

LIVIA

AUTONOMOUS CROP INTELLIGENCE FOR VINEYARDS & HIGH-VALUE CROPS

We are hiring an engineer in Houston, Texas

Hardware & Drone Engineer

Houston, TX

Part-time or full-time

Student-friendly

Start: November 2026

Salary + equity

Who we are

About LIVIA

LIVIA is building the first autonomous crop intelligence platform for vineyards and other high-value crops. We combine autonomous drones, solar-powered docking stations, satellite data and a multi-agent AI decision layer to give growers something they have never had: a continuously updated, field-level picture of what is actually happening in their crops.

We are currently running pilots with two vineyards in Cyprus, backed by Letters of Intent from many more growers and partners, and hold a Letter of Support from the Cyprus Ministry of Agriculture. We took 1st Place for European Innovation of the Year at GEN-E Europe 2026 and won the FedEx Access Award, and we are part of the Bank of Cyprus IDEA Accelerator 2026 cycle. Paid pilots begin in March 2027, with full commercial rollout in January 2028.

The founding team comes from MIT, Rice University, Imperial College London and the University of Amsterdam. We are small, fast, and about to scale from pilots into a real commercial product across Cyprus, the US and Southern Europe.

You would be building the machines the whole platform stands on.

AT A GLANCE

LOCATION

Houston, TX

Hands-on, student-friendly

START DATE

November 2026

Part-time or full-time

COMPENSATION

Salary + equity

Scaled to education and experience

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

18 October 2026

23:59 ET
Rolling review

The Role

This is a hands-on engineering role for someone who likes building real machines — the kind that have to work outdoors, in heat and dust, with nobody standing next to them.

You will work directly with the founding team on the physical side of LIVIA: the drones that fly over the fields and, above all, the solar-powered docking stations that launch, land, charge and protect them. Much of this is genuine R&D. There is no off-the-shelf answer for a docking station that has to survive a summer in the field on its own.

Some weeks you will be deep in CAD. Some weeks you will be building and testing a power system. Some weeks you will be out running field tests and working out why something failed.

The role is built to fit around your studies. Part-time works, full-time works, and we will shape the hours with you. If you would rather build something real than wait for a perfect internship, read on.

Day to day

What You'll Do

Docking Station R&D

CORE OF THE ROLE

Design, prototype and test our autonomous docking station: the enclosure, the precision landing surface, automatic charging, solar power and battery storage, cooling and weatherproofing. Take ideas from sketch to working prototype, and keep iterating on whatever breaks.

Drone Build & Integration

Assemble, configure and maintain our drones. Integrate the sensor payload — multispectral, thermal and standard cameras on a stabilised mount — and make sure power, data and mounting all work reliably together.

Power & Electronics

Design and test battery, charging and solar systems, along with the wiring, power distribution and embedded electronics that connect the drone, the dock and our software.

Prototyping & Fabrication

CAD, 3D printing, light machining and sourcing parts. Build fast, test honestly, and turn what works into designs we can build again and again.

Testing & Reliability

Plan and run bench and field tests, log the results, find the failure points and fix them. Help us move from a system that works once to a system that works every day.

Hardware–Software Integration

Work alongside our software and AI team so the hardware, flight operations and data pipeline fit together — from the moment the drone leaves the dock to the moment its images reach our platform.

Documentation

Keep clear build notes, parts lists and test reports, so that every system we build can be built again by someone else.

What We're Looking For

ESSENTIAL

- Currently studying, or recently graduated, in **mechanical, electrical, aerospace, mechatronics or robotics engineering**, or a related field. Students at any level are genuinely welcome.
- **You have built physical things.** A robotics or drone team, a rocketry club, a Formula Student car, a research lab, a personal project in your garage — we want to see what you made.
- Comfortable with **CAD** and rapid prototyping, such as 3D printing.
- Practical electronics: reading schematics, soldering, and working safely with batteries and power systems.
- Based in Houston, or able to be there regularly for hands-on work.
- Clear written and spoken **English**.
- Evidence that you can take something from idea to working prototype without being managed step by step.

NICE TO HAVE

- Experience with drones, RC aircraft, flight controllers or autopilot software.
- Solar power, battery management or charging systems.
- Embedded programming (microcontrollers) or Python.
- Outdoor enclosure design: sealing, cooling and weatherproofing.
- An interest in agriculture or climate technology.

WHAT MATTERS MORE THAN ANY OF THE ABOVE

You build things that work, you are honest when they don't, and you would rather take something apart to understand it than wait for someone to explain it.

The offer

What We Offer

- **Salary scaled to your education level, experience and time commitment**, agreed with you as part of the offer.
- **Meaningful equity in LIVIA.** You are one of our first hires and we want you to own a piece of what you build.
- **Flexible hours.** Part-time or full-time, shaped around your studies.
- Real engineering ownership from week one — the docking station is yours to push forward.
- Direct, daily work with the founding team, with no layers in between.
- Hands-on work with drones, sensors, solar systems and field deployments.
- A role that can grow into **leading our hardware work** as we scale.

Next step

How to Apply

Apply through our website:

www.altirastronomy.com/livia#apply

It takes about five minutes. This is an expression of interest, not a long application: tell us who you are and what you have built, and if it looks like a fit we will set up a call.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

23:59 ET, Sunday 18 October 2026

We review applications on a rolling basis and may close earlier if we find the right person. Applying early is to your advantage.

The process

- 1 A short expression-of-interest form.
- 2 A 30-minute introductory call.
- 3 A technical conversation where you walk us through something you have built.
- 4 A final conversation with the founders.

Questions before you apply? Email livia@altirastronomy.com