

INTERVIEW WITH DIPL.-ING. KLAUS-JÜRGEN MÜLLER

Founding shareholder / Research & Development



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

For me, entrepreneurship was unknown territory and also an adventure that I wanted to experience. Also, because three years of state support gave me security. It was essential to know that my two comrades-in-arms, who I had known for a long time, shared the same values as I did. Then as now, we wanted to grow steadily – but slowly and within our means. As soon as this was possible, we always did it. The many moves to larger production halls or the renting of apartments as office space in the early years are impressive proof of this.

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

To be clear: we have achieved much more than I had hoped. In our development, we have deliberately moved away from the typical company for measuring technology and accessories and are now a strong plant manufacturer in the applications market. That was a good decision. As was the decision to approach standardization committees and actively participate in them. Today, we can sell our test systems as a series project and only adapt them in a few points for our customers. Of course, there were also setbacks during this time – but not too many. I particularly remember the filter scanner in funnel design, which gave rise to today's AFS 150, our automatic HEPA/ULPA filter test stand. After almost two years of development, we decided to go a different way. This was possible because we have always been and continue to be open to change.

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On the other hand, consistency is what I still demand of our products today. With the SLG 270 aerosol generator, our first development, we succeed in doing just that. It is still in demand today in the same form, and is thus the prime example of durability and sustainability.

3. What do you wish Topas for the future?

My wish is that we always find something that helps the customer. To do this, we should always be willing to compromise – as we have been for the past three decades – and, above all, be able to listen. And, of course, consciously plan time and capacity for this. And I very much hope that our employees will continue to be full of ideas and not allow themselves to be hemmed in.