

Yasser Hennawi

Head of Product Engineering · AI-Driven Aerospace, Defence & Space

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SUMMARY

Engineering leader with 10+ years building and scaling products across cybersecurity, fintech, and aerospace. Currently leading the AI transformation of the aerospace industry at Data Machine Intelligence, delivering AI-powered autonomy products for mission-critical defence and space applications, while embedding AI across the engineering organisation to turn a small team into "10X engineers". Deep full-stack and platform background (Node.js, Go, React, Kubernetes) combined with hands-on experience in reliability, developer productivity, and technical strategy.

EXPERIENCE

Data Machine Intelligence

Munich, Germany

AI-driven autonomy products for the aerospace, defence, and space industries.

Head of Product Engineering

Feb 2026 – Present

- ▶ Lead the company's AI transformation of the aerospace industry, owning product engineering vision and strategy across aerospace, defence, and space.
- ▶ Own end-to-end delivery of AI-powered autonomy products for mission-critical applications, from concept to production.
- ▶ Embed AI across engineering (tooling, processes, workflows) to multiply how much a small team can ship.
- ▶ Build, mentor, and scale the team; lead hiring and shape a high-performance engineering culture.
- ▶ Establish engineering standards and delivery practices for safety- and security-critical systems.

Principal Software Engineer

Oct 2025 – Feb 2026

- ▶ Architected and built the core platform powering DMI's AI and autonomy capabilities.
- ▶ Set technical direction and standards later scaled as Head of Product Engineering.
- ▶ Introduced AI-assisted engineering workflows to accelerate delivery.

NordVPN

Berlin, Germany

Global cybersecurity company providing privacy-first VPN services.

Staff Engineer, Engineering Productivity & Web Reliability

Apr 2023 – Oct 2025

- ▶ Drove the company-wide GenAI initiative to improve developer experience and productivity.
- ▶ Led an internal service catalog on Backstage for discoverability and standardisation.
- ▶ Owned web reliability OKRs and observability for nordvpn.com (Grafana, Prometheus, Fluent Bit).
- ▶ Maintained CI/CD using Kubernetes, GitLab pipelines, ArgoCD, and Terraform.

Senior Fullstack Engineer

Sep 2022 – Mar 2023

- ▶ Designed solutions via RFCs; built frontend apps (Turborepo, Astro/SolidJS, React/Next.js) and Node.js/Go backend services (pricing, checkout).

Appinio

Hamburg, Germany

Market research platform for surveying specific target groups in hours.

Frontend Teamlead

Jan 2022 – Aug 2022

- ▶ Worked directly with the CTO to mentor a frontend team of four; owned deployments and the private npm registry.

Senior Frontend Engineer

Jun 2020 – Dec 2021

- ▶ Built core B2B product features with documented end-to-end tests (Cypress).

Egyptian Armed Forces (2nd Field Army, IT Branch)

Egypt

Compulsory military service. Development & Automation department.

Head of Development & Automation

Jun 2019 – Jun 2020

- ▶ Maintained a secured internal network and built custom cross-platform applications across army units.

figo GmbH (now finleap connect)

Hamburg, Germany

Fintech / open-banking API in Germany.

Frontend Developer (Contract)

Jun 2018 – May 2019

- ▶ Built a bilingual RegShield application (React / redux-saga); unit + cross-browser tests (Jest, cucumber.js).

Goodsense / DayBreakHotels

Remote

Distributed product team building web apps for clients worldwide.

Frontend Developer

Jan 2016 – May 2018

- ▶ Built the DayBreakHotels responsive web app (React/Redux, styled-components, Storybook); redesigned Goodsense to Material Design; scaffolded CyTIX from scratch.

EDUCATION

Port Said University

Faculty of Science, Computer Science & Mathematics

EXTRAS

- ▶ Founded & ran **Science in 5**, a non-profit free educational platform.
- ▶ Head of IT, Students' Union (two years).

SKILLS

Engineering leadership · Technical strategy · Team building & hiring · AI / GenAI adoption · React · Next.js · Astro · SolidJS · Node.js · Go · TypeScript · Kubernetes · Terraform · CI/CD (GitLab, GitHub Actions, ArgoCD) · Observability (Grafana, Prometheus) · SRE / reliability