



# WAKeMeUP gives the floor to...



## MICHAL KAŠPÁREK

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at Institute of Microelectronic Applications  
(IMA) (Prague, Czech Republic)*



### WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND?

I studied engineering majoring in IT and mechatronics and then I did a Ph.D. in Applied Cybernetics. I also attended a jazz conservatory and became a jazz big band conductor. Before joining IMA in 2014 I worked as lecturer and researcher at the University for 7-8 years while performing live music events and "traveling gigs" as a professional trumpet player. I had a few other small side-work experiences connected to IT and microelectronics, but most of my professional experience is somehow connected with coordinating teams and connecting incoherent groups of people in pursue of a common goal.



### WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT POSITION IN YOUR COMPANY?

I am a project manager, responsible for the technical management of the EU-funded and national projects as well as internal product-related R&D projects that belong to our portfolio. About 70 people work at IMA which recently became part of world-wide Witte Automotive family. The topics of our projects are very diverse: from IoT and artificial intelligence to small microcontroller applications, hardware design and software development. Within the projects, the role of IMA sometimes is to perform a technology evaluation of our partner's products and components and to implement them into our solution.



### WHAT ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY IN YOUR COMPANY?

At IMA there is majority of female employees in marketing, business and administrative departments. The technical development is performed mostly but not exclusively by men. On the other hand I can see the difference in rapidly growing numbers of women working and studying in technical fields. When I was a university student the ratio at technical faculties was one female to 20 males. Since technology studies are now more promoted and open for women the number of women in IT and technical science is increasing. I'm lucky to have multiple personal experiences of cooperating with female colleagues on technical topics and my experience has always been excellent. I believe that is probably thanks to a different male vs. female approach to communication and information sharing.



### WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR YOUR FUTURE CAREER?

After WAKeMeUP I will be involved in multiple R&D projects including the storAIge project which for us is kind of a continuation of WAKeMeUP activities. At the same time we have planned a very different use case scenarios and development targets for storAIge which I am very excited about. We are also more focused on automotive-related topics which brings new challenges so no boring free time is expected anytime soon.



### WHAT HAS WAKEMEUP BROUGHT YOU?

In WAKeMeUP our team is building an embedded application on top of new microcontroller platforms developed by ST and other partners. Thanks to the project we are able to evaluate and test multicore microcontroller platforms with high performance and high level of functional integration, which was unheard of just a few years ago. WAKeMeUP is not our first H2020 or ECSEL project though. IMA has already been involved in many other EU-funded projects (like PANACHE that preceded WAKeMeUP).