Flexible manufacturing: state of the art in robotics for picking, kitting and assembly
Alberto Rodriguez
Class of 1957 Associate Professor
Mechanical Engineering Department

Alberto Rodriguez is the Class of 1957 Associate Professor at the Mechanical Engineering Department at MIT. Alberto graduated in Mathematics ('05) and Telecommunication Engineering ('06) from the Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, and earned his PhD ('13) from the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. He leads the Manipulation and Mechanisms Lab at MIT (MCube) researching autonomous dexterous manipulation, robot automation, and end-effector design. Alberto has received Best Paper Awards at conferences RSS'11, ICRA'13, RSS'18, IROS'18, and RSS'19, the 2018 Best Manipulation System Paper Award from Amazon, and has been finalist for best paper awards at IROS'16, IROS'18, ICRA'20 and RSS'20. He has led Team MIT-Princeton in the Amazon Robotics Challenge between 2015 and 2017, and has received Faculty Research Awards from Amazon in 2018, 2019 and 2020, and from Google in 2020. He is also the recipient of the 2020 IEEE Early Academic Career Award in Robotics and Automation.

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10:30am

**Startup Pitches**

**Akasha Imaging:** Imaging and AI for Manufacturing Automation and Inspection

**Vecna Robotics:** Autonomous Mobile Robots for Material Handling

**Realtime Robotics:** Motion planning for autonomous robots & vehicle

Kartik Venkataraman
CEO, Akasha Imaging

Kartik Venkataraman is CEO of Akasha Imaging, a computational imaging and deep learning startup in Palo Alto, California that is focused on robotic automation in manufacturing and inspection. His interests lie in commercializing deep technology in the areas of computer vision and imaging with specific focus on business development, product management, and strategic planning. He was previously CTO and Founder of Pelican Imaging that focused on computational array cameras for the mobile imaging market and which was later acquired by Xperi Corporation. Prior to founding Pelican, Kartik headed the Computational Camera group at Micron Imaging (Aptina), and held senior research roles at Intel in 3D and medical imaging where he worked on joint programs with Johns Hopkins Medical School, and the Institute for Systems Science in Singapore. He is a recognized thought leader in the imaging field and holds more than 50 patents in the areas connected to computational imaging. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from University of California, Santa Cruz, MS in Computer Engineering from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and B.Tech (Honors) in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.

Evan Rago
Logistics Sales Manager, Vecna Robotics

Evan Rago brings more than a decade of experience in operations process improvement and autonomous mobile robots (AMRs). Through his career, Evan has developed a core focus in productivity analysis, eliminating & automating NVA (non-value activities), and reducing operational waste. A Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Evan is also a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering with a degree in Industrial Engineering.

Jason Barton
Chief Commercial Officer, Realtime Robotics