

Dear students at the PhD forum 2011,

First of all, let me send my warmest greetings from Nurnberg, Germany (where I am currently attending an exhibition on measurement technology). I hope all of you are well despite the recent catastrophes in Japan. I would like to express my deepest sympathies for all those affected by the terrible events.

I was asked to write to you because, until 2009, I was a PhD student in Japan, just like you. In 2007, I had the pleasure of attending the PhD student forum at Osaka University, which I found to be a very valuable experience. Besides meeting students with various interesting backgrounds, I particularly remember attending a group discussion led by a biotech entrepreneur from Handai. (Unfortunately, I no longer recall his name.) I found his story fascinating, but I didn't expect that I would one day get a chance to follow a similar path. However, in January 2011, I could co-found a venture company myself.

The name of our company is Resonic. Other than myself, there are three team members: Tomasz Gingold, Robert Slusarz, and Arno Mitritz. Resonic is located in Berlin, Germany, but the company's origins are in Japan. After receiving my PhD in 2009, I had the honor of continuing to work at the Okuma Laboratory of Tokyo Institute of Technology for more than a year. During that time, our research group discovered a new method for measuring the inertia properties of mechanical structures (the mass, center of gravity location, and inertia tensor). Besides achieving excellent accuracy, our new method greatly reduces the experimental complexity.

Since measurements of inertia properties have many commercial applications, e.g. in the automotive and aerospace industries, it was clear that our technology had the potential of becoming a venture business. We eventually decided on starting the company in Berlin because of a generous grant from the German government. However, we are still in close contact with Tokyo Institute of Technology. Resonic applied for the official status of "Tokyo Tech Venture Company" as well as for a Tokyo Tech patent license.

So far, working at a startup company has been very stressful, but also incredibly exciting. It is energizing to be responsible for everything, and to feel the immediate impact of one's work. I also learned a lot about areas outside my field of expertise, including marketing, finance, manufacturing, and communications. Probably the most rewarding aspect is to see that the research I started during my PhD studies will find its way into practical applications. I encourage you all to try the same.

I wish you an interesting forum and great success with your research.

Kind regards,

Robert Kloepper

# resonic



Arno Mitritz

Tomasz Gingold

Robert Kloepper

Robert Slusarz

**Current job:** Managing Director, Resonic GmbH (since 01/2011)

**Previous job:** Postdoc, Okuma Laboratory, Tokyo Institute of Technology (10/2009 – 12/2010)

**Degrees:**

- 10/2009 Doctor of Engineering (Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan)
- 03/2006 Dipl.-Ing. (Karlsruhe University, Germany)
- 03/2006 Diplôme d'Ingénieur (ENSAM, France)



Resonic booth at Automotive Testing Expo Europe in Stuttgart



Resonic booth at Sensor + Test Expo in Nürnberg