



EMPLOYEE STORY | INTERVIEW

From  
Master's  
Graduate  
to Project  
Leader

HOW IT STARTED: Florian had already been awarded the ITK Student Award

Florian's first interaction with ITK was in 2013 when he received the ITK Student Award – an award for especially committed and high-performing students. Barely two years later had these paths crossed once again when Florian joined ITK as a master's graduate. Today, the 29-year-old is the project leader of the five-person strong ITK MiniMini team and additionally assists the security department. The ITK MiniMini is a model car that is integrated with new technology and methods for testing.

**Master's thesis:** Development of a preliminary model for the unification of safety and security. The safe remote controlling of the ITK MiniMini via tablet or smartphone served as proof of the concept.

**FOUR QUESTIONS**  
for Florian...



**For your master's thesis, you worked on the ITK MiniMini. What, in particular, is special about this for you?**

**Florian:** With the ITK MiniMini there is the possibility, on one hand, for us to demonstrate our ability to serve as problem solvers and technology partners while, on the other hand, the model car represents an innovation platform into which new development concepts are implemented and innovative functionality is integrated. This is realized by students in the form of apprenticeships and dissertations, among others. I, for example, focused on safety and security aspects – two themes that are always increasing in importance in the automobile industry. What is particularly attractive about the ITK MiniMini is that one can work on a "living object;" in other words, not just discuss a theoretical task, but rather put the theories learned in university into practice. The special challenge lies therein, that one must integrate his or her subtask, such as the development of hydraulic breaks, into the vehicle system as a whole. In this way, each student contributes his or her own small piece to the mosaic.

**What opportunities does the ITK MiniMini offer to future students?**

**Florian:** We are currently working on the development of an intelligent battery management system and on the specification and implementation of an EE-Architecture that will be adaptable to future demands. A further theme is the AUTOSAR standard. This is to be applied in the near future to the ITK MiniMini. In addition, we are working on the MiL, SiL and HiL simulation. With this, all company branches can develop the vehicle, even when it is not physically present. The vision is that future technologies can already be applied with the help of this model and consequently also become visible.

From future students, we anticipate commitment, team spirit and enthusiasm for new technologies – paired with a healthy dose of "inner child!" Each student benefits from the preliminary work of the previous students while also laying the groundwork for their successors. At the same time, of course, one can never lose sight of the complete system, rather one must think more broadly past components, work hand in hand with other students and pull together.

**What has changed since your master's thesis?**

**Florian:** During my thesis, I concentrated mostly on the subject areas of safety and security. This along with the supervision of the ITK MiniMini are also elements of my current work and made my entry into "real" career life much easier. These alone, however, did not suffice – in the meantime, I also assist the Information Security Department internally at ITK and I am involved in projects regarding Security Engineering. This deals mainly with ensuring a secure communication between different components, for example in the vehicle, in order to protect them against hacking attacks.

**What distinguishes the work at ITK?**

**Florian:** It's definitely the fun one can have doing the work and the openness of the business culture. No matter what questions or problems I have, my project leader, my team leader and my colleagues are always by my side to give me advice and assist me. Only in this way – with the help of my colleagues – could it have been possible for me to further develop myself in just a couple of months from master's graduate to project leader.

**Are you curious?**

Develop the next application of our ITK MiniMini! Just apply by sending an e-mail [student@itk-engineering.de](mailto:student@itk-engineering.de)



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