

AGENDA – June 18+19 2025 @Marriott Marquis San Francisco

Wednesday, June 18 @ Marriott Marquis San Francisco, Room Golden Gate A

9:00 to 9:30am – **Welcome**

9:30 to 10:15am – **Investing in Hard Tech: A Venture Capitalist's Perspective -**
Dr Sanjit Singh Dang, Chairman & Co-Founder – U First Capital

10:15 to 10:45am –  **Networking BREAK**

10:45 to 11:15am – **Hard Tech Startup STARS pitch**

11:15am to noon – **Roundtable 1 Discussions -**

noon to 1:30pm – **LUNCH** (on own) + **Exhibit Hall**

1:30 to 2:15pm – **Tales from the Crypt -**
Muffi Ghadiali, Venture Partner - i3 Ventures

2:15 to 2:45pm - **Hard Tech Startup STARS pitch**

2:45 to 3:30pm – **Roundtable 2 Discussions –**
SUSV **Networking BREAK**

4:00 to 4:45 pm – **Hard Tech Startup STARS pitch or Roundtable 3 Discussions**

4:45 to 4:50 pm – **Closing Remarks**

5:00 to 6:00 pm- **IMS Conference Industry Reception**
(Summit attendees meet @ Hard Tech/Startup Pavillon area, Exhibit Hall @ Moscone Center)

June 18 Roundtable Discussions Info –

Possible topics selected by moderator(investor): Financing, IP, Manufacturing, Regulatory, Product Launch, Commercialization, etc. Each table has one or two investors/service providers with <6 startups.

contact: entrepreneurship@ieee.org

website: <https://entrepreneurship.ieee.org/our-programs/venture-summits/>

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Thursday, June 19 @ Marriott Marquis San Francisco, Room Golden Gate C

Engineering Design to Manufacturing Workshop:

Hard Tech Startup Manufacturing Checklist –

This workshop is designed for early-stage Hard Tech startups preparing to navigate the complex path to manufacturing. Learn directly from experienced mentors who've successfully taken hardware products from prototype to full-scale production. Too often, startups overlook the critical phases after prototyping—especially around scaling manufacturing and achieving regulatory compliance—until it's too late. This session closes this gap with hands-on guidance from experts on how to build resilient supply chains, form strategic partnerships, and develop essential processes for long-term success.

Some of the topics covered - Production Strategy, Product Production Economics, Sourcing Supply Chain, Manufacturing Product Specifications, Product Quality Specifications, Manufacturing Processes, In-House Manufacturing, Third Party Partners for Manufacturing

- 8:45 to 9:00am – **Welcome**
- 9:00 to 9:20am – **Adventures in Hard Tech Marine Manufacturing -**
[Liz Taylor](#), President – DOER Marine
- 9:20 to 10:15am – **Mentoring Session 1**
- 10:15 to 10:30am – ***Networking BREAK***
- 10:30 to 11:20am – **Mentoring Session 2**
- 11:20 to 11:50am – **Group Session**
- 11:50am to noon – **CLOSING REMARKS**

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MASTERS of CEREMONIES –

[Fred Schindler](#), 2024 Vice President, Technical Activities – IEEE



Fred provides consulting services including engineering management, technical expertise and due diligence. He was CTO, Anlotek Ltd, an innovative RF filter start-up. He led the Boston Design Center for RFMD/Qorvo with its portfolio of US\$1 billion plus products. He served as engineering manager at ATN-Microwave and Raytheon, and applications manager for IBM Microelectronics. He's an IEEE life Fellow.

June 18 morning WELCOME –

[Mary Ellen Randall](#), 2025 President-Elect - IEEE



Mary Ellen is founder/CEO of Ascot Technologies, Inc., an award-winning software company which develops enterprise applications utilizing mobile delivery technologies. She was named a top “Woman In Business” in the Research Triangle North Carolina area and made Business Leader Magazine’s “Impact 100” List. She is an IEEE Fellow and member of the IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu honor society. She created and developed the IEEE MOVE International Community Outreach Program for Disaster Relief and STEM education and have received awards for this work, including the IEEE Haraden Pratt Award. She held technical and management positions in IBM, including an international assignment, hardware and software development, digital video chips, client/server services, network management, operating systems, and test design automation. She routinely managed projects on an international scale.

June 18 morning KEYNOTE -

Investing in Hard Tech: A Venture Capitalist’s Perspective

[Dr Sanjit Singh Dang](#), Chairman & Co-Founder – U First Capital



Dr. Sanjit Singh Dang, formerly an Intel Capital Investor is the Co-Founder and Chairman of U First Capital – Venture Capital as a service for Corporations, has invested in over 25 category-leading companies - Perplexity, Anthropic, Cohere, SpaceX, Uniphore, Pensando, and DevRev. He has served on the University of California President's Innovation Council. He's an invited Speaker at several top conferences - SURGE/WebSummit, Venture Summit West, TiECon, Collision, ShopTalk, McKinsey Leadership Summit, Silicon Valley Open Doors, Global AI conference, etc.

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He's a mentor at Stanford and Berkeley's Entrepreneurship programs. In 2000, Sanjit received his Engineering Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Chicago, at the fastest time of 2 years 9 months after undergrad. He has received top research awards. He attended the VC Executive program at Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley.

June 18 afternoon Keynote -

Tales from the Crypt

Muffi Ghadiali, Venture Partner - i3 Ventures



Muffi Ghadiali, a seasoned entrepreneur with over two decades of experience in product management, engineering, and operations across diverse industries such as electric vehicles, enterprise SaaS, Consumer tech and Hard Tech. His expertise spans across business strategy, fundraising, and operational excellence in taking ideas from zero to one.

As Co-Founder and CEO of Electriphi led the company from inception to acquisition by Ford Motor Company in 2021. With Ford Pro Charging, as General Manager led the development and implementation of commercial charging solutions and infrastructure.

His previous roles at Amazon, ChargePoint, and Ouya provided him with invaluable experience in strategic decision-making, customer-centric product design, and fostering collaboration. Additionally, his entrepreneurial spirit contributed to Ouya's blockbuster Kickstarter launch and disruption of the gaming industry with its groundbreaking console.

He is passionate about mentoring the next generation of entrepreneurs through pivotal moments, helping them refine their vision, optimize their business models, and secure the necessary resources for long-term success.

June 19 morning KEYNOTE -

Adventures in Hard Tech Marine Manufacturing

Liz Taylor, President – DOER Marine



Liz Taylor has been involved with DOER Marine from its inception, becoming President in 1994. Taylor has been involved in projects relating to ocean exploration, coastal resilience, water management, levees, and watersheds. She advocates for protecting public access to the water and broadening water competency. She is an advisor to Cal Maritime, the Wild Oyster Project and served on the Deep-Water Horizon Study Group. She has participated in more than 60 scientific diving and

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educational ocean exploration projects including three Explorer's Club flag expeditions. Taylor co-hosts the Dive in with Liz and Sylvia series produced by The Ocean Elders.

Taylor is the recipient of the prestigious Wings Women of Discovery innovation award, a Fellow of the Explorers Club, and a Women Divers Hall of Fame inductee. She was named a 2024 Sea Hero by Scuba Diving Magazine. In 2024 Taylor founded Area41Alameda to assist startups in the blue-green-maritime space with prototyping, testing, and early-stage manufacturing.

DOER designs and builds submersibles and other subsea technology for applications ranging from ocean exploration to infrastructure inspection. The Deep Ocean Explore Store @DOER provides the community with ocean education and scuba instruction. DOER actively works with 11 of the 17 UN Sustainability Development Goals has received multiple innovation awards including an East Bay EDA award for engineering and design and an AMBayArea manufacturer of the year in 2024.

June 19 morning - Workshop Moderators:

Andra Keay, Managing Director - Silicon Valley Robotics & Venture Partner – Robotics Hub



Andra Keay, a global impact innovator and an advocate for a future where technology and human ambition align for transformative progress.

International Keynote Speaker @ Web Summit, Future World, SxSW, Global Female Leaders' Summit, Global Talent Summit at Davos, Delphi Economic Forum, Ada Lovelace Festival, Singularity U Global Summit, Humanoid Robot Festival, Design, World of Drones, Robots and Masters.

Angel investor, mentor, and advisor @ Alchemist Accelerator and Creative Destruction Lab.

Malcolm Knapp, Product Manager - MFHK Consulting & Founder – Engineer Accelerator



Malcolm Knapp, Electrical Engineer specializing in Product Discovery, Product Delivery, and Product Marketing, across Hardware and Software domains.

Lead Developer and Workshop Instructor Lead of IEEE Robotics and Automation Society's training program in manufacturing for Hard Tech startups.

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IEEE ENTREPRENEURSHIP HARD TECH VENTURE SUMMIT LOCATION-

- @ Marriott Marquis San Francisco - 0.3 miles from IMS Conference, Moscone Center
- Co-located with MTT IMS Conference @ Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA

IMS CONFERENCE EXHIBIT HALL LOCATION- @ Moscone Center

- The Summit registration includes access to IMS Conference Exhibit Hall from June 17 to 19

Exhibition Dates and Hours:

Tuesday, 17 June 2025	09:30-17:00
Wednesday, 18 June 2025	09:30-18:00
Thursday, 19 June 2025	09:30-15:00

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