SAUL GRIFFITH

Class of 1991

Since leaving Sydney Technical High School in 1991, Saul Griffith has received a degree in Metallurgical Engineering from UNSW, a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Sydney University, and a PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2004. For his work in technologies or the provision of eyeglasses at low cost through novel technologies, Saul won the US Patent Office's Collegiate Inventors award and the Lemelson-MIT $30,000 Student Prize for inventiveness. Saul is pictured beside an early prototype of his lens making machine.

Since graduating in 2004, he has founded and co-founded numerous technology companies based in the Bay Area. These include Treau (now Gradient), Sunfolding, Roam Robotics, Fablight, Wattzon, Canvas Construction, Makani Power (acquired by Google), Instructables.com (acquired by Autodesk), Squid Labs, Howtoons, Optiopia, Potenco, and Stow Energy. He was awarded the MacArthur "Genius Grant" in 2007.

Founder and chief scientist at Otherlab, an independent R&D lab, he helps government agencies and Fortune 500 companies understand energy infrastructure and deep decarbonization. He's been a principal investigator and project lead on federally-funded research projects for agencies including NASA, Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy (ARPA-e), National Science Foundation and United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM).

Saul is also founder and chief scientist at Rewiring America, a nonprofit dedicated to widespread electrification as a means of fighting climate change, creating jobs, making our air cleaning, and saving the future for our children.