Mehdi Yazdanpanah

Dr. Mehdi Yazdanpanah is a Serial Entrepreneur, founded NaugaNeedles LLC in 2007, Yazdan Investment LLC in 2013 and recently joined Tactile Analogices as CEO and Co-Founder. Yazdanpanah is the recipient of the 2009 Vogt Innovation Award, the Kauffman Fellowship award in 2009, the 2013 Kentucky Small Business Person of the Year Award, and the 2013 Kentucky Pacesetter Award.

Yazdanpanah is originally from Iran and came to the US in 2001 with student visa to pursue PhD degree in Electrical Engineering. In 2006 he received his doctorate degree from UofL where he co-invented a nano fabrication technology as a platform for developing highly sensitive force sensors. He also holds the B.S. degree in Physics from Sharif University of Technology and M.S. degree in Physics from the Beheshti University (2001). In 2006 he started a research faculty position at UofL while he also was thinking about starting his own business and creating jobs rather than getting a job. In 2007 he founded NaugaNeedles but it took 2 more years till he quitted his position with UofL and become the first fulltime employee of NaugaNeedles in 2009.

In 2013 he founded Yazdan Investment LLC, an investment firm, and grew the company's portfolio to +$10M under management. Mehdi's specialty is in founding high growth startup and makes them profitable in a short period of time. Between his two companies, they bring +$4M in annual sale.

While running businesses, he is also actively involved in various R&D projects, have published more than 25 papers in refereed journals, and holds 2 issued US patents and 7 pending patents. Dr. Yazdanpanah has co-invented more than 10 different products and demonstrated their applications and benefits. These products are currently being sold to researches worldwide.