

Where are They Now: 2017 ASU Innovation Open Winner, Somatic Labs

Terms:

All startup success stories are great, but the journey begun by Somatic Labs CEO Shantanu Bala, at the age of just 15, has been particularly inspiring. As a teen, Bala began researching assistive technologies for individuals who are visually or hearing impaired. Last April, the haptic communications platform developed by Somatic Labs was announced as the \$100,000 winner of the [ASU Innovation Open](#) (1), a startup challenge sponsored by the ASU and Avnet. As a participant in [Avnet's Innovation Lab](#) (2) on the ASU campus, Somatic received an additional \$10,000 from Avnet to help scale and develop their technology.

Since then, Phoenix-based Somatic Labs has been quite busy, they have been selected as one of the top three innovators at the 2018 [@NASA](#) (3) iTech Forum, they won the [@AlphaLabGear](#) (4) Hardware Cup Southern Regional challenge, and they joined the TechStars accelerator program.

The Somatic team also released the [Zorb Platform](#) (5), which provides development and creation tools for evaluation and integration of haptic feedback into existing products and systems. The Zorb platform includes a software development kit, firmware engine and design studio.

To learn more about the Somatic Labs journey, visit <https://somaticlabs.io>.

If you are a maker or startup looking for support at any and all stages of your product lifecycle, check out Avnet's ecosystem of end-to-end technology, business and supply chain solutions

- [element14](#) (6): members can connect with engineers, manufacturers, innovators and top experts from around the world to discuss technical challenges and products. Offers online education, exclusive events (7) featuring the latest products and technology, design challenges, new product "RoadTests," product reviews and other exclusive members-only resources.
- [Hackster.io](#) (8): a community-driven site dedicated to hardware learning, that includes member projects, contests, information on all major hardware platforms, apps to improve hardware development workflow
- [Dragon Innovation](#) (9): manufacturing platform and services designed to help startups move from design to prototype to volume production.
- [Hardware Studio](#) (10): a community site where creators can participate in tutorials and live webinars with industry experts before launching their projects on Kickstarter. Additionally, Hardware Studio Connection (11) gives creators and designers access to hands-on technical support and discounts on components and services.
- [CloudConnectKits.org](#) (12): a site targeting designers of cloud enabled, connected devices. The site includes a community forum, documentation, technical specifications, reference designs and startup files for starter kits for cloud connected IoT and IIoT designs.
- [Zedboard.org](#) (13): dedicated to designs with the Xilinx Zynq®-7000 All Programmable SoCs. The site offers documentation, reference designs, training material and community forums supporting several Zynq-based kits, including ZedBoard, MicroZed, MicroZed SBC, Zynq®-7000 All Programmable SoC Mini-Module Plus and the Zynq®-7000 All Programmable SoC Mini-ITX.
- [MakerSource.io](#) (14): social gateway to product innovation that provides support and collaboration at every stage of a product lifecycle, from ideation to volume production. Resources include connections to app developers, contract manufacturers, engineering support, attorneys, marketing, venture capital and more.

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