



Emmastella Gakuo

Cofounder of Savanna Circuit Tech

Tech Role Models

This series lets technology innovators share their journey as a way to inspire others. Hear Emmastella's story:

What sparked idea

Always inquisitive, I strive to challenge the status quo and when I arrived at university, I joined a science club that was full of engineers and developers. Undeterred, I found myself getting acquainted with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Then a science project partnership with Percy Lemtukei, led to our founding of Savanna Circuit Technologies in 2017.

Company journey

1. Prototyped 9 ideas centered on renewable energy, AI and geomapping.
2. Self-funded first prototype then received co-investment through local government.
3. Launched first hardware MVP to a focus group, which led to 2 trials in 3 different regions in Kenya.
4. After 6 designs, went commercial in 2019 to support the agriculture sector that lacked cold chain systems distribution.
5. Invented a MaziwaPlus Prechiller and M+ Dairy Management System (a solar powered milk chiller that could be placed on motorbikes to trucks to cut postharvest losses).

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Honored by Cisco

Savanna Circuit was named the 2020 Grand prize Winner of Cisco's Global Problem Solver Challenge. Prize funding provided company with state-of-the-art manufacturing facility.



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What you're most proud of

1. Our use of human-centered design to accommodate more women producers.
2. Our ability to advance environmentally sustainable growth.