Alvaro Balbin

Founder of SocialGravity. Engineer across AI identity authorization, real-time systems, open source and hardware.

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Founder experience

Founder, SocialGravity 2025 - Present

- Building the permission layer for AI-generated voice and video, connecting reviewed consent and scope-bound licensing to supported production controls, output evidence and revocation.
- Works across product, authorization infrastructure, real-time voice and video systems, open source and company building.

Co-founder and Lead Developer, MCA Counselling 2025 - Present

- Built and shipped a platform connecting international students with people who had already studied abroad.
- Ran UK operations to 8k in monthly recurring revenue without paid growth, spanning product, distribution and customer operations.

Engineering leadership

Project Manager, Team Bath Drones Sep 2025 - Present

- Coordinated a 19-engineer autonomous UAV programme across flight software, aerodynamics, structures and hardware integration.
- Helped carry a championship standard into the 2026 IMechE UAS cycle, where Team Bath Drones won Grand Champion for the second consecutive year.

Balance Systems Lead, Team Bath Autonomous Sailing Sep 2025 - Present

- Led balance systems work within a 50-engineer programme, covering sensor integration, stability, lake trials and autonomy concepts.
- Worked in a programme connected to DRIFT Energy and BAR Technologies, where software and hardware had to survive real operating conditions.

Public engineering

Upstream open source: fixes across Elastic Kibana, Apache DataFusion, LiveKit Agents, Super Productivity, Supabase JavaScript and the Cartesia Python and JavaScript SDKs.

Selected systems: Catena, an open cited corpus with a citation graph; DeckPeek, self-hosted pitch-deck analytics; agent-os, a phone-driven coding agent with approval gates; Clockwork, a small transformer whose learned circuit is read back from its weights; real-time computer vision, environmental audio classification, embedded systems and retrieval infrastructure.

Founder judgement

Declined a research offer from Google DeepMind to keep building his company. Later walked away from an initial £100k investment offer for 6.5% rather than accept terms he believed would damage the cap table over time.

Education and capabilities

BEng Computer Systems Engineering, University of Bath 2024 - 2028

- First-class academic performance. Coursework and projects across electronic engineering, embedded systems, machine learning, control and real-time software.

Languages: Python, C/C++, Go, Java, Bash, MATLAB and SystemVerilog. Systems: Linux, Docker, FastAPI, networking, concurrency and real-time pipelines. AI and hardware: PyTorch, OpenCV, FAISS, Arduino, ESP32, KiCad and sensor integration.

Languages spoken: native Spanish and English, fluent German, conversational Turkish.