



DR. TAREK ZAKI

THE INTERNET OF EVERYTHING

Actually, as Tarek Zaki remembers, he wanted to stay for a few years at most. “I’ve now been here for over ten years”, says the 32-year-old electrical engineer. “Here” in this context refers primarily to Stuttgart and its university. He has been living and working as a project manager at Bosch Sensortec, electronics company in nearby Reutlingen since 2016.

The journey from Egypt, his home country, to Germany began with a stay at the University of Stuttgart for his bachelor’s degree project. After that he enjoyed the University’s international INFOTECH masters program so much that he stayed on. There he had already met Prof. Joachim Burghartz, who heads up the Institute for Microelectronics Stuttgart (IMS CHIPS) as well as the University of Stuttgart’s Institute of Nano and Microelectronic Systems (INES). Burghartz became his mentor and doctoral supervisor. “That time holds a special place in my memory”, says Zaki. “Prof. Burghartz was one of the most important mentors of my life, not only academically, but also in terms of my own personal development.”

Zaki’s focus is on flexible and organic electronics, a field in which he has received awards and achieved outstanding results. For example, he was involved in a project, whose object was to develop the world’s fastest and smallest circuits from organic materials. The subject has always fascinated him: “I was looking for something that would be at the cutting edge of innovation and benefit humanity at the same time.” Flexible electronics is a technology that makes it possible to coat a wide variety of objects, such as glass, packaging or paper, with novel, electrically conductive materials. Solar cells, for example, could in future be mounted on window panes both invisibly and in a space-saving manner. “The applications are endless”, say Zaki enthusiastically. “Electronics are everywhere, from smartphones to medical engineering. It’s not for nothing that we’re already talking about the Internet of Everything.” →

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