

L Kannan

Kannan Lakshminarayan is currently a Professor of Practice in the department of Engineering Design at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras where he leads a team designing and developing High Efficiency Traction Motors for electrical vehicles. His overarching research objectives revolve around electro-mechanical engineering for making products that impact livelihoods and sustainability. He is the founder and director of Fractal Foundation – a one of a kind “ideas accelerator” focused on bringing new technologies to the market, including Microspin and Skillveri. In addition, Kannan’s passion for innovation-driven engineering led him to co-found and direct tech companies like Vortex and Motorz. Kannan received the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras 2014, in recognition of his innovations and transformative work in sustainable solutions for rural India.

As a Trustee, and then as the Secretary, of the PPST Foundation, Kannan was deeply involved in the organisation of the Congresses on Traditional Sciences & Technologies of India at IIT Bombay (1993) and Anna University Chennai (1995). As the Coordinator of the AU-PPST Centre in Anna University, he initiated, jointly with the Textile Technology Dept of the University, and took forward the work on Decentralised Cotton Spinning which later got incubated as a start up at IIT Madras.

Kannan holds a B.Tech. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the IIT Madras.