



History of DESĪN/Obi™

The first Obi™ prototype was developed in 2006 by Jon Dekar, an engineering student who recognized the potential for modern robotic technology to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their caregivers. Jon's experiences with his aging grandfather and a six year-old girl with arthrogryposis inspired him to apply his engineering skills to the deceptively complex task of eating a meal, and Obi was born.

Jon and his father, Tom, founded DESĪN in 2010. They spent the next six years refining Obi's design, sourcing suppliers and testing prototypes with a diverse group of users. They also obtained critical formal approvals, registering Obi as a Class I medical device with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, obtaining certification from Underwriters Laboratories as a home healthcare appliance and receiving eight issued patents on Obi's technological innovations.

Tom, a retired Vice Chairman of Deloitte and well known community leader in Southeastern Michigan, shepherded DESĪN's business development while Jon led product development. Tom and Jon brought together a prominent group of executives and leaders from a broad range of industries in two funding rounds in Q1 2014 and Q4 2015 – Q1 2016. Obi became available in the market in the second quarter of 2016.

Today the DESĪN leadership team includes co-founders Jon Dekar and Tom Dekar; Scott Stone, vice president of customer experience and Hariharan Ananthanarayanan, vice president of technology. Obi is the first product from DESĪN, and the team looks to both expand on Obi's capabilities and scope as well as bring to market other consumer robotics products from its own labs or those of other inventors who would benefit from DESĪN's product development, manufacturing and sales expertise.