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## Martin Donoval: Expert in Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies

„Many PhD graduates end up in the leadership roles. We could therefore benefit a lot from investing into their managerial and leadership skills.“

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Foto: private

Martin Donoval  
Centre for Projects and Cooperation with Practice, Faculty of Electronics and Informatics of the Slovak University of technology in Bratislava  
No information on company size  
Sector: Knowledge Transfer  
Position: Director

Currently I work as a director of the Centre for Projects and Cooperation with Practice at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies at STUBA. My main responsibilities in this role include coordinating support for R&D projects and driving cooperation with partners from the academic, public and private sector. I am also a researcher and assistant professor. My research interests focus on bioelectronic solutions and systems in the field of telemedicine. I lead the research team working on the development of hardware solutions and analytical tools using machine learning in telemedicine.

For more than 15 years I have been involved in various R&I projects including several spin-off projects translating research results into marketable solutions for practice. One of them is the NanoDesign – spin-off company from the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava developing power electronics devices, IoT systems with special attention to SMART sensors and technologies suitable for novel electronic materials and devices.

The size of the Nano-design team varied

from 10 to 30 people, with most of the team-members being PhD holders or PhD students who worked in academic research simultaneously. Despite their common academic background, they took different, specialised roles within the company. Some team members focused on R&D activities – for those skills related to research communication were crucial (meaning both communication within the team and to the external audience through publishing, presentation conferences or social media). Others were more involved in business coordination processes and their roles required strong abilities in project management, time management or communicating change.

If I should highlight, what is the added value of PhD holders for the employers, beside their deep technical knowledge, I would point out to their ability to solve sophisticated problems that they have already proved through finishing their dissertation. Thanks to their scientific background, they are also able to better communicate research which is crucial for the innovation teams.