



Zapata's Harvard Quantum Lab Co-Founders Drs. Cao and Olson Return as CTO and VP of Strategy and Operations

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BOSTON, May 27, 2026 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Zapata Quantum (OTC: ZPTA) ("Zapata," "Zapata Quantum" or the "Company"), a leader in quantum computing algorithm and application development, today announced the return of two of its co-founders to the Company's leadership team: Yudong Cao, Ph.D., former Head of Quantum at BCG X, as Chief Technology Officer (CTO), and Jonathan Olson, Ph.D., J.D., as Vice President of Strategy and Operations.

"Yudong and Jonny are pioneers in quantum software and have helped shape the field through foundational work spanning algorithms, applications and intellectual property," said Sumit Kapur, CEO of Zapata Quantum. "They know first-hand what it takes to translate scientific advances into practical applications, and their decision to return following our restructuring is a powerful validation of both our position and the opportunity ahead."

Cao rejoins as CTO following his tenure as Head of Quantum at BCG X, a 3,000-person global tech unit inside Boston Consulting Group. During his prior time at Zapata, he helped develop a significant portion of the Company's foundational intellectual property portfolio, which today spans more than 60 granted and pending patents across quantum algorithms, optimization, machine learning and software techniques. His work in quantum application research includes Zapata's [quantum-enabled drug discovery study](#) co-authored with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute that was recognized as one of [Nature Biotechnology's Top 10 Papers of 2025](#).

"Quantum computing has made extraordinary progress, but significant work remains in turning technological advances into practical applications," said Cao. "The next phase of the industry will require software infrastructure that helps organizations identify, develop and deploy quantum applications more effectively, including by leveraging advances in AI and formal verification methods. I'm excited to work alongside Jonny and the broader team to advance that vision."

Olson rejoins as VP of Strategy and Operations and is one of the few intellectual property attorneys globally with deep expertise in quantum algorithms and a background as a theoretical physicist. His postdoctoral research at Harvard University focused on quantum computing and machine learning. He also helped Zapata secure the first significant quantum computing appeal before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), establishing an important precedent that expanded the accessibility of quantum algorithm patents.

"I believe Zapata Quantum holds the key to unlocking an entirely new era of developing quantum applications at scale," said Olson. "Organizations need better infrastructure for evaluating and developing quantum applications in a rigorous and repeatable way. Zapata uniquely combines the scientific leadership, enterprise experience and foundational IP needed to meet that challenge, and I'm thrilled to be a part of it."

About Zapata Quantum

Zapata Quantum is a leading hardware-agnostic, pure-play quantum software company focused on accelerating quantum application development. With a portfolio of more than 60 granted and pending patents developed over seven years, Zapata supports applications across cryptography, pharmaceuticals, finance, materials discovery, defense, and more. The Company is the only organization to have participated across all technical areas of DARPA's Quantum Benchmarking program and has worked with Fortune 500 enterprises and government agencies to translate quantum advances into real-world impact. The Company's study demonstrating the potential of quantum-enabled drug discovery was recognized as one of Nature Biotechnology's Top 10 Papers of 2025. Learn more at zapataquantum.com.

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