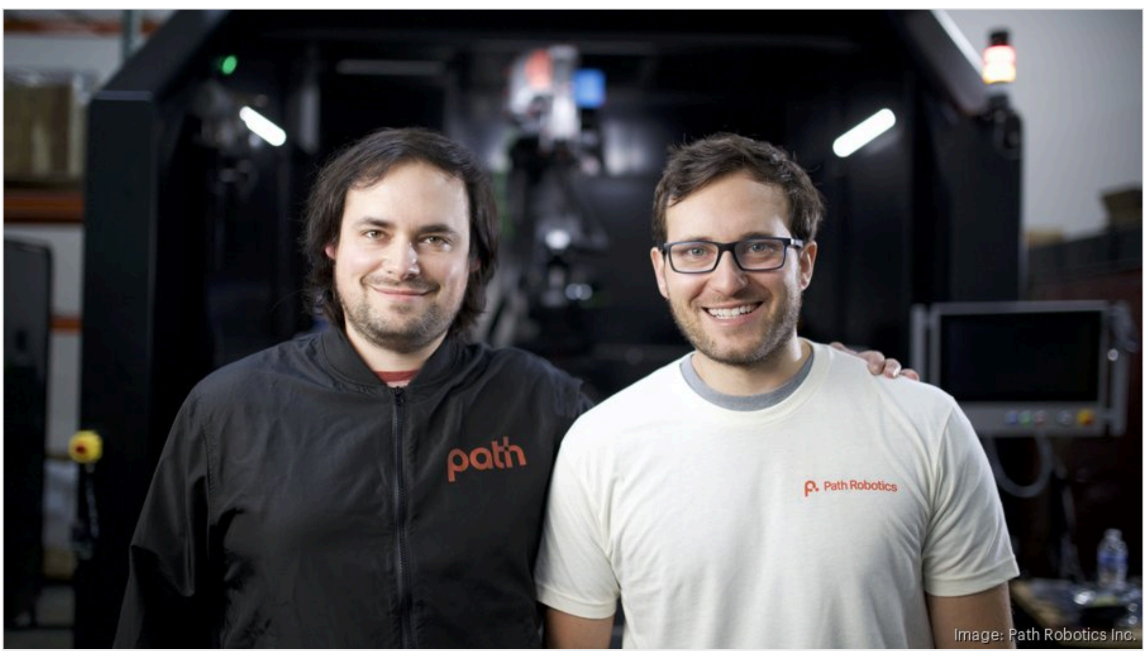
Manufacturing

# Columbus AI robotics company tops $100M in sales, plans 100 jobs




Alex Lonsberry, left, and Andy Lonsberry are brothers and co-founders of Path Robotics Inc.
COURTESY PATH ROBOTICS

By Carrie Ghose – Senior reporter, Columbus Business First
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Path Robotics Inc. plans to create 100 jobs this year as defense contractors add its artificial intelligence-powered welding systems to rebuild U.S. manufacturing capacity despite a labor shortage.

The Columbus company tripled annual revenue in 2025 with signed contracts topping $100 million, co-founder and CEO Andy Lonsberry said.

"That has essentially unlocked this large amount of growth," he told *Columbus Business First*. "That also enables us to now start to work toward the larger and larger (customers)."

With about 150 employees, Path aims to grow to 250 at its 200,000-square-foot facility on the far west side – where next week it's opening a 10,000-square-foot showroom demonstrating its latest capabilities.

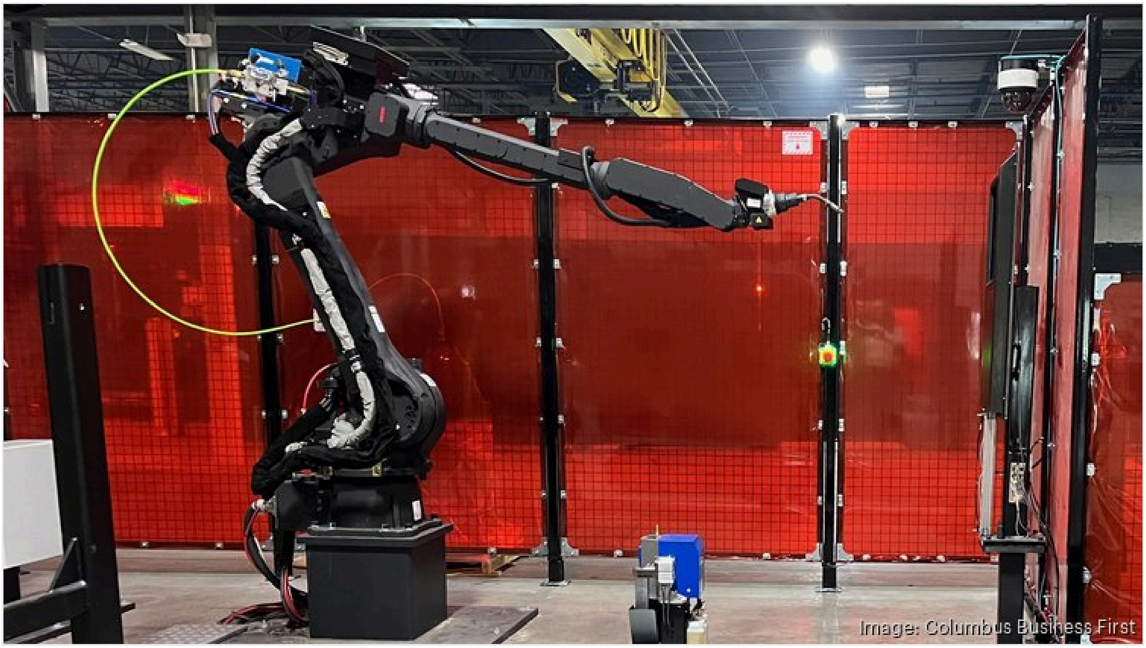
The rest of the plant is for assembling AI-powered welding units to ship to subscribers of its "robot-as-a-service" model.

Path adds computer vision and neural networks to make welding robots smart. They are able to pick up and weld parts according to a 3D model without an agonizing programming process by the operator.

The decade-old company – maturing from the startup phase – expects to announce four large defense contractors as clients in the coming months, Lonsberry said.

"They have high mix and high variability (of parts)," he said. "Both those things make it really tough for traditional robots to be successful. And in defense, that's basically all they have.

"They are really looking to use AI robotics to help increase their throughput pretty drastically as they need to ramp scale of production now."




Path Robotics adds vision and AI to existing welding robots.

CARRIE GHOSE | CBF

Path also has strong retention among its core customer base of small manufacturers, Lonsberry said.

Some doubled or quadrupled the systems they order.

"The backbone of this company will definitely always be built on the smaller customers," he said. "Those are the customers that still have a lot of pain and need a lot of help, as they're usually geographically located in areas that are tough to increase skilled labor."

The new Intelligence Center showroom highlights Path's current technologies and products rolling out over the next two years. The goal is to set Path apart as AI becomes an increasingly "muddied" buzzword, Lonsberry said.

Path's neural network has collected data on welding some $600 million worth of steel, aluminum and other parts.

"It's all driven by these systems that are really intelligent, where the neural networks and models are controlling these robots to do really hard tasks," he said. "It's going to be really hard (for competitors) to catch up."

Path's $100 million VC round in October 2024 remains Central Ohio's largest since that date. Columbus-based Drive Capital co-led that round.

Since then, the company added Chief Revenue Officer Heather Carroll, who previously was with a warehouse robotics company acquired by Amazon. Scott Smith, who worked seven years at Tesla, joined as vice president of finance last year.

Automotive is the next industry Path aims to enter, Lonsberry said.

To accelerate growth and hiring beyond this year, the company will continue to depend on outside capital as it works toward an IPO.

"The market for robotics is extremely hot right now. The entire country and world has woken up to it," he said. "The technology has finally hit an inflection point where it can really deliver on the results that everybody has always wanted from robotics."