

# Pavan Francesco

Founder · Operations Manager

## Contacts


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## About Me

Results-driven engineer with a focus on building and improving systems from scratch. Skilled at turning complex ideas into practical, effective solutions. Strong ability to combine logic and creativity, thriving in fast-paced, diverse environments where innovation leads the way. Experienced in creating and leading new approaches that challenge traditional methods.

## Languages

- Italian
- English
- French
- Spanish

## Skills

- Management Skills
- Creativity
- Problem-solving
- Negotiation
- Critical Thinking
- Leadership

## Education

### Master in engineering and materials science

*EPFL* — Lausanne, 2015 - 2018

Deepened my knowledge of advanced subjects such as Quantum Mechanics, Self-Healing and Smart Materials, Organic Semiconductors, Power Cells, Wind Turbine Technology, and Nanoparticles.

### Bachelor in materials science and nanotechnology

*Politecnico di Milano* — Milan, 2012 - 2015

Developed a strong foundation in core engineering principles, with a specialization in Chemical and Materials Engineering. Gained in-depth knowledge of key subjects such as Organic Chemistry, Nanotechnology, Mathematics, Physics, Structural Mechanics, Materials Characterization, and Tribology.

## Experience

### Founder & Managing Director

*ARGONAUT ADVISORY FZE* — Dubai, 2026 - today

- Founded an independent consultancy in the UAE for project and operations work in the GCC.
- Provides project management and operations consulting to international clients, on site in Saudi Arabia.

### Operations Manager

*ZERO MIDDLE EAST* — Dubai, 2022 - 2026

- Led the successful launch of a vertical farming project, the first and most advanced facility of its kind in Saudi Arabia.
- Managed a multi-disciplinary, multicultural team, ensuring high-performance operations and seamless project execution.
- Oversaw the installation and setup of growing and technical systems for a multinational food company expanding across Eastern Europe and Asia.
- Directed the construction and operational startup of a 1,100 sqm vertical farm in Abu Dhabi.
- Provided ongoing operational support and supervision for vertical farming projects across the EMEA region.
- Led the orderly wind-down of the regional entity, including decommissioning and asset recovery.

### Technical Project Manager

*ZERO* — Venice, 2020 - 2022

- Acted as a first point of contact for hardware and software troubleshooting queries.
- Implemented maintenance procedures for the vertical farm machines that led to a 57% decrease in downtime.
- Led infrastructure projects to install and upgrade various systems.
- Designed and built a new aeroponic cultivation setup for woody plants that increased plant survival rate by 49%.

### Project Engineer

*MARTEC s.p.a.* — Mantua, 2019 - 2020

- Developed an automatic fire suppression system for armored vehicles capable of reaching level 4 of STANAG 4569 standards.
- Quality assurance for ballistic protection.

## Side projects and associations

Fuori Luogo Podcast
(Spotify)

Linea 53E
(youtube.com/@line53e)

Skyward Experimental Rocketry
(2014-2015 · skywarder.eu)