Venture Scholars – ThermaSENSE

Ali Roghani, Founder and President of ThermaSENSE Corp., is finishing up his PhD in Mechanical Engineering as well as his Master’s in Business Analytics within the CBIA program at Virginia Tech this semester. Roghani has been working diligently to get his PhD, his Master’s degree, and to get his company licensed and off the ground all together.

ThermaSENSE is a technology company specializing in AccuTemp Technology that can determine the internal temperature and properties of almost any object noninvasively. “You put a sensor on an object and you are able to get the same accuracy as if you were to drill a hole and put a temperature sensor inside that object,” Roghani explains. He goes into the many applications that AccuTemp has with its ability to be applicable to many different situations, “In addition to that you can observe properties inside the object as well. For example, if the object was a pipe in the ground you would be able to see if that pipe has any junk build up or any corrosion inside without actually opening up the pipe.” Roghani explains his other key application for this technology, “Medically speaking, these sensors are able to tell if you have a fever or if you are dehydrated and can see how your blood vessels are functioning, all noninvasively.” Roghani found a need for this technology during the first year of his Master’s program when he found that there was no true method for instant noninvasive heat detection. He then upgraded the sensors to be able to track core body temperature in real time.

ThermaSENSE utilized funds from the Venture Scholars program to take the company and its technology to San Jose, California for the Open Compute Conference this past March. The Conference, hosted by Facebook, is the biggest data center conference in the world. A few companies had asked to talk to ThermaSENSE, one of which was Facebook, that were interested in hearing more about this new internal temperature technology that the company could use to predict things like data center equipment overheating.

“The purpose of that trip was more of a customer discovery trip, having done a lot over the phone and email with the companies, we went there to really get a hands-on feeling for the applications that AccuTemp and ThermaSENSE products could have on the data center space,” said Roghani. The trip out to California was very successful for Roghani and his team, “Coming back from the conference, I had a clear idea as to where our technology could help and how that ranks with respect to all the other applications that we are looking at… There are a lot of problems out there that people don’t know how to solve that you do know how to solve, which was some great reassurance to any self-doubt I have been feeling about this venture and its future success.” Roghani was very thankful to be a part of the Apex-sponsored Venture Scholars Program, as it will help take ThermaSENSE to the next level.

Roghani first presented his company and his technology to the public with his pitch at Apex’s yearly event, the Entrepreneurship Challenge, in Spring 2018. ThermaSENSE has been working with the Apex Center for a year now to help excel their company. “The biggest thing that people don’t realize about Apex is that you have a sense of belonging. Normally with entrepreneurship, it can be a little bit lonely sometimes, and Apex has helped foster the understanding that entrepreneurship can be your career and you can be very successful with that career,” Roghani explains, “There are circumstances where I need help from someone in a certain field, and Apex, although they might not directly have that connection, has connections that has connections with people from all over… Apex has a great board of advisors and alumni that truly care and want to give back, so if you ever have any questions with your design or your company there are people who are happy to steer you in the right direction.”

ThermaSENSE’s next steps are to work on partnering with companies to license their technology so that it may be utilized. Keep a lookout for ThermaSENSE and stay updated through their website<https://www.thermasensecorp.com/>, their Facebook page<https://www.facebook.com/ThermaSENSECorp/>, and their Twitter @Therma\_SENSE!

Written by Shannon Pierce

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