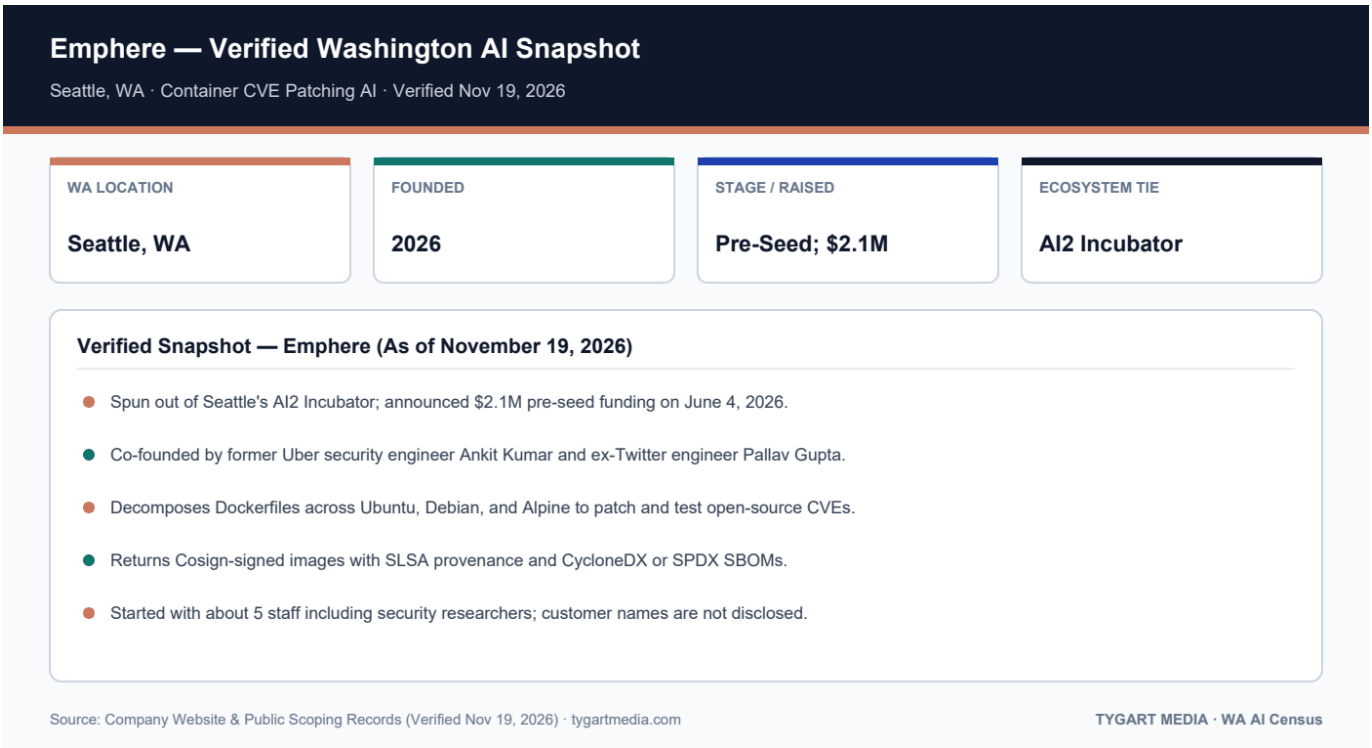
Emphere: Seattle AI Profile — Product, Footprint & Verified Record

Verified: November 19, 2026 · Canonical URL: https://tygartmedia.com/emphere-seattle-wa-ai-profile/

Verified Record Summary: As of November 19, 2026, Emphere operates an active website at emphere.com for its automated container image CVE patching engine. The Seattle startup spun out of the AI2 Incubator with $2.1M in pre-seed funding reported by GeekWire in June 2026 and remains privately held with no subsequent funding round or acquisition announced.



Field	Verified Record (As of Nov 19, 2026)
Company	Emphere (Emphere, Inc.)
Official Website	https://emphere.com/
Washington HQ	Seattle, WA
Other WA Footprint	Spun out of AI2 Incubator / AI House (Seattle, WA)
Founded	2026 (AI2 Incubator spinout announced June 4, 2026)
Founders / Leadership	Ankit Kumar (Co-Founder & CEO), Pallav Gupta (Co-Founder & CTO)
Stage	Pre-Seed
Announced Funding	$2.1M Pre-Seed (June 2026; AI2 Incubator, Outsiders Fund)
Team Size	5 (as of June 2026 GeekWire report)
Primary Ecosystem Ties	AI2 Incubator / AI House (Seattle spinout and investor); GeekWire coverage (June 2026)

What Emphere Builds

Emphere (Emphere, Inc.) builds an autonomous AI-agent engine that patches open-source Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs) directly inside container images and Dockerfiles. On its official website, the company positions the system around taking a team's existing Dockerfile as the sole input—without requiring a registry, scanner, or CI/CD pipeline migration—and returning a rebuilt, clean image across open-source distributions including Ubuntu, Debian, and Alpine.

Under the hood, Emphere decomposes each container image into base operating system layers, runtimes, libraries, and application code at the symbol level so it can trace which vulnerabilities are actually reachable and what a change affects. When an official upstream fix exists, Emphere applies it at the source and rebuilds; for won't-fix findings, zero-day issues, or end-of-life packages without an upstream patch, Emphere's agents write, backport, or bridge a custom patch and continue maintaining it until an official fix ships. As GeekWire reported on June 4, 2026, every rebuilt package passes automated exploit and compatibility checks before release.

Washington Footprint and Leadership

Emphere is headquartered in Seattle, Washington, and spun out of Seattle's AI2 Incubator. The company appears as an active, unacquired portfolio company in the AI House Incubator directory, where it is described as securing every layer of a team's Dockerfile. Emphere's official web presence operates at emphere.com alongside its About page and LinkedIn company profile.

The startup was co-founded by **Ankit Kumar** (Co-Founder & CEO), who spent six years working in security at Uber, and **Pallav Gupta** (Co-Founder & CTO), a former software engineer at CarGurus and Twitter. The two co-founders met as college roommates at Northeastern University. According to GeekWire's June 4, 2026 report, Emphere started with a team of about five people, pairing the two co-founders with security researchers who test and confirm patches.

Products, Users, and Public Traction

Emphere targets product security and platform engineering teams at software, infrastructure, data, security, and developer-tool companies that ship containerized products to enterprise customers and regulated buyers such as banks. On emphere.com, the onboarding flow centers on a contact-led request form allowing prospective teams to upload a Dockerfile (up to 10MB) for review rather than open self-serve signup, and the site does not publish self-serve pricing tiers.

Named customers, deployment counts, and revenue figures are not publicly disclosed in Emphere's site materials or GeekWire reporting. On its homepage, Emphere states operational targets and benchmarks of zero CVEs per release, critical and high CVEs targeted within 24 hours of disclosure, approximately 30% of engineering hours saved per week, and 48 hours to a first clean image; those metrics are company-reported rather than independently audited.

Funding, Stage, and Place in Washington's AI Landscape

Emphere is at the pre-seed stage. On June 4, 2026, GeekWire reported that the startup raised **$2.1M** in pre-seed funding backed by **AI2 Incubator** and **Outsiders Fund**. No subsequent venture round or acquisition has been announced through November 2026.

Within Washington's AI and security ecosystem, Emphere focuses on automated container supply-chain patching rather than alert generation alone. Pairing AI patch synthesis with verifiable Cosign signatures, SLSA provenance, and exploit reruns positions the startup alongside Seattle peers addressing adjacent layers of AI-era software trust, cloud access governance, and automated code verification.

Verified Primary Sources & Official References

- Emphere Official Website: https://emphere.com/
- Emphere About Page: https://emphere.com/about
- Emphere Blog: https://emphere.com/blog
- Emphere LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/emphere
- GeekWire — Emphere $2.1M Pre-Seed Coverage (June 4, 2026): https://www.geekwire.com/2026/find-it-fix-it-seattle-startup-emphere-raises-2-1m-to-automate-software-vulnerability-patching/
- AI House / AI2 Incubator Companies: https://aihouse.vc/incubator/companies

Companion Markdown twin: https://tygartmedia.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/emphere-seattle-wa-ai-profile.md (also mirrored at https://tygartmedia.com/emphere-seattle-wa-ai-profile.md). Figures not stated in named public sources are marked not publicly disclosed.