



FLORENTIN BULOT

Industry: Air Quality Measurement & Data Science

CURRENT ROLE

- Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Air Quality Measurement Company (Starting Soon)

EDUCATION & CAREER PATH

- **Master of Engineering** – Centrale Paris, France (6 years)
- **Research Engineer (Chemical Processes)** – Trappes, France (1 year)
- **Consultant (Waste & Coastal Management)** – Morocco (3 years)
- **PhD in Air Quality & IoT** – University of Southampton, UK (4 years)
- **Research Fellow** – University of Southampton, UK (1 year)
- **Research Engineer (Environmental Data)** – Marseille, France (2 years)
- **Transition to CTO Role in Air Quality Measurement**

HOW HIS PATH DIFFERED FROM EXPECTATIONS

- "I initially aimed to stay in academia and applied for grants, but I wasn't successful on my first attempts."
- "I needed to settle down to start a family, so moving frequently wasn't an option."
- "This was a major barrier, but I may explore ways to return to academia in the future through a different route."

CAREER INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

- "I like the variety I have had during my career. It allowed me to develop a wide range of skills."
- "I enjoy having experience in both academia and industry, which gives me a broader perspective."

FUTURE PLANS

- "I have no idea what the future holds—I am about to start my new position as CTO."
- "I previously thought I would stay in my last role much longer, but opportunities and working conditions shift quickly, making it hard to predict what's next."

ADVICE FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS (ECRS)

- ✓ Develop transferable skills – This opens doors beyond academia.
- ✓ Don't limit yourself to academia – Research can be done in many settings.
- ✓ Prioritise yourself – Your well-being, hobbies, and support network matter most.
- ✓ Avoid burnout – It takes a long time to recover, so protect your balance early on.