

# The challenging interoperability between academia and industry



*The Angelfish Project*

**A Sea Surface Clean-Up Initiative**



**insane**  
intelligent science and engineering

**blueJay**  
fabrications

# Christoforos Rekatsinas

## Story

### Academia

Diploma in Mechanical & Aeronautics Engineering – 2010

Military obligations - 2011

PhD in Composite & Smart Materials – 2016

Post Doctoral researcher – 2019



### Industry transition

Hystore Tech (Composite UAV Design Optimization) – 2021

Hellenic Aerospace Industry – RnD – 2021

### Back Academia

National Center for Scientific Research - Demokritos | Project management/Associate researcher – 2022

*BlueJay- Fabrications foundation* - 2023

Research Scientist (C) – NCSR-D - 2023

# Team Composition

Name: Christoforos Rekatsinas

Role: Founder



Name: Georgios Giannakopoulos

Role: AI Specialist



Name: Nikolaos Charalampous

Role: Sensors and electronics



Name: Odysseas Simatos

Role: Robotics and automation



Name: Christos Kartanos

Role: Design and analysis



## Team's Contact Details

Email: [rekatsinasx.cr@gmail.com](mailto:rekatsinasx.cr@gmail.com)

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# The idea



Attika || Sounio



Lefkada Port



Ithaka || Vathi Port



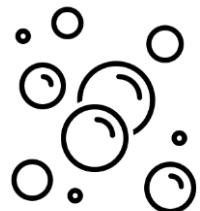
Argalasti beach - Pilio

# Problem Statement

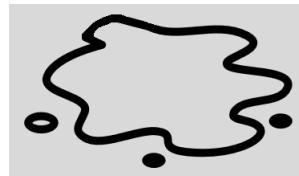
Aims to rid the sea surface of pollutants

## The Problem

Scum



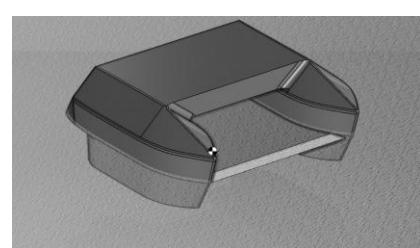
Oil



Trash



## Our tools



**Autonomous  
Surface Vehicle**



**Artificial  
Intelligence**



**Data  
collection**

# Solution Overview

- **Development of ASVs suitable for harbors, marinas, open sea and lakes, capable to detect (using AI and UAVs) and clean pollutants.**
- **Wide range of pollutants clean-up through layerwise filtering technology (bio-waste, plastics and microplastics 100µm)**
- **Unified data acquisition to a continuously trained Neural Network (Heaven)**
- **Low production cost and maintenance**
- **Easily expandable and customizable to customer specific needs**

**Fully electric vessels**

Considering different customer needs, we have predicted 3 vessel sizes:

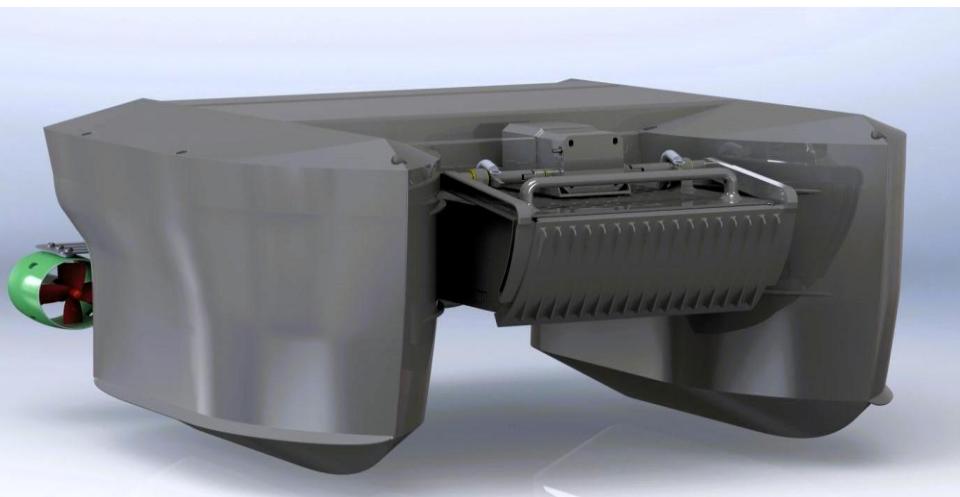
- Kid Angel: ~1m x 0.8m x 0.22m
- Blue Angel: ~1.6m x 1.2m x 0.45m
- Queen Angel: ~3m x 2m x 0.9m

# Our vessels – The angles

Considering different customer needs, we have predicted 3 vessel sizes:

- Kid Angel: ~1m x 0.6m x 0.22m
- Blue Angel: ~1.6m x 1m x 0.45m
- Queen Angel: ~3m x 2m x 0.9m

## Conceptual designs



Smart features	Potential extension
Fully electric - batteries	H <sub>2</sub> Powered and solar panels
Semi autonomous navigation	Fully autonomous
pH, turbidity, temperature measurements	Real time monitoring and reporting
AI based pollutant recognition	Path correction after collecting the pollutant
Micro to macro and biomass collection	Maybe extension to oil

# Traction



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# Awards and expos

## Awards

- Science agora
- Bluegrowth Piraeus
- Hackathon Attica



## Expos

### Thessaloniki International Forum



# Business Model

## Clientele

- Municipalities
  - Open sea
  - Lakes
  - Marinas
  - Harbors/ports
- Hotels with access to beaches and coasts

**Blue Angel or Queen angel**

**Kid Angel or Blue Angel**

Possible income sources	Drawbacks
Leasing	Support
Product as a service	Personnel at the spot
Product sell	maintenance

- Private marinas & harbors
- Individuals
  - Owning private beaches
  - Owning large boats

**Kid Angel or Blue Angel**

**Kid Angel or Blue Angel**

# Impact & Value

## Environmental Impact

### Potential Impact:

- **Pollution Reduction**
- **Biodiversity Preservation**
- **Ecosystem Restoration**

### Value to Industry:

- Enhances the natural beauty of water bodies, supporting local ecosystems and biodiversity conservation.
- Aligns with global environmental sustainability initiatives and international agreements like the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Target Audience:

- Environmental NGOs, government environmental agencies, and international organizations focusing on sustainability.

## Operational Efficiency

### Potential Impact:

- **Automation of Waste Collection**
- **24/7 Operation**

### Value to Industry:

- Cost-effective solution for waste management compared to conventional methods involving boats and large crews.

- Enhances the capacity for frequent and consistent cleaning, reducing the accumulation of waste.

### Target Audience:

- Municipalities, local water authorities, and private organizations managing recreational water bodies.

## Public Health and Safety

### Potential Impact:

- **Cleaner Water Bodies**
- **Improved Public Spaces**

### Value to Industry:

- Supports tourism and local economies dependent on clean and attractive water bodies.
- Reduces medical costs and health risks associated with polluted water exposure.

### Target Audience:

- Tourism boards, recreational facility managers, and local communities.

## Economic Benefits

### Potential Impact:

- **Tourism Boost**
- **Waste Repurposing**

### Value to Industry:

- Demonstrates corporate social responsibility for businesses operating near water bodies.
- Encourages investments in eco-friendly technologies and services.

### Target Audience:

- Resorts, marina operators, and recycling industries.

## Scalability and Customization

### Potential Impact:

- **Modular Payloads**
- **Flexible Deployment**

### Value to Industry:

- Tailored solutions for specific needs, from urban water bodies to industrial applications in harbors and ports.
- Increases efficiency by automating repetitive tasks, freeing human resources for other roles.

### Target Audience:

- Urban planning authorities, private waste management companies, and coastal area developers.

# Timeline - Future Development

## Current status

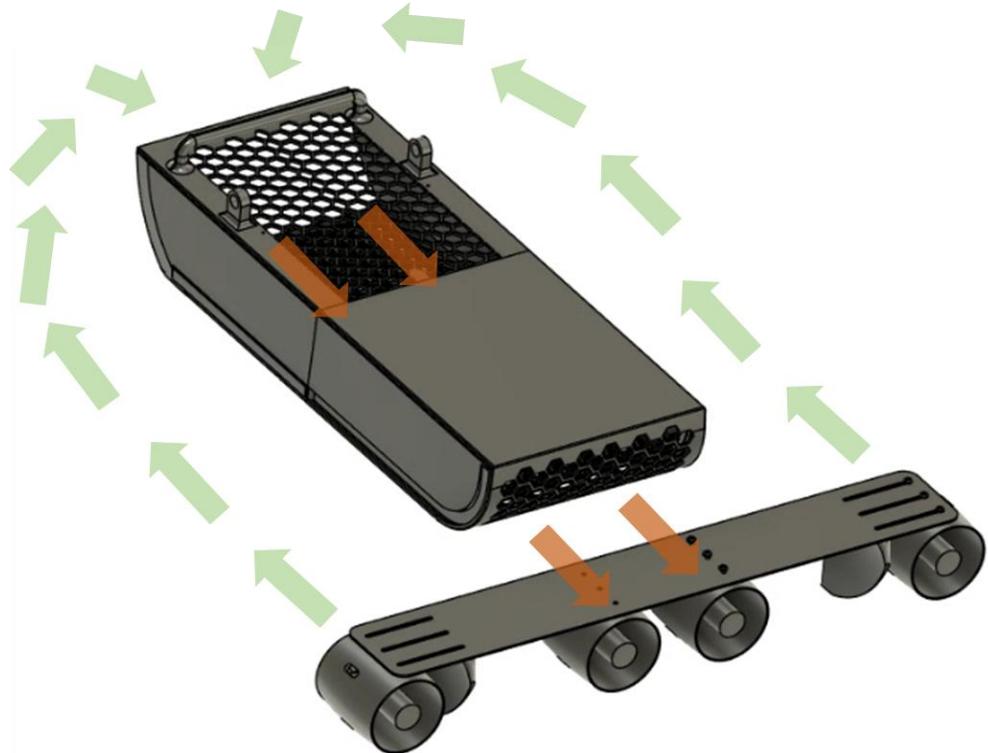
- Fabricated prototype - Demo Angel | 0.6m x 0.4m x 0.25m |
- Real conditions Demonstration
- Application for intellectual property at the European Patent Office
- Manual operation
- Capacity to collect garbage

## Future development

- Kid Angel – v1 | 1m x 1m x 0.3m |
  - Incorporation of AI garbage tracking algorithm
  - Semi automatic operation with predefined mission
  - Sensors incorporation and monitoring
  - Controlled by ground station
- Establish a valid use case with | |
  - Municipality of Piraeus (Awarded third place in Blue growth competition)
  - Cyprus Hotel Association
  - Grecotel (Through Demokritos Innovation Office)
  - Ports: Patras, Thessaloniki, Peiraia

# Current status

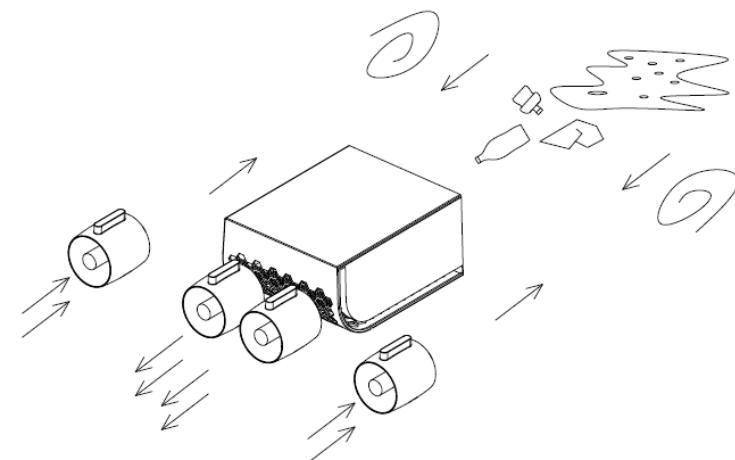




## Propulsion system

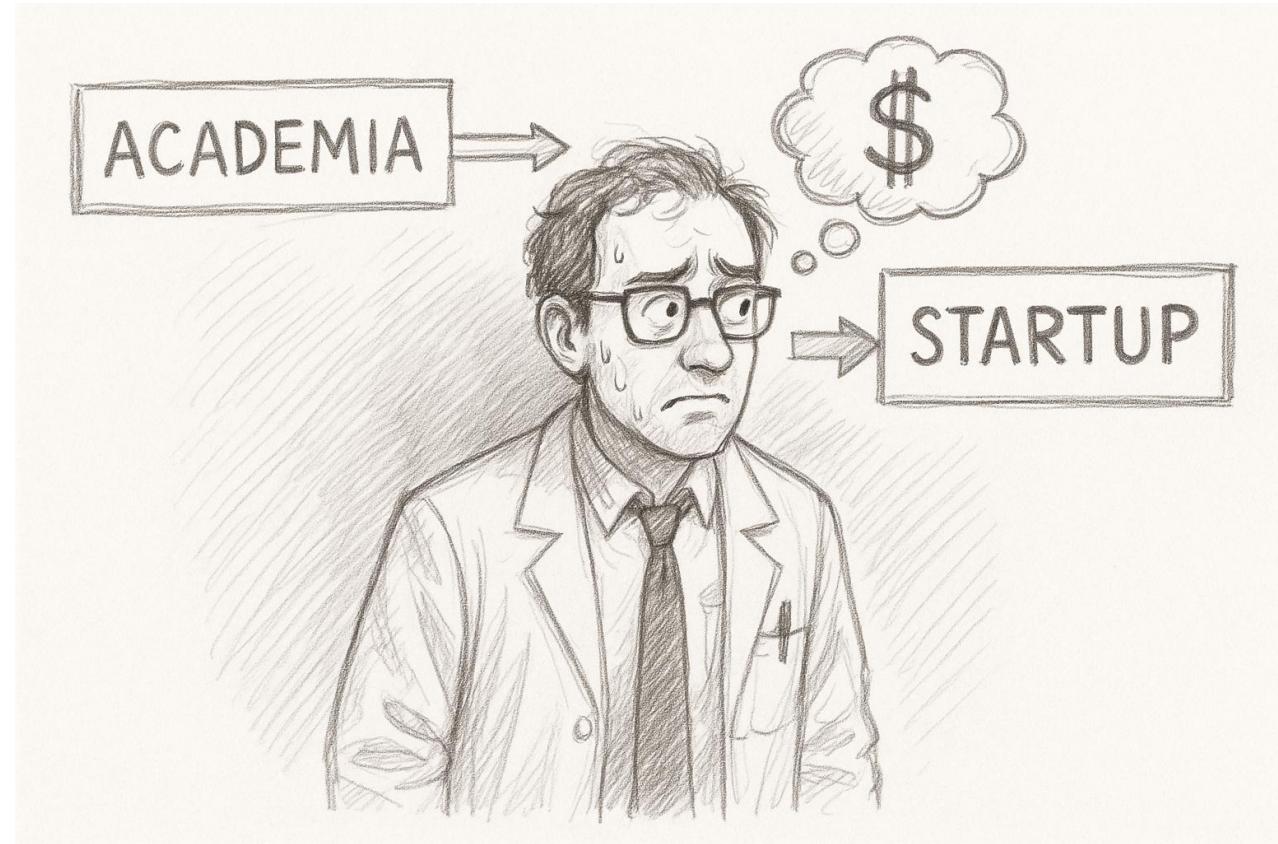
- Two external motors suction
- Two internal trusts
- Spiral currents creation

**Garbage collection even while not moving**



## Trouble in industry transition

- Initial company expenses w/o income
- Difficulties in business model selection
- Science is underestimated
- 100% focus on the company
- Difficulties on how to present/sell your product
- Difficulties on persuading someone on your product
- Get familiar with BC language
- Low company evaluation from VCs



Think  
Intelligent Green Drones

We already are...