

Blackrock Neurotech

Who Is Blackrock Neurotech

- **Identity & Mission**

- Blackrock Neurotech is a BCI company focused on **implantable brain-computer interfaces** to help people with neurological disorders (paralysis, loss of movement, communication, sensory function). (blackrockneurotech.com)

- **History & Leadership**

- Founded in ~2008 (originally under the name Blackrock Microsystems). ([PR Newswire](#))
- Key people: **Marcus Gerhardt** (CEO) and **Florian Solzbacher** (Co-founder) lead the company. ([PR Newswire](#))

- **Core Technology**

- Uses **intracortical electrode arrays**, especially the *Utah Array* (NeuroPort), which is highly validated in human BCI research. (blackrockneurotech.com)
- They support a full “ecosystem” — electrodes, neural signal processors, software to decode brain signals, and applications. (blackrockneurotech.com)
- Their tech has enabled:
 - **Neuroprosthetics**: controlling robotic limbs by thought. (blackrockneurotech.com)
 - **Computer control**: patients using web browsers, composing email, playing games, painting, etc. via brain signals. (blackrockneurotech.com)
 - **Communication**: decoding words and sentences from neural data for people who cannot speak. (blackrockneurotech.com)
 - **Sensory restoration**: experiments have shown it’s possible to restore touch, vision or hearing via brain stimulation. (blackrockneurotech.com)

- **Clinical & Research Footprint**

- The company cites **19+ years** of human studies, “30K+ days of implant research,” and more than **1,000 research institutions** using its hardware. (blackrockneurotech.com)

- Their BCI system called **MoveAgain** has received **FDA Breakthrough Device Designation**. ([All Health Tech](#))
- They acquired **MindX**, a spatial computing software firm, to combine their BCI hardware with augmented reality and AI software. ([PR Newswire](#))
- Blackrock also partners with **Phantom Neuro** to help control exoskeletons and prosthetics in real time. ([blackrockneurotech.com](#))
- They participated in an EU-funded project (B-CRATOS) to develop wireless brain-machine interfaces. ([blackrockneurotech.com](#))

Crypto Connection: Where Cryptocurrency Comes In

While Blackrock Neurotech is not a “crypto company” in the sense of dealing in tokens or blockchains, **its most notable crypto-industry connection** comes via **Tether**:

- In **April 2024, Tether Evo** (the venture arm of Tether, issuer of the stablecoin USDT) invested **\$200 million** into Blackrock Neurotech. ([blackrockneurotech.com](#))
- This investment gave Tether a **majority stake** in Blackrock Neurotech. ([Investing.com](#))
- The funds are being used to **commercialize** Blackrock’s BCI technology and accelerate R&D. ([FinSMEs](#))

Why This Matters: Impact & Implications in the Crypto Industry

1. Diversification of Crypto Capital

- a. Tether’s large investment shows that *stablecoin issuers / crypto companies are willing to deploy capital outside of purely financial plays*. Rather than just issuing USDT or building on-chain, Tether is using its profits to back **deep tech**.
- b. This signals a maturation in how crypto firms allocate capital — not only in blockchain startups, but also in frontier technologies like BCIs.

2. Long-Term Vision for Tech + Humanity

- a. The investment aligns with Tether Evo’s stated mission: merging “technology with human capabilities.” By backing BCIs, they are placing a bet on **human enhancement and recovery**, not just financial return.
- b. If Blackrock succeeds in bringing BCIs to wider clinical or consumer use, Tether’s involvement could become a defining “tech bet” of the crypto-world’s next generation.

3. Regulatory & Ethical Dimensions

- a. The involvement of a major crypto company in implantable neurotech raises interesting regulatory and ethical questions: data privacy (brain data is very sensitive), security, consent, and how neural information might be used or monetized.
- b. There's also potential for public scrutiny: brain implants are not just medical devices—they touch on identity, cognition, and personal autonomy.

4. Potential for Web3 / BCI Synergies

- a. While not currently obvious in public materials, there is theoretical potential for **BCI + Web3 integration**: imagine BCI-enabled interfaces to interact with decentralized systems, to “think” commands to digital agents, or to authenticate via brain signals.
- b. If BCIs become more widespread, there could be novel crypto-native use cases (though this is speculative at this point).

5. Legitimacy Boost for Neurotech

- a. Crypto capital (especially from stablecoin issuers) gives neurotech firms like Blackrock more financial runway to commercialize, potentially accelerating adoption.
- b. This could help move BCI technology from lab / research settings into clinical and eventually consumer applications.

Risks & Challenges

- **Technical & Clinical Risk:** Scaling BCI implants from research to broad commercial use is very challenging (surgery, long-term biocompatibility, reliability).
- **Regulatory Uncertainty:** BCI regulation is still young; combining it with crypto-backed financing could raise unique regulatory questions.
- **Data Privacy & Security:** Neural data is deeply personal. If crypto firms are involved, stakeholders will want to ensure that brain data cannot be misused, hacked, or monetized in harmful ways.

- **Reputation Risk:** Some may view the involvement of a crypto firm in brain tech skeptically (e.g., concerns about “who controls neural data”).
- **Commercialization Risk:** Even with \$200M, bringing implantable neurotechnology to mass / clinical markets is capital-intensive, risky, and may take many years.

Conclusion

- **Blackrock Neurotech** is a leading BCI company with decades of experience, mature technology, and strong clinical / research credibility.
- Its **\$200 M investment from Tether** highlights a meaningful bridge between crypto capital and neurotechnology — not a superficial “crypto hype” play, but a real long-term bet on brain-computer interfaces.
- This relationship matters because it shows how crypto capital is being deployed into frontier human-machine interfaces, potentially accelerating the translation of BCI technology into real-world, life-changing applications.
- At the same time, it raises deep ethical, technical, and regulatory questions about brain data, ownership, and how future digital-physical interactions will be governed.

Citation

Here’s a clean, educational citation list for the **Blackrock Neurotech** summary:

Key References

1. “Tether invested \$200 M in Blackrock Neurotech, accelerating development and commercialization of implantable BCI technology.” *Blackrock Neurotech*. (blackrockneurotech.com)
2. “Tether Takes Strategic Stake in Leading Brain-Computer-Interface Company Blackrock Neurotech.” *Tether.io*. ([Tether](https://tether.io))
3. “Blackrock Neurotech acquires spatial computing software firm MindX to commercialize full-stack BCI product.” *PR Newswire*. ([PR Newswire](https://www.prnewswire.com))
4. “Biosphere25: Utah’s Life Sciences Industry — Blackrock Neurotech.” *BioUtah*. ([BioUtah](https://bio.utah.edu))
5. “Crypto company Tether invests \$200 mln in brain-chip maker Blackrock Neurotech.” *Reuters*. ([Investing.com](https://www.investing.com))
6. “Tether Buys \$200M Majority Stake in Brain-Computer Interface Company Blackrock Neurotech.” *CoinDesk*. ([CoinDesk](https://www.coindesk.com))
7. “Blackrock Neurotech Receives \$200 M Investment from Tether.” *FinSMEs*. ([FinSMEs](https://www.finsmes.com))
8. “Stablecoin Issuer Tether Invests \$200 Million in Brain-Computer Interface Firm.” *Bloomberg*. ([Bloomberg](https://www.bloomberg.com))