Opportunities for not-for-profit startups and open research

Robert Mullins
Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge
Raspberry Pi
Raspberry Pi

- Ownership
- Community-led
- Accessible to all
- Hands on and fun
IowRISC

- Open source System-on-a-Chip (SoC)
- Aim to be the “Linux of the Hardware world”
- Security and Flexibility
RISC-V Foundation members
Do you mean “open source”?

- Open vs. Free
- Open Development or Research
- Community
- Generating income
Why start a not-for-profit project?

- Growth and scale
- Decentralise and build a community
- Feedback, advice, expertise
- Funding
- Attract industry support
Be disruptive

- Challenge bad, complex and expensive solutions
- Make knowledge more freely available
- Lower costs and barriers to entry
- **Stimulate innovation**
How to start?

- Early stages
- Funding
  - Individuals
  - Funding organisations
  - Industry
- Administration
  - Can be relatively low overhead
  - Easy to get things done
  - Can access good advice and support
Working with industry

- Create common/neutral ground
- Encourage a better understanding of the problems
- Shared infrastructure makes it easy to evaluate and transfer ideas
Nurturing open projects?

- Universities can act as a catalyst and hub
- Funding
- Sharing knowledge
- Assessing universities

- Incentivise companies and VCs to support open projects and make shared technology investments
The last slide

- Not-for-profit projects create a space for industry, academia and individuals to collaborate
- Creating shared infrastructure and sharing knowledge lowers the costs and barriers associated with adopting new ideas. This supports **innovation** and helps to challenge the status quo