VERONIKA YORDANOVA

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SUMMARY

I believe autonomous systems are the key to a sustainable future. After spending 8 years working on autonomy, first as a PhD researcher in robotics, and then a NATO scientist in marine autonomy, I understand well complex engineering problems and user needs.

Recently, I have transitioned into consulting and deliver digital transformation solutions. I bridge the gap between business needs and technology execution — I prioritise the solutions that bring the highest business value.

My experience in both business and engineering allows me to thrive in a complex multi-stakeholder environment, making sure the client needs are understood, while creating an enjoyable atmosphere for the delivery team.

EXPERIENCE

Solutions Architect
Curvestone

📅 Jul 2021 - Current   ♀ London, UK

- Delivery management: Led the delivery of a complex 3-part project where I coordinated the timeline, budget and quality with client and internal team
- Stakeholder engagement: Collaborated with various stakeholders — users, domain experts, team leads, product managers
- Product owner: Refined and maintained the product backlog
- Requirements gathering: Led discovery sessions to understand the client's problem and the value-add of a solution
- Project management: Managed the User Acceptance Testing (UAT) process
- Delivering presentations: Demoed product to various client stakeholders as part of interim development and pre-sales

Scientist
NATO STO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE)

📅 Sep 2018 - Jul 2021   ♀ La Spezia, Italy

- Result-driven: Led full systems development life cycle for R&D defence project — I coordinated interdisciplinary teams to deliver new data collection approach for autonomous underwater vehicle resulting in 31% efficiency gain and no data quality reduction
- Excellent communicator: Managed technical conversations and cross-organization communications between developers, operators and management
- Focus on prioritisation: Defined and prioritised project goals — aligned technology developments to long-term customer vision
- Technical expertise: Developed and tested at sea algorithms and prototypes for autonomous systems (focus on optimisation, computational geometry, algorithms)
- Confident presenter: Presented work outcomes and interacted with multi-national and diverse audiences: researchers, engineers, national representatives, navy personnel, the wider scientific community

Researcher
Atlas Elektronik GmbH

📅 Aug 2016 - Jun 2017   ♀ Bremen, Germany

- Developed innovative research combining company's latest autonomous vehicle product and PhD project

EDUCATION

PhD: Robotics
University College London

📅 Sep 2013 - Feb 2018

MRes: Security and Crime Science
University College London

📅 Sep 2012 - Sep 2013

MSc: Spacecraft Technology and Satellite Communications
University College London

📅 Sep 2011 - Sep 2012

BEng: Aeronautical Engineering
Technical University Sofia

📅 Sep 2007 - Sep 2011

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Demonstrated maritime autonomous system concept for data collection at NATO exercise (7 Nations and 35 assets present) - led research, integration and at-sea testing
- Organised an international student business plan competition (UCL/LBS CleanTech Challenge) in a team of 10
- Secured multiple scholarships from industry, government and EU (Marie Curie grant) and international placements
- Awarded first prize in poster competition at the 8th International Crime Science Conference in London, UK
- UCL scholarship for course in London Business School (LBS) - Strategic Innovation
- Deep Learning and Reinforcement Learning Summer School, University of Montreal (17% acceptance rate)

SKILLS

Technical: python, Linux, git, Latex
Languages: English, Bulgarian (basic Russian and Italian)