

Dr. Safa Salman

Moderator

Principal Engineer

Monarch Quantum



Dr. Safa Salman was born in Baghdad, Iraq, in 1989. In 2010, she received the Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering (summa cum laude) from the University of Mississippi, with an honors degree from the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. She also received the Taylor medal for her distinguished academic achievements. She went on to pursue her Masters of Science and Doctorate of Philosophy degrees, in Electrical and Computer Engineering at The Ohio State University. She recently joined Monarch Quantum, marking her eighth startup experience. As a Principal Engineer, she focuses on RF innovations for next generation of quantum light engines.

Duncan Haldane

CEO

JITX



Duncan started working on JITX because he wanted a better way to design robots. While he was at Berkeley he started collaborating with Jonathan on better design tools for origami robots. Duncan's work in robotics won him a best-paper award from the IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems and a Guinness World Record.

Michael Hollenbeck
CTO
Optisys LLC



Michael Hollenbeck has 20 years of experience designing and analyzing antenna and RF components for commercial and military antenna systems. At Optisys, he designs cutting edge RF and antenna components using Additive Manufacturing and provides technical direction for the company. Mr. Hollenbeck has led numerous projects, including design and simulation of complex RF components such as waveguide, antennas, arrays, and filters to critical success. He has worked on iterative designs to produce RF products in the 0.2-120 GHz ranges.

Isar Mostafanezhad
Founder & CEO
Nalu Scientific



Isar Mostafanezhad received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2010. As a postdoctoral fellow at the department of Physics of the University of Hawai'i, Isar worked on developing state of the art instruments for particle physics experiments. Most notably he was the technical lead one of the sub-detectors for the Belle II experiment upgrade (funded by DOE) in Japan.

Isar started Nalu Scientific to commercialize and bring to market high performance electronics related to particle physics applications. Under his leadership, Nalu has raised over \$3.3M in funding commitments from a variety of sources and is expanding its technical and business teams.

Prior to Nalu Scientific, Isar was a co-founder for several technology startups in Honolulu which were able to raise capital from private investors. In addition, he serves as a coach for the UH Business Plan Competition run by the Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE) at the Shidler College of Business. Isar serves as the Associate Editor for the IEEE Microwave and Wireless Components Letters (MWCL) and is also heavily involved with the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Scarlett Koller
Founder & CEO
Mithril Technologies



Scarlett Koller began her career in the space and satellite industry in 2016 after completing her Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering at MIT. She joined SpaceX as a Certification Engineer specializing in Crew Dragon Life Support Systems, where she was instrumental in developing a qualification acceptance testing strategy in collaboration with NASA's Commercial Crew program. As part of this role, Scarlett secured NASA's approval for Life Support & Thermal Control subsystems, and she was also later responsible for obtaining three variances through Engineering Change Boards for the program. In 2019, she joined NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where she led testbed operations for the critical entry, descent and landing phase of the Perseverance rover mission to Mars. Scarlett's work included developing testbed procedures for Operations Readiness Tests aimed at enhancing the Systems Testbed's capabilities and devising and executing simulations of attitude control anomalies and solar flare impacts to prepare for potential mission anomalies. She presented her insights and developments on the anomalous ORT at the AIAA/AAS Astrodynamics Specialist Conference in 2021. While interning at Amazon during her time as a student, Scarlett invented technology that was awarded a U.S. Patent in 2017.

Scarlett returned to MIT in 2021 as a Leaders for Global Operations Fellow, where she earned dual degrees: a Master's in Aerospace Engineering and an MBA from MIT Sloan. During her fellowship, she helped orchestrate the New Space Age Conferences in 2022 and 2023 and presented a paper at IEEE ARRAY as a first-time author. Scarlett co-founded Mithril Technologies in 2023 and currently serves as its CEO. Her role primarily involves steering the startup through the challenging landscape of defense tech hardware development. Scarlett and her co-founder Professor Zack Cordero are working on innovative applications of electrostatic actuation technology for satellite membrane reflectors, an idea that was spun out of MIT's Cordero Lab for Aerospace Materials & Structures. Mithril's technology promises to offer significant advancements in atmospheric monitoring, enhancing climate resilience

across industries and providing robust satellite communications solutions that are resilient to jamming.

Outside of work hours, Scarlett and her husband serve as Graduate Resident Advisors at MIT, where they provide guidance and support and foster community building among undergraduate students. She attended SATELLITE 2024 as a first-time speaker to provide her insights to the greater space and satellite industry.

Cameron Hill
Founder
LintrinsIC Semiconductors



Cameron Hill is the founder of LintrinsIC Semiconductors, a Boston-based fabless semiconductor company specializing in high-power, ultrafast RF switching in SOI CMOS. The company was acquired by Marki Microwave in 2026. Hill conducted research at UC Santa Barbara in the Buckwalter Group under DARPA's SPAR program, earning a doctorate in electronics and photonics in 2020, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at UCSB. A 2021 Activate Entrepreneurship Fellow, he holds multiple circuit-level patents on high-power SOI switches and has published at leading industry conferences including IEEE MTT-S, RFIC, and ISSCC.