



Dries Berckmans

Dr. ir Dries Berckmans grew up in Leuven, Belgium and earned his degree in Electro-mechanical engineering from the Catholic University of Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium, which laid the foundation for his further career. After completing his studies, Dries pursued a PhD at the KU Leuven, which he completed in 2010. His research was focused on traffic noise synthesis, specifically on models for synthesizing pass-by sounds of aircraft and vehicles. This research laid the groundwork for his future work in sound-based monitoring of livestock. In 2011, Dries founded SoundTalks NV, a spin-off company of KU Leuven. As the current CEO of SoundTalks, Dries plays a crucial role in the company's growth and success. His open-mind and commitment to international experiences have resulted in a team of highly talented and motivated employees, hailing from various parts of the world. This diversity of talent has been instrumental in driving innovation and growth within SoundTalks. Under Dries' leadership, SoundTalks experienced rapid growth and has won multiple innovation prizes over the last few years. The company's flagship product, a respiratory distress monitor for fattening pigs, was commercially launched in 2014 and has since been sold in 18 countries across 4 continents.