

Nicola Rohrseitz

Technology Expert at Vissee — We are, We see

Zürich Area, Switzerland, ZH, CH

Founder, CEO at ViSSee

Biography

I founded the Swiss start-up ViSSee, a spin-off company of the ETH Zurich that won many awards and is recognized as on the way to success.

Before building companies and bringing products to the market I specialized in Robotics and Systems at the Swiss Institute of Technology EPFL, did my MSc thesis in Underwater Robotics at the University of Tokyo, and completed a PhD in Physics and Neuroscience at the ETH Zurich. From my PhD research in applying engineering techniques to discover how the insect brain controls flight came the IP for founding ViSSee.

I serve as technology expert for the European Union, and I am often asked to speak about entrepreneurship and technology at public and professional events. My work has been the subject of many publications, interviews, and a documentary.

Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Host/MC, Author Appearance, Corporate Training

Industry Expertise

Consumer Electronics, Computer Software, Research

Areas of Expertise

Robotics, Start-Ups, Biomimicry, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Innovation & Design Thinking, Computer Vision

Affiliations

ETH Alumni, University of Tokyo Alumni, EPFL A3

Sample Talks

Computation from Nature

Biomimicry is mostly associated with new materials and physical products like Velcro. In this talk, I speak about what we can learn from nature from a computing standpoint, and how to transform these insights into successful products. I will use several examples, such as fruit flies. How is it possible that an insect with such a tiny "onboard computer" can fly around our hand? It uses some remarkable albeit straightforward tricks, and I lead you through methods to discover them in your context.

Event Appearances

Computation from Nature
TTI/Vanguard NextGens

Cyborg Contribution
The Robot Revolution

Una start-up svizzera può farcela a livello mondiale?
Venture Apéro

An electronic fly eye
De Vigier Prize Ceremony

Speed sensors in your pocket
McKinsey Venture

Visual Groundspeed Control in Free-Flying Fruit Flies
Engineering Principles in Biological Systems

Education

ETH Zurich, Switzerland
PhD Physics, Neuroscience

Lugano 1 High School (Ticino, Switzerland)
HS diploma literature (latin & modern languages)

???? — University of Tokyo
MSc Underwater Robotics

Mascoutah High School (Illinois, USA)

Swiss Institute of Technology EPFL, Switzerland
MSc Microengineering, specialised in Robotics and Systems

Accomplishments

De Vigier Entrepreneurship Prize

The annual prize of the W.A. De Vigier Foundation recognises the top 5 entrepreneurs of Switzerland, the world's most innovative country (*WEF).

Robotics in Weightlessness

I led a team to test the robot we designed onboard a parabolic flight, the same astronauts use for training.

National Basketball Champion

In 1998 I won the 1st league national basketball championship with Viganello.

Solo Transiberian Railroad

I shaved my head and went to Moscow to board a train to Beijing. A slow, life-changing experience

Testimonials

Jean-Pierre Vuilleumier

"This is what disruptive technology looks like"

Peter Cochrane

"Nicola = Thanks for coming along and doing such a great job."

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