



Why we are the right founders

Our winning team brings decades of previous experience to shine at HyWatts. We know how to integrate hydrogen solutions into energy systems, we understand our customers like no one else in the power sector, and we've built companies that were successfully acquired (most recently, HyPoint, which was acquired by Zeroavia for nine-digits).

Alex Ivanenko is an innovator, serial entrepreneur and thought leader in fuel cell technology, with a PhD in Electrochemistry. He is a former Founder & CEO of the Silicon Valley based manufacturer of H2 fuel cells for aviation, HyPoint, and has been recognized for accomplishments in driving sales and developing business strategies at 3M and Owens Corning.

Dietmar Trees is an experienced leader and engineer with thirty years of experience in research, project and program management, and supply chain management. With an MBA from UC Irvine and a PhD and MS from RWTH Aachen University, Dietmar has contributed to developing disruptive technologies while effectively managing risk and resources.

Sam Ruben is a driven and accomplished innovator, entrepreneur, and co-founder of Mighty Buildings/BuildTech VC. With a BA from Vassar College and an MBA/MPA from Presidio Graduate School, Sam has taken on the climate crisis as a core member of the G20 Sustainability Taskforce in the World Economic Forum. Using his expertise and cross-sector partnerships, he works towards innovative solutions for a more sustainable future for people, planet, and prosperity.

Beyond our qualifications and accomplishments, we are passionate about creating a positive impact on the world through our work. We believe that hydrogen technology has the potential to create a cleaner and more sustainable future for generations to come. We feel a personal duty to use our skills and knowledge to drive change and make a meaningful impact on the world.

We believe that our combination of expertise, experience, and passion make us the right founders to bring affordable hydrogen technologies to the market. We are committed to pushing the boundaries of what is possible with hydrogen technology and making a real difference in the world.

Name and Title	Qualifications	Publications & Awards
<p>Alex Ivanenko, PhD</p> <p>CEO and Founder at HyWatts</p>	<p>B.S. & M.S. Engineering with Honors, PhD Electrochemistry, Saratov State Technical University.</p> <p>Alex Ivanenko is an innovator, serial entrepreneur, and thought leader in fuel cell technology with a PhD in Electrochemistry. He is a former Founder & CEO of the Silicon Valley-based manufacturer of H2 fuel cells for aviation HyPoint (acquired by ZeroAvia in 2023 by a nine-digit figure), and has been recognized for accomplishments in driving sales and developing business strategies at 3M and Owens Corning.</p>	<p>Patents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> WO2021158944A1/ US20230039588A1: Electric power generation system based on pressurized fuel cell power system with air cooling and recirculation and method for electric power generation by the system US20210249667A1: Bipolar Plate of Fuel Cell With Composite Corrosion-Resistant Gastight Conductive Coating And Method Of Forming Thereof WO2022186833A1: Air-cooled proton-exchange membrane fuel cell capable of working with compressed gases, and fuel cells stack <p>Awards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fast Company: World Changing Ideas Awards 2022 5 Top Hydrogen Fuel Technology Startups (HyPoint) BloombergNEF Pioneers 2022 (Finalist) Winners of the 2020 NASA iTech Initiative Cycle II Alchemist Accelerator Top Companies (2021)
<p>Dietmar Trees, PhD, MBA</p> <p>CTO and Co-Founder at HyWatts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ph.D in Engineering with Honors, RWTH Aachen, Germany - MBA, UC Irvine <p>Dietmar Trees is an experienced leader and engineer with an impressive 30 years of experience in research, project and program management, and supply chain management. With an MBA from UC Irvine and a PhD and MS from RWTH Aachen University, Dietmar has developed disruptive technologies, managing risk and resources.</p>	<p>Publications:</p> <p>11 peer reviewed publications on flame inhibition and hydrogen combustion in scientific journals.</p> <p>Patents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> US6955053B1, Pyrospin combustor, US WO2019185370A1, Apparatus for and method of monitoring and controlling droplet generator WO2020069001A1, Apparatus for and method of controlling introduction of euv target material WO2020141057A1, Apparatus for controlling introduction of euv target material into an euv chamber WO2020205883A1, Controlling conversion efficiency in an extreme ultraviolet light source WO2020239625A1, Fluid control device and method for fluid control in an extreme ultraviolet WO2021074043A1, Droplet generator nozzle <p>Awards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dean's Scholar Award, GSM University Of California, Irvine Irvine Company Award for highest GPA in MBA Class of 2004 Springorum Medal (RWTH Aachen Technical University) for outstanding academic achievements German Academic Exchange Service Fellowship for Ph.D. studies in US

<p>Sam Ruben, MBA/MPA</p> <p>Chief Business Development Officer and Co-Founder at HyWatts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MBA/MPA in Sustainable Management, Presidio Graduate School - BA, Vassar College <p>Sam Ruben is a driven and accomplished innovator, entrepreneur, and co-founder of Mighty Buildings/BuildTech VC. With an MBA and an MPA from Presidio Graduate School, Sam has taken on the Climate Crisis as a core member of the World Economic Forum G20 Sustainability Taskforce. Using his expertise and experience building cross-sector partnerships, he works towards innovative solutions for a more sustainable future for people, planet, and prosperity.</p>	<p>Awards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Y Combinator Top Companies (2021, 2022, 2023) 2. Build Magazine Most Innovative Construction Companies (2021) 3. Edison Award for Sustainable Building Material Innovation (2022) 4. NYTimes Good Tech Award (2021) 5. CAMX Unsurpassed Innovation Award (2020) 6. Norrsken 2023 Impact/100 (2023)
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