# Imre Gelens

## Freelance AI Engineer & Fractional CTO

Engineer and technical leader who builds production LLM systems: RAG pipelines, MCP integrations and the infrastructure around them. Previously CTO at Uncover (ISO27001-compliant legal-tech SaaS on LLMs, acquired by Opus2 in 2025) and VP of Engineering at AMMP. Recently built three products of my own for the European market. Available for freelance AI engineering and fractional CTO engagements.

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### Freelance AI Engineer

Hands-on delivery of LLM features, from architecture to deployment: RAG and vector search, MCP integrations and secure infrastructure on European cloud, AWS or Azure. I build with agentic coding tools.

### Fractional CTO

Part-time technical leadership for startups: AI product strategy and architecture decisions, hiring and managing small engineering teams, and compliance experience from taking an LLM product through ISO27001.

## Skills

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|---|---|
| **AI engineering** | LLMs (OpenAI, Anthropic, Mistral), RAG and vector search (OpenSearch, pgvector), MCP, Agentic coding (Claude Code, Codex, Cursor, OpenCode, Pi), LLM evaluation (BLEU, ROUGE), MLOps and LLMOps (deployment, CI/CD, infrastructure), Local LLMs (Ollama, llama.cpp), AI translation (Speranto, open source), LangChain, Pydantic AI |
| **Engineering leadership** | Hiring and managing small teams, Technical strategy and architecture, ISO27001 compliance, Advising startups |
| **Backend and data** | Python, Node.js (also Bun, Deno), TypeScript, PostgreSQL, SQL, Data engineering and ETL, GraphQL, REST APIs, MongoDB, DynamoDB, Payments (Stripe, Mollie, Online Payments Platform), Authentication (OAuth 2.0, passkeys, SAML) |
| **Cloud and DevOps** | European hosting (Scaleway, Bunny CDN), AWS (ECS, Lambda, EC2), Azure (AI Services), Docker, Serverless, Infrastructure as code (Terraform, OpenTofu, CloudFormation, CDK, some Bicep), CI/CD and automated testing (GitHub Actions, CodePipeline, GitLab CI; Vitest, Playwright, Cypress) |
| **Frontend** | Vue.js, Nuxt.js, React.js, Next.js, TanStack, Astro, Tailwind, Vite |

## Experience

### Freelance AI Engineer & Fractional CTO

Freelance, Amsterdam
Jan 2024 - Present

Building production AI systems by integrating LLMs, retrieval pipelines and MCP tooling. Advising startups on AI product strategy and engineering architecture.

- Integrated LLM capabilities into an enterprise procurement platform, from architecture through deployment.
- Designed and built RAG pipelines for engineering documentation search and chatbot knowledge retrieval.
- Acted as fractional CTO for a children's learning app.
- Advised startups on AI product strategy and engineering architecture.

LLMs (GPT, Claude, Mistral) RAG (OpenSearch, pg_vector) Python TypeScript AWS Docker

**Founder**
1launch, Kiavi Auth, Giftlijst, Amsterdam
Mar 2025 - Present

Built and launched three products focused on European tech sovereignty and everyday needs, alongside client work.

- 1launch (1launch.eu): a launchpad for European startups with AI translation into all 24 EU languages.
- Kiavi Auth (kiavi.eu): a simple, secure authentication service hosted and operated in Europe.
- Giftlijst (giftlijst.nl): gift lists with built-in payments, which has processed tens of thousands of euros in gifts.

Astro · React · TypeScript · Hono · libSQL · Tailwind · Terraform · Bunny · OAuth 2.0 · Passkeys · SAML

**CTO**
Uncover, Amsterdam
Aug 2022 - Dec 2023

Uncover is a legal tech solution which leverages LLMs to improve the work experience of lawyers and reduce the cost of legal advice. This role was 80% hands-on and 20% strategy/management. The company was acquired by Opus2 in October 2025.

- Delivered a fully secure, ISO27001 compliant enterprise B2B SaaS solution based on LLMs which ran at multiple large law firms.
- Ran our own LLM infrastructure on Azure cloud.
- Hired and managed a team of 2 engineers.

**VP of Engineering**
AMMP Technologies, Amsterdam
Aug 2019 - Aug 2022

AMMP is a software platform for monitoring distributed solar energy assets, mainly in Africa. It monitored 1,000+ assets with minute-level data. This role was 80% hands-on and 20% management.

- Moved the team from manual deployment without tests to TDD/CI/CD, which brought major incidents down to practically zero.
- Implemented a large amount of serverless and containerized microservices.
- Hired and managed a team of 2-4 engineers.

## Earlier career

**Technical Founder, SilkSage** (Dec 2017 - Jan 2019) Built and launched an e-commerce platform for sustainable apparel, integrated 15 brands, and managed a team of 3.

**(Senior) Consultant Data & Analytics, KPMG** (Jul 2015 - Jan 2018) Developed the SOFY analytics platform (50+ deployments, several at Fortune 500 companies) and worked on multi-million IT implementation projects.

**Freelance IT, Data & Analytics Specialist, Imre Gelens IT** (Feb 2019 - Jan 2020) DWH and BI projects at several clients on the Microsoft BI stack.

## Education and languages

**Education**

MSc Mechanical Engineering
Delft University of Technology, Sep 2012 - Mar 2015

BSc Mechanical Engineering
Delft University of Technology, Sep 2006 - Sep 2011

Minor Business Administration
Erasmus University Rotterdam, Feb 2010 - Jun 2010

**Languages**

Dutch (Native)

English (Fluent)

French (Limited)

German (Limited)

**Other**

Driver's license