

April 9, 2019

MARCo Technologies LLC. founding partners Jacob Boyle and Ryan Chiu had a lot in common before going into business together. They were both captains in their college fencing club, avid musicians, yet the one commonality that brought them closest was the one that was hardest to talk about: both had parents who suffered from severe depression. So, in Fall of 2017, when they entered into an annual business plan competition hosted by The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), the effect mental illness had on their personal lives stuck with them, and thus they decided to create a product that would help the ones they loved. It was then that, MARCo: the Mentally Assistive Robotic Companion, was born.

Since its formation in February of 2018, MARCo Technologies LLC.'s mission has been simple: **to improve the quality and accessibility of mental healthcare for all by introducing a line of compassionate robotic companions.** MARCo, its patent-pending flagship product, is the first of a generation. Currently, the company has developed two editions of MARCo: "MARCo-Vanilla", which is a general emotional and mental wellness tool design for stress relief, self-esteem management, and assisting anyone (whether with a mental illness or not) with his/her mental and emotional wellbeing; "MARCo-Rx" is the prescription edition of MARCo that can treat depression, general anxiety disorder, and bipolar disorder in a clinical setting. Due to its direct usage as a medical device, MARCo-Rx will need to be cleared by the FDA before it can be sold in the US. MARCo-Vanilla, however, will be available to early adopters by September, 2019, will be for sale to anyone by January, 2020 at the latest.

Despite being unavailable for purchase just yet, MARCo already has befriended and helped a vast number of people. Of the six units currently built, two "Rx" models are being clinically trialed in the counseling department at TCNJ, while the "Vanilla" models have been used by dozens of beta-testers for anywhere from hours to weeks at a time. The company's efforts have allowed the team to work and partner with organizations such as NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Rutgers Behavioral Health Center, and the New Jersey Education Association. Even NJ Governor Phil Murphy has recognized MARCo, who called the idea a "home run".

Based out of New Jersey, the team has grown to four full time members: co-founders Jacob and Ryan, a VP of legal, Kenneth Glynn Esq., and a VP of marketing, Jeff Ramella. They additionally feature a team of part-time developers from psychological and computer science backgrounds hired from TCNJ. Not forgetting the most important member of the team, MARCo is manufactured and assembled in the US with globally sourced components.

28 Narrows Way, Monroe NJ, 08831
(201)-650-5096
teammarcorobot@gmail.com

