

Biography: Sid Mookerji – Entrepreneur, Venture Capitalist, Philanthropist

Sid Mookerji is Founder and Managing Partner of Silicon Road, a fund and accelerator for startups operating in the United States and India. He is also an Entrepreneur-In-Residence at Emory and at Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Development Center. Prior, Sid was co-founder and CEO of Software Paradigms International (SPI), a company that provided technology solutions to retail businesses on five continents. In September 2016, Sid stepped down from his position of SPI's CEO after 22 years at the helm. SPI was eventually acquired by IT giant Cognizant.

Recipient of an Honors degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Sid began his career managing multi-sourced portfolios in India's offshore industry. While observing IT processes and the onshore/offshore dynamic, he identified an opportunity to improve the Global Delivery Model with tightened process management and tools that enable transparency.

In 1994, Sid founded SPI in Atlanta and began providing forward-thinking, streamlined services to U.S. retailers. In 1997, he established a 200,000 square foot offshore operation in Mysore, India and recruited talent with unique and varied skill sets to execute against an evolving spectrum of IT needs. When Sid left the company, SPI had over 3000 employees across the globe in eight countries providing cutting edge tech services and products to 350+ retailers and CPG companies such as Macy's, Saks, Walmart, P&G and GroupOn.

As SPI grew, Sid orchestrated the receipt of international certifications that brought his company to the forefront of IT. SPI earned CMMI Level 5 v 1.2, ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 27001:2005 recognitions, and SPI's teams were heralded for adherence to Six Sigma process frameworks.

Under Sid's direction, SPI aligned with acclaimed industry leaders, such as IBM, Microsoft, Retail Wise, Retail Assist and Matrix Project Solutions, to offer the industry's most comprehensive solution sets. He led the company to acquire and integrate eleven companies across the globe.

Sid and SPI received several awards celebrating success and growth in the US and India. Under his direction, SPI won the *Pacesetter Award* (fastest growing companies in Atlanta) five times including 2015 and 2016 and was a Georgia Fast40 firm an equal number of times. The Indian government awarded SPI the *Excellence in IT Exports* award every year from 2008 to 2016. Other awards include the *Atlanta Business Magazine's* list of *Top Ten Fastest-Growing Companies* (2008) and USPACC awards.

In addition to leading a globally renowned IT organization, Sid Mookerji completed the Modular Executive MBA program at Emory's Goizueta Business School in 2004. While earning his degree, he received the *AI Bows Outstanding MEMBA Award*, the *Decision and Information Analysis Award* and was distinguished for scholastic accomplishments with the *Most Outstanding Academic Achievement Award*.

Apart from business pursuits, Sid supports philanthropies in the United States and India through the *Mookerji Foundation*. In the U.S., he led SPI's relief effort for victims affected by hurricanes and earthquakes and supports Atlanta organizations such as TechBridge and TIE. The *Mookerji Foundation* made a substantial gift to the Georgia Tech Foundation in 2016 to establish a retail tech innovation program. In India, the *Mookerji Foundation*, provides food and supplies to multiple schools, orphanages and healthcare organizations, supports tutoring of orphaned children in Mysore's Chamundi Children's Home and sponsors the organization of the world famous Mysuru Dasara procession every year.