroad (e.g., Europe, New Zealand).
- **Funding:**
 - Toolpath has raised a total of **\$10 million across two Seed rounds**, with the most recent seed round closing in September 2024. The round was led by Leaders Fund (Atlanta/Toronto) and joined by Tech Square Ventures, BLH Venture Partners, and several notable angels, including [Carl Bass](#) (Autodesk ex-CEO) and [John Saunders](#) (Saunders Machine Works).
 - Toolpath is currently raising a strategic investment round. Led by Kennametal and ModuleWorks, with further investment by Leaders Fund, the round will close no later than July 29, 2025. This strategic capital is aimed at accelerating the platform's capabilities and scaling go-to-market initiatives with key partners.
- **Ownership & Structure:** Privately held, venture-backed (Leaders Fund-led). The company's legal name is Toolpath Labs, Inc. and it operates under the brand "Toolpath."

- **Team Size:** 20+ employees as of May 2025. The leadership includes seasoned professionals (CEO [Al Whatmough](#), Co-founder/Head of Product [Andy Powell](#), Co-founder/CTO [Justin Gray](#)), and the broader team comprises software engineers, machinists, and CAM specialists. The company also draws on a network of advisors from the machining industry.
- **Product & Users:** Toolpath's platform has been adopted by hundreds of machine shops worldwide, from independent job shops to small manufacturers. Toolpath integrates directly with Autodesk Fusion (which has millions of users globally), positioning it to serve a large portion of Fusion's CNC user base with its AI-powered CNC platform.
- **Market Served:** Toolpath targets the precision CNC machining and manufacturing sector, especially machine shops and manufacturing engineers in industries such as aerospace, automotive, medical devices, industrial equipment, and prototyping services. Essentially, any industry that requires custom-machined parts can benefit from Toolpath's faster estimating and programming – the focus is on small to mid-sized manufacturers who need to improve throughput and responsiveness. There are an estimated 5 million CNC machines in operation globally (projected to grow to 11 million by 2035), and Toolpath's solution addresses the front-end bottlenecks common to many of these operations (DFM analysis, CNC estimating and CAM programming). By filling the skilled labor gap (the US alone faces ~2.1M unfilled manufacturing jobs by 2030) with automation, Toolpath is tapping into a vast market need.
- **Growth & Traction:** Since its launch, Toolpath has reported steady growth in interest and demand. The partnership with DSI was in response to "increasing demand across the U.S. and Canada" for Toolpath's solution. The company has also rapidly progressed through key milestones (two acquisitions and three partnerships within 2024–2025), indicating an aggressive growth strategy. Though specific revenue or customer numbers are not public, the successful \$10M funding round and high-profile customer engagements serve as proxies for traction. Additionally, the current \$7.7M strategic round, with \$5.7M already closed and participation from Kennametal and Leaders Fund, further signals investor confidence and growing momentum. Toolpath's goal is to become "the leading platform in the precision parts manufacturing space", and early indicators (investment, partnerships, user adoption) suggest it is on a strong path toward that objective.

Sources: The information above is compiled from Toolpath's official website and press releases, investor publications, and reputable media coverage, including Hypepotamus and DEVELOP3D. All data points are based on publicly available information as of 2025. For further details, please refer to [Toolpath's press announcements](#) or visit our [LinkedIn profile](#) for an overview.