URL: https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/the-importance-of-a-technical-co-founder

In this clip, FLOODGATE Fund partner Ann Miura-Ko discusses the importance of technical expertise intrinsic to a startup team. Miura-Ko states it is necessary to have this knowledge onboard and in-house, whenever possible. However, she has witnessed incidences of skilled technical managers who have successfully outsourced their engineering needs, though she notes this is an exception to the rule.

Transcript

The question is for non-technical founders how important it is to have a technical co founder? It depends actually on what you're going after.. A lot of times what we'll see is a business where the person has a fundamental insight into a market.. And they've created a website or they've outsourced a website that they know how to create and they're going after tat market, they've tested out the business model.. I've actually seen people very successful without model because they know how to handle that outsourced capacity and they know how to manage it and they know how to be agile within that kind of context.. But for the most part I haven't seen that kind of talent sort of widely available.. So usually the non technical co founder doesn't know how to manage and outsource team and so it does become important in my view to have that kind of technical talent involved, usually because at some point the company also needs that IP within its walls...