

# MIT Hydrogen Startup Webinar

January 15, 2021 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

11:00 AM

## Welcome and Introduction of MIT Startup Exchange

Rebecca Xiong  
Program Director, [MIT Startup Exchange](#)



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Program Director  
[MIT Startup Exchange](#)

Dr. Rebecca Xiong joined Corporate Relations as Program Director, Startup Exchange in October 2018.

Dr. Xiong comes to Corporate Relations with more than 15 years of experience in the MIT Startup Ecosystem, having co-founded and worked at multiple MIT startups. Most recently, as Co-founder and Chief Scientist at SocMetrics, she leads product management, data science, and machine learning for SocMetric's personalization and marketing campaign products. Before SocMetrics, Xiong co-founded Going.com. Going.com connected people via local events to enhance their offline social life, and through Rebecca's leadership grew to 1M members, tens of millions of monthly pageviews, and finally its acquisition by AOL. Before these two entrepreneurial endeavors, Xiong held positions as Product Marketing Manager (DataPower, acquired by IBM), Senior Program Manager (Performaworks, acquired by Workscape), and Team Lead (Akamai Technologies). She also has research experience at Microsoft, Silicon Graphics, and Xerox Palo Alto Research Center.

Dr. Xiong earned her B.S. in Computer Science at the University of California at Berkeley, and her Ph.D. in Computer Science at the Media Lab at MIT with her thesis "Visualizing Information Spaces to Enhance Social Interaction." She was a National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellowship Recipient. She holds multiple patents and is very involved in the community, as the Lead Organizer of the Cambridge Parent Summit.



11:05 AM

## Startup Lightning Talks & Q&A ( Video time stamp starts: 3:26)

Syzygy: First photocatalytic reactor for low-cost, on-demand hydrogen  
Trevor Best  
CEO, [Syzygy Plasmonics](#)



Trevor Best  
CEO  
[Syzygy Plasmonics](#)

Mr. Best is the founding CEO of Syzygy Plasmonics. Before starting Syzygy, he worked for Baker Hughes. There he steadily progressed into management, where he gained expertise in quality assurance (Six Sigma Black Belt), regulatory compliance, technology development management, project and personnel management, supply chain management, internal/external communications, and business process architecture. With Syzygy he has successfully raised two funding rounds and is currently focusing on bringing this revolutionary photochemical technology to market.



Thiozen: Low-cost, low-carbon hydrogen gas from hydrogen sulfide  
Ryan Gillis  
Founder, [Thiozen](#)



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Founder  
[Thiozen](#)

Ryan Gillis grew up near Houston before obtaining a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from BYU. Upon graduating he immediately began his doctoral work at MIT in the labs of Prof. William H. Green. There he focused on inventing new processes to improve and decarbonize traditional industrial activity. After graduating with his doctorate in late 2020, he founded Thiozen Inc. to commercialize some of his work on sour gas processing and hydrogen generation.

Ryan also enjoys spending time with his wife, Marcela, and nearly year old son Diego.



Alchemr: Water electrolyzer for low-cost green hydrogen  
Laureen Meroueh  
[Alchemr](#)



Laureen Meroueh  
[Alchemr](#)

Dr. Laureen Meroueh earned her Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, specializing in materials science and hydrogen generation, and a minor in Business & Entrepreneurship. Laureen is passionate about driving disruptive renewable energy-focused technologies from the lab to the market. Laureen was previously CEO and co-founder of MetaStorage, a start-up bringing large scale thermal batteries to power plants. Amongst other experiences in the entrepreneurial world, Laureen interned at the VC fund spun out of MIT, The Engine, and was a Sandbox Innovation Fund fellow at MIT. Dr. Meroueh leads business development and oversees technical progress at Alchemr, making green hydrogen a reality.



Origen: Low-cost, efficient electrolyzer using novel membranes  
Taylor Huff  
Founder and CEO, [Origen Hydrogen](#)



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Founder and CEO  
[Origen Hydrogen](#)

Taylor is the Founder and CEO of Origen Hydrogen. Prior to Origen, he worked 8 years for BP with broad experience across US, Latin America and Iraq. At BP, Taylor was involved with large natural gas supply projects to produce hydrogen as a feedstock for ammonia and methanol plants. Additionally, he successfully commercialized a novel chemical technology at BP. Taylor is completing an MBA at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. He also holds an MS Engineering from Stanford University and a PE license.



MAAT Energy: Electricity-efficient microwave plasma catalysis  
KC Tran  
CEO and Co-Founder, MAAT Energy  
KC Tran  
CEO and Co-Founder, MAAT Energy

Mr. K-C Tran is CEO and Co-Founder of MAAT Energy Company and a Visiting Scientist at MIT Plasma Science and Fusion Center. He is also the Co-founder of Carbon Recycling International in Iceland; financed and built the first power-to-methanol plant in the world. He studied management and engineering at MIT, Dartmouth College, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



11:30 AM

**Hydrogen Innovation Panel (Video time stamp starts: 28.31)**

Changjie Guo  
Program Director  
[MIT ILP](#)

Dave Edwards  
Director and Advocate for Hydrogen Energy  
[Air Liquide](#)

Matthew Blieske  
Global Hydrogen Product Manager  
[Shell](#)

Trevor Best  
CEO  
[Szygy Plasmonics](#)

Taylor Huff  
Founder and CEO  
[Origen Hydrogen](#)

11:55 AM

**Meetings with Startups**