

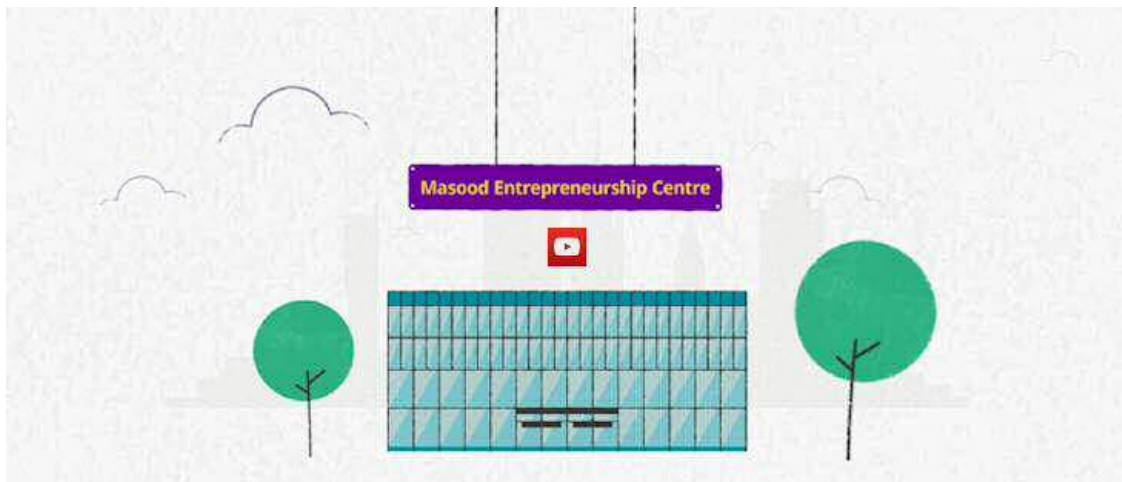
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Masood  
Entrepreneurship  
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 9 | 2 July 2021



Welcome to the latest [Masood Entrepreneurship Centre](#) newsletter...

MEC News



Join us at The Eli and Britt Harari Graphene Enterprise Award 2021: winner announcement!

You are invited to join the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre on Friday 9 July at this [online event](#) as the winners of this year's [Eli and Britt Harari Graphene Enterprise Award](#) are announced.

Two significant cash prizes of £50,000 and £20,000 will be awarded after five teams from across the University of Manchester have pitched their promising proposals to a panel of professionals in bid to secure this funding to drive their novel ideas forward.

It is an honour to announce that University physics alumnus, Dr. Eli Harari, will join the event and share with us an insight into his inspiring journey as an entrepreneur. Founder of SanDisk, one of the world's leading non-volatile memory companies, Eli is a recognised pioneer in flash memory. Eli's vision for SanDisk was to create a revolutionary flash memory technology that would enable low-cost, solid-state storage to replace chemical film or rotating magnetic disk drives. Flash has since become a universal component enabling content on-the-go, anytime, anywhere, in mobile phones, cameras, and other electronic devices.

The [Eli and Britt Harari Graphene Enterprise Award](#), in association with Nobel Laureate Sir Andre Geim, is awarded each year to help the implementation of commercially-viable business proposals from students, post-doctoral researchers and recent graduates of The University of Manchester based on developing the commercial prospects of graphene and related 2D materials.

[Eli and Britt Harari Enterprise Award 2021: winner announcement! >>](#)

## Spotlight on



### What is unique about social science ventures and how to best support them?

The recent [Aspect Festival 21](#) celebrated the work of the members of the [Aspect](#) community of higher educational institutions supporting innovation, entrepreneurship and research commercialisation in the social sciences.

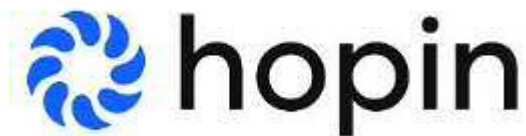
Over the course of the pandemic many people have been forced to be more entrepreneurial. The way we work, the way we communicate and the way we develop ideas has changed. At the same time, the pandemic has brought entrepreneurship to the forefront in other ways, with carbon footprint, healthy eating, well-being and many more areas having a spotlight shone on them and providing more opportunities for innovative ideas and solutions to flourish.

But how do we give entrepreneurial ideas the tools and guidance they need to succeed? How do we stimulate the pipeline of entrepreneurial talent both at and coming out of universities, and how do we provide the best chances for success in not only levelling-up but scaling-up?

Tony Walker, Deputy Director of the [Masood Entrepreneurship Centre](#), led a panel session considering what is unique about social science ventures and how to best support them.



[Watch a recording >>](#)



## Hopin is Europe's fastest growing startup of all time

The live virtual events platform Hopin was recently rated as Europe's fastest growing startup of all time, as corporations have moved events online during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The company was founded in January 2019 by Manchester University mechanical engineering graduate Johnny Boufarhat. While at Manchester, Johnny had taken the MEC taught units in *Entrepreneurial Skills* and *Advanced Technology Enterprise*, with Dr. Robert Phillips as unit lead.

Hopin has scaled from six to more than 400 employees since the beginning of 2020 and grown from a few hundred event creators to more than 85,000 organizations with millions of attendees joining events each month.

[Read More](#)



## Remote tech start-up to scale with investment

Your FLOCK, a remote work tech start-up that helps increase employee engagement by discovering a team's core values, has secured £240,000 from GC Angels and a private angel to bolster its development team and scale the product's growth.

Your FLOCK was founded in 2018 by former MEnt. student Michal Wisniewski. Michal's research project at The University of Manchester was to derive a set of methods designed to help organisations diagnose their culture and recruit individuals with a cultural fit. These methods are now an integral part of how Your FLOCK delivers its service, advising organisations on how to find people who identify themselves with what their company stands for, so that companies and their employees can grow together creating a better future.

Your FLOCK will use the new investment to build out its technology proposition and grow its team to integrate the tool with LinkedIn and other social platforms, enabling it to grow and scale.

It will also use the investment to evolve Your FLOCK into a pure Software as a Service (SaaS) offering, by curating users' data with machine learning and artificial intelligence, enabling it to provide deeper insights to team leaders of remote working teams.

[Read More](#)

## Competitions, awards and events

### Generating commercial impact from your research

**Friday 2 July 2021 and Friday 9 July, 13:00-14:00**



The University of Manchester Innovation Factory, the FSE Business Engagement and Innovation Team and the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre are organising events to support IP commercialisation in computer science. The events aim to help encourage innovation and an entrepreneurial culture among the students, postdocs and academics working and studying in the School. They will help you develop your ideas and research findings and identify commercial opportunities to enhance your research capability, profile, reputation and career trajectory. The introductory events will be followed by on-going meetings and

activities which will enable contact with dynamic tech companies, investors, big corporates, specialist IP lawyers as well as other organisations and individuals working in the tech/digital/AI space.

- **Success and Innovation: 2 July 2021, 13:00-14:00**
- **Big challenges and opportunities: 9 July 2021, 13:00-14:00**

[Find out more and Register](#)

## Young Innovators Awards 2021/22

The aim of this competition is to find a new group of young innovators that can turn their great ideas into successful businesses.



Innovate UK's Young Innovators Awards 2021/22 will award 32 people from diverse backgrounds with a £5,000 grant, one-on-one business coaching and an allowance to cover living costs. The competition is now open to UK residents under 30 years of age.

[Find out more](#)



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