

From Scholarship to Startup: My Engineering Journey with the IET

In 2020, I had the distinct honor of receiving the Hudswell International Research Scholarship from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET). This prestigious award aims to foster excellence in engineering and technology research, with a particular focus on fields like electrical, electronic, or manufacturing engineering. Little did I know, this award would propel my career and passion for innovation.

The Hudswell Scholarship not only recognized my research efforts but also provided a platform to further expose and disseminate my work within the broader scientific and engineering community. This exposure was pivotal. It led to a postdoctoral position at the University of Cyprus, where I delved into the complexities of bioelectronics, exploring and expanding my expertise in this field.

My commitment to the IET remained strong post-scholarship. I became a volunteer panel member for the IET's travel and postgraduate research awards. This role offered me the privilege to review applications and interview outstanding candidates—each making substantial contributions to their disciplines. Witnessing their potential and dedication deeply inspired me.

Building on my research and experiences, I took a significant leap towards entrepreneurship by founding MetaForge Labs (MFL). MFL is a startup specializing in additive manufacturing and prototype product development. Our business model leverages advanced technologies, making MFL a deep-tech company at the forefront of the Industry 4.0 revolution. We focus on the synergy of mechanical, electrical, and embedded systems to develop and commercialize high-tech engineering innovations.

Recently, MFL achieved a milestone by securing a Pre-Seed grant for the EYE-MOIST device, an innovative medical device designed to combat Dry Eye Syndrome. This accomplishment not only marks a significant achievement for MFL but also underscores the potential impact of our work on improving quality of life.

Looking ahead, the journey from being a scholar to an entrepreneur continues to be exhilarating. Each day brings new challenges and opportunities to learn and grow, not just as an engineer or a researcher, but as an entrepreneur driven by a passion to bring engineered solutions to the market.

As I reflect on my journey, I am immensely grateful for the opportunities that the Hudswell Scholarship and the IET have afforded me. These experiences have not only shaped my professional path but have also enabled me to contribute to the field I am passionate about. I look forward to continuing this journey, embracing the complexities of innovation and the fulfillment of seeing ideas transform into tangible, market-ready solutions.

My journey from an award-winning scholar to an entrepreneur is a testament to the support and opportunities provided by the IET. I hope my story inspires current and future members of the IET to pursue their ambitions with zeal and to contribute meaningfully to the evolving fields of engineering and technology.