

## Peter Thiel, un gurú tecnológico y liberal en la corte de Trump

Su nombre está ligado al lanzamiento de grandes empresas como PayPal, Facebook, LinkedIn, Palantir...

[Diego Sánchez de la Cruz](#) 2016-12-10



Nacido en Frankfurt en 1967, Peter Thiel es un gigante en la industria del capital riesgo. Como empresario e inversor, su nombre está relacionado con el lanzamiento de grandes proyectos como PayPal, Facebook, LinkedIn, Palantir... Su fortuna ha sido estimada por la revista Forbes en 2.700 millones de dólares. Y ahora, a punto de cumplir 50 años, Thiel es ya una de las figuras más influyentes de la derecha estadounidense.

Su carrera empresarial ha sido fulgurante. Thiel lanzó en 2002 su *hedge fund* Clarium Capital, que llegó a gestionar 8.000 millones de dólares en el año 2008. Dos años después, en 2004, fue uno de los fundadores de Palantir, una empresa de *big data* que ya cuenta con 1.500 empleados y está valorada en 15.000 millones de dólares.

Pero fuera de Palo Alto, a Thiel se le conoce ante todo por su papel como fundador de PayPal en los años 90 y por su rol como ángel inversor en Facebook o LinkedIn. En 2005, lanzó Founders Fund, un vehículo de capital riesgo que ha lanzado compañías tecnológicas valoradas en más de 30.000 millones de dólares.

La lista de actividades empresariales e invasoras de Thiel no ha dejado de crecer. También está ligado a Valar Ventures, una firma de capital riesgo con enfoque internacional, Mithril Capital, un fondo de inversión centrado en empresas que ya han alcanzado un nivel relativamente grande, o Y Combinator, una aceleradora de *start ups* que ha servido como lanzadora de casi 1.000 proyectos valorados en 65.000 millones de dólares.

### **El complejo mundo de Thiel**

Thiel, que ha revelado públicamente su homosexualidad, nunca ha escondido sus ideas políticas. De hecho, resulta interesante comprobar que sus posiciones han ido evolucionando desde el radicalismo libertario hacia un discurso de

corte liberal-conservador. De hecho, en 2016 participó en la Convención del Partido Republicano para apoyar la candidatura de Donald Trump.

Su fundación ha realizado importantes inversiones en el campo de la inteligencia artificial, aunque también ha hecho compromisos relevantes en el ámbito de la investigación contra el envejecimiento. A esto se suman dos proyectos más ideológicos: el Seasteding Institute, que aspira a crear repúblicas libertarias en aguas internacionales, y las Becas Thiel, que entregan 100.000 dólares a 20 jóvenes de menos de 20 años para que no vayan a la universidad y lancen ya sus proyectos empresariales.

En 2016, Thiel se alió con Hulk Hogan para tumbar la polémica web Gawker, que divulgó un vídeo íntimo del mítico luchador de *wrestling*. La sentencia, favorable a Hogan, incluía el pago de una indemnización de 140 millones de dólares, lo que acabó obligando a Gawker a cerrar sus puertas. Thiel ha señalado que es fundamental defender la privacidad y se ha mostrado muy satisfecho de haber apoyado la denuncia de Hogan.

En clave intelectual, [Thiel ha escrito diversos artículos para el Instituto CATO](#), el Wall Street Journal, Forbes, [National Review](#)... A esto se suma el [lanzamiento de su libro De cero a uno](#)", en el que declara que "la competencia es para los perdedores" y pide a los emprendedores que sean más innovadores y ambiciosos. "Para crear valor de manera sustancial y duradera, hay que ser creativo y lanzar proyectos capaces de generar un monopolio por la vía de la creatividad", [apunta el libro](#).

Thiel apoyó con entusiasmo las candidaturas del congresista republicano Ron Paul en 2008 y 2012, mientras que en 2016 inyectó 1,25 millones de dólares en la campaña de Donald Trump. Ahora, [Thiel está jugando un papel relevante en el equipo de transición](#) (pág. 3) del futuro Presidente, [a quien está recomendando nombramientos](#) (pág. 6).

## **Peter Thiel is joining Donald Trump's transition team**

by [Colin Lecher](#) Nov 11, 2016, 3:16pm EST



Joe Raedle/Getty Images

In a statement released today, Donald Trump named Silicon Valley billionaire Peter Thiel to the executive committee of his presidential transition team.

The news was [broken early last night by Dan Primack](#).

### ***THIEL LARGELY STOOD ALONE SUPPORTING TRUMP IN SILICON VALLEY***

Thiel, who donated \$1.25 million to Trump's campaign [late in the election cycle](#), mostly stood alone among colleagues in his support for Trump, who was publicly disdained in the Valley. Thiel's support came at a cost to businesses like startup accelerator Y Combinator, which soon attracted negative publicity for having Thiel as a part-time adviser. Thiel also brought criticism to Facebook, where he is a board member, although [Mark Zuckerberg defended his place](#) at the company. Thiel further angered First Amendment supporters by bankrolling the Hulk Hogan lawsuit that [brought down Gawker](#).

Thiel said before the election that he would find some way of working with the Trump administration, and although his final role is unclear, his appointment to Trump's executive committee signals the relationship will indeed continue.

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD J. TRUMP ANNOUNCES NEW IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION TEAM**

*Vice President-Elect Mike Pence Named Presidential Transition Team Chair; Immediately Institutes Vice Chairs of Presidential Transition Team Executive Committee, Additional Presidential Transition Team Members And Staff Leadership For Transition Team*

**(New York, NY)** - President-elect Donald J. Trump today announced that Vice President-elect Mike Pence will serve as Chairman of the Presidential Transition Team, and that Dr. Ben Carson, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich, Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, USA (Ret.), Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions will join the team's Executive Committee as Vice Chairs.

President-elect Trump also announced that the following leaders will join the Presidential Transition Team Executive Committee:

Congressman Lou Barletta  
Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn  
Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi  
Congressman Chris Collins  
Jared Kushner  
Congressman Tom Marino  
Rebekah Mercer  
Steven Mnuchin  
Congressman Devin Nunes  
Anthony Scaramucci  
Peter Thiel  
Donald Trump Jr.  
Eric Trump  
Ivanka Trump  
RNC Chairman Reince Priebus  
Trump Campaign CEO Stephen K. Bannon



— **Jackson Proskow** [pic.twitter.com/hPMjRN8MWx](https://pic.twitter.com/hPMjRN8MWx)  
(@JproskowGlobal)

JUST IN: Trump names 3 of his children, son-in-law, Bannon & Peter Thiel to transition team lead by Pence & Christie [November 11, 2016](#)

In addition to Thiel, Vice President-elect Mike Pence will act as chairman for the transition team, according to the statement. Three of Trump's children — Ivanka Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and Eric Trump — will serve alongside Thiel on the committee. Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi also made the list, as well as RNC Chairman Reince Priebus.

One more unsurprising name to appear: campaign CEO Steve Bannon, executive chairman of the alt-right website Breitbart. Both Bannon and Priebus have been floated as possible chiefs of staff in the Trump administration.

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## International Business Times

### **Controversial Donald Trump Donor Peter Thiel Pushes For FDA Head Who Has Financial Ties To Healthcare Industry**

By [Avi Asher-Schapiro](#) On 12/08/16



Silicon Valley billionaire Peter Thiel gave Donald Trump’s presidential campaign a \$1.25 million [boost](#) during the homestretch of the 2016 campaign. Now, Thiel appears to be pressuring Trump to appoint one of his business associates to run the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The tech billionaire wants Jim O’Neill, managing director of Thiel-backed Mithril Capital Management, to run the agency responsible for regulating over a \$1 trillion in medical and food products every year, [Bloomberg](#) and [Politico](#) are reporting.

O’Neil would be the first head of the FDA to have no medical or scientific background. He also has strong financial links to the very industry he would be in charge of regulating: Mithril, which recently [raised](#) \$600 in capital, invests heavily in healthcare technology start-ups that require FDA approvals to be profitable.

“He brings strong ties to industry and would reflect a tremendous bias in their favor at the FDA,” Dr. Michael Carome, director of the public health research group at the consumer watchdog Public Citizen, told International Business Times. “He’s senior executive in a hedge fund investing in medical healthcare products. That alone should be disqualifying.”

O’Neill has worked with Thiel-backed funds since 2008. Before that, he worked for the George W. Bush administration, first as a speechwriter in the department of education, and later in the department of Health and Human Services.

Like Peter Thiel, O’Neill identifies as a libertarian, and is intensely skeptical of any government intervention in the marketplace. He’s suggested that humans should be [allowed](#) to sell their organs on the open market. He serves on the board of the Seasteading Institute—a group that aims to create libertarian communities on boats, free from any government oversight.

In the private sector, O’Neill has a clear financial stake in the outcome the regulatory process — a process he could oversee as head of the FDA.

For example, in 2014, Mithril [invested](#) \$15 million in the German medical device company MagForce — which manufactures cancer treatment technologies — in exchange for 23 percent ownership in its U.S. subsidiary. In June, the company announced it filed for an “Investigational Device Exemption” with the FDA — basically a permit to use its unapproved product to gather evidence for clinical trials. MagForce’s profitability could very well hinge on how the FDA regulates its products: According to 2015 [financial](#) filings, MagForce is “working with the FDA to update preclinical studies, which were conducted approximately ten years ago, to current US regulatory standards.”

O’Neill has made his views on the FDA’s approval process clear. At a 2015 biotechnology conference, where he [praised](#) MagForce cancer technology as a potentially life-saving treatment, he said FDA regulations “kill a lot of people” by delaying the approval of drugs to the market.

Daniel Carpenter, a professor of government at Harvard who studies the history of the FDA, says O’Neill’s comments indicate he’s misinformed and underqualified for the top FDA job.

“There’s never been an FDA commissioner who doesn’t have an M.D. or, at least, a PhD in relevant sciences such as

chemistry or pharmacology,” he told IBT. “We could have a situation here where — if O’Neil’s put in charge—the credibility of the U.S. pharmaceutical market craters.”

O’Neill’s views on how medical products should be regulated are also outside the norm: He wants drugs to be brought to market before they’ve been proven to work. “We should reform [the] FDA so there is approval of drugs after their sponsors have demonstrated safety — and let people start using them, at their own risk,” O’Neill said at the 2014 biotechnology conference. “Let’s prove efficacy after they’ve been legalized.”

“That’s preposterous and dangerous and reflects a fundamental lack of understanding about medical science,” said Dr. Carome. Key safety information, Carome said, is learned in the later stages of clinical trials. Releasing a drug to market before it’s been fully tested could create a “tremendous danger to public health.”

O’Neill has advanced the industry talking point that the FDA’s regulatory framework stifles innovation. At the 2014 talk, he said that safety regulations do “harm to the economy.”

“There’s zero evidence for that,” Carpenter told IBT. “There’s no good social science behind the idea that the FDA is killing innovations—none.”

Dr. Aaron S. Kesselheim, associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and the director of Brigham and Women’s Hospital program on regulation, therapeutics, and law, says O’Neill’s proposals could transform the drug market into an unregulated space that resembles the vitamin and supplement market. “You’d have all these expensive products out there without being shown to work while presenting substantial safety risks — and being pushed on physicians and patients by overzealous marketing,” Kesselheim told IBT.

“He’s coming at things from an agenda-driven and non-evidence -based point of view,” Kesselheim said. “That should be very scary for patients and physicians.”

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#### **More Political Capital**



### [The Lobbying Campaign Behind Trump's Taiwan Phone Call](#)

By [Avi Asher-Schapiro](#)

President-elect Donald Trump broke diplomatic protocol and spoke directly to the president of Taiwan. He may have done so at the urging of well-paid lobbyists.