SymvanCapital

AI transparency and compliance platform helping organisations understand, audit, and trust their AI systems.

TIKOS

Summary

Sector:
RegTech / Risk Intelligence / Compliance

Target audience:
Enterprises deploying AI in regulated or high-stakes environments

Stage (e.g. pre-seed, seed):
Pre-seed / early-stage

Year founded:
2024

Year Symvan first invested:
2025

Fund:
Symvan Technology SEIS Fund

Portfolio Location:
Bristol, UK (Headquarters)

The Problem

- AI adoption is accelerating, but trust is still a major barrier
- Many systems operate as “black boxes” with little visibility
- Decisions can be hard to interpret, explain, or challenge
- Regulatory expectations around AI are increasing
- Organisations lack tools to properly assess bias, fairness, and risk

Team Overview

Mike Oaten
CEO & Co-Founder
Leads the commercialisation of Tikos, focused on bringing practical AI trust and compliance solutions into enterprise environments.

Previous companies:
Riskopy, mnAi, Regulation Technologies Ltd

Dr Don Liyanage
Chief Scientist & CTO, Co-Founder
PhD researcher in AI reasoning and explainability, and the originator of the core technology behind the Tikos platform.

Previous companies:
IHS Markit, Nationwide Building Society, Reach plc

The Solution

- Platform designed to make AI systems transparent, explainable, and auditable
- Proprietary reasoning engine shows how decisions are made
- Combines automation with human oversight through an “expert-in-the-loop” approach
- Helps identify bias and improve fairness in AI systems
- Adds explainability to existing models without needing to rebuild them

Strategic Positioning

- Enterprise platform focused on AI governance and compliance
- Integrates with existing AI systems and workflows
- Built for organisations operating in regulated or high-risk environments
- Supports better risk management and more confident AI deployment

Why Symvan Invested

Michael Theodosiou, Investment Manager, Symvan:
“We’re excited to support Mike and Don in making AI systems trustworthy and compliant, addressing one of the most urgent challenges in AI. With over a decade of proprietary research, their ability to retrofit explainability and auditability into existing models is game-changing for regulated industries and high-stakes AI applications.”

Market Opportunity

- AI adoption continues to grow rapidly across industries
- Regulators are placing greater focus on transparency and accountability
- Demand is increasing for explainable and auditable AI
- Organisations are moving from performance-led to trust-led AI adoption
- AI investment expected to grow by ~149% by 2030

Portfolio Uplift

Entry Valuation:
£1.4m

Implied NAV (30 June 2026)
£2.65m

Uplift:
1.70x

Strategic Value

Tikos focuses on a fundamental challenge in AI: making decisions understandable and defensible. As AI moves from experimentation into real-world deployment, organisations need clarity on how and why outcomes are produced—particularly in regulated and high-risk settings.

By enabling this level of insight, Tikos helps reduce adoption risk, strengthen compliance, and build confidence in AI systems. This places the company at the centre of the emerging market for AI governance and trust.

Recent Update

Completed a proof-of-technology project with Cisco and the National Cyber Security Centre through the LASR programme, achieving 100% detection accuracy across five prompt-injection attack types with minimal performance impact (June 2026)

Performance

- Founded in 2024 to commercialise proprietary AI research
- Selected for NVIDIA Inception, Microsoft, and Innovate UK programmes
- Developing patented technology focused on AI reasoning and explainability
- Backed as part of Symvan’s broader strategy to support next-generation AI infrastructure companies

Partners

Crown Commercial Service Supplier · Ministry of Defence · bsi. British Standards Institution Committee Member · NVIDIA Inception Program · FCA Digital Sandbox · International Association for Safe & Ethical AI