

INTERVIEW WITH DIPL.-ING. CHRISTIAN PETERS

Founding shareholder / Division Manager Marketing & Sales



1. What plans and ideas did you have when you founded the company?

At that time, I saw the great opportunity of free enterprise for myself: to shape my own career path, to take my career completely into my own hands. I was able to turn my hobby into a profession, and I still feel this way today. My great wish as a “researcher” was to be more than a device developer – and we succeeded in becoming application suppliers. Equally important for me was that we always complemented each other very well as a three-founder team and that decisions were always made unanimously. This is rare, but in our case it was successful. Also, due to the good financial conditions of the era after the fall of the Berlin wall, such as the funding for technology-oriented start-ups, I had confidence that we could manage to build up a solid small and perhaps even medium-sized company. The decisive factor for me as a student, however, was the incentive provided by Dr. Andreas Rudolph, our thesis advisor at the Technische Universität at the time and the long-time managing director of Topas GmbH.

2. How do you assess the development over the last 30 years, and also with a look towards the future?

I really have to say that we developed far beyond our expectations. I had not expected that to this extent. We were also lucky at times – but that was never really necessary. In 30 years of Topas, I have always had confidence and faith in our own strengths and possibilities. A particularly relevant factor was the onset of globalization, which made verification procedures and standardization processes imperatively relevant.

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This was accompanied by an enormous amount of travel, which enabled us to build up a worldwide distribution network but also demanded some restrictions and privations. With our trailblazer among filter test stands, the PAV 112, we won our first customers in 1995. Just two years later, we were able to install the first particle test stands such as the AFC 131 with our own technology. Many other milestones, such as the development of our own series of devices for the acceptance of cleanrooms, filter test benches for a wide variety of applications, the construction of our own company building in Dresden, or the investment in our own research and development in the Technical Innovation Center (TIC), tie in with the success of the founding years and their spirit. I think of all this today, when we have become a stable and extremely interesting employer with just under 100 employees and an export quota of 75%.

3. What do you wish Topas for the future?

I wish us all a continuation of the success story to date by expanding our market position, but also by securing jobs and offering our employees many opportunities to shape the company. They should be allowed to contribute their strengths in order to further advance Topas and to discover exciting fields of work for themselves that are conducive to the company's success. Making this possible was my vision in the beginning, and it remains my personal concern today. I hope that our (new) management, together with the shareholders, will succeed in producing a next season that fits in with the times – I look forward to it!