

Li Yi Fan

CEO, He-Sai Photonics Technologies



Formerly Principal Engineer at Western Digital, Dr. Li holds a Ph.D in Robotics and Pattern Recognition from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, focusing on improving the intelligence and efficiency of human-assist robots. Before joining Western Digital, he has worked in several Fortune 500 companies including Lam Research and Parker Hannifin. Dr. Li obtained his BS degree from Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. He served as the Vice President of the student union. The student union is the largest and the most prestigious student organization in Tsinghua, and during this time he even worked with Jackie Chan for a special event. At Tsinghua, Dr. Li also cohosted "Silk Roads", an exchange program between students from top universities in China and France.

Dr. Li has a wide range of interests and is a strong believer in "play hard, work hard". He enjoys photography, and his photos have been published nationally in China. Dr. Li also travels quite often and runs a travel photo blog on Renren, where his photos have obtained more than 5 million visits. A big fan of basketball and triathlon, he completed the Beijing Marathon twice, and remains the record keeper for high jump at Tsinghua. In his spare time, Dr. Li enjoys electronics as one of his hobbies. His biggest project to date is a large mechanical diamond that he used to propose to his wife.