

### **A Brief Bio of Dr. Bastian Blankenburg**

Dr. Bastian Blankenburg serves as a Founder & CTO of UTU Technologies as well as MARAMOJA transport, where he heads all technological work in artificial intelligence, blockchain and software engineering. He has more than 20 years of professional and academic experience in distributed AI, multi-agent systems, trust algorithms, and transportation sector technology.

In Industry, he has previously served as both a Senior Software and Project Engineer for IVU Traffic Technologies, including work on software architecture, development, product management, consulting, and training for public transport operators in Europe and the Middle East. He previously spent several years at the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), Saarbrücken, Germany, exploring negotiation in multi-agent systems, semantic web services and the application of description logics therein. For his research he was awarded “Doctor of Engineering” (Ph.D.) from Saarland University, Saarbrücken. His thesis: “Coalition Formation among Rational Agents in Uncertain and Untrustworthy Environments” contributed novel game theory-based negotiation protocols for multi-agent systems, tackling challenges such as working with incomplete information, risk bounding, trust and privacy preservation.

He developed his interest in Astronomy after attending a show by Traveling Telescope and Nairobi Planetarium in 2019 thereafter he invested in a telescope that he uses for star gazing and Astrophotography. He has captured a number of Astronomy images including the Orion Nebula which has been used as the background for this month’s UoN Astro-Night poster by using a camera attached to his telescope.

### **A Few Images Captured by Dr. Bastian**

