

Dr. sc. nat. Tomas Brenner

Seasoned technology executive, strategist,
entrepreneur, inventor, co-founder specialized in
moving research results to market.



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Nationality Switzerland
Date of Birth 23.3.1963

International results-driven executive, co-founder, inventor, coach with over 20 years of experience in technology, start-ups, venture capital and academic institutions in micro- and nanotechnology, leadership, strategy, sales, marketing, product development. Expert moving research results to marketable products for profitable growth. International work experience in USA, Sweden and Switzerland.

Doctorate in Physics in the field of microtechnology from ETH Zürich, Switzerland.

9 international patents
29 international scientific journal publications and conference presentations

Professional Experience

ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Feb 16 – today

The ETH Zürich is Switzerland's largest technical University with 25'000 Students. It is ranked among the top 10 technical universities worldwide. The Innovation& Entrepreneurship Lab is ETH's deep-tech accelerator.

Head of the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Lab

Key Responsibilities: Responsible for all strategic and operational aspects of the ieLab, including management of ieLab staff, coaching ETH entrepreneurs, coordination with network partners, coordination with the Schulleitung, the D-METC und other stakeholders.

Key Accomplishments: Scale-up of the ieLab to a top tier deep technology business incubator (ongoing)

Hightech Zentrum Aargau, Brugg, AG, Switzerland

Jun 14 – Jan 16

The Hightech Zentrum Aargau is the innovation promotion agency of the Canton Aargau. It promotes the exchange and cooperation between small and medium size businesses (SMEs) and universities, universities of applied sciences and research institutions.

Technology and Innovation Coach

Key Responsibilities: Responsible for the acquisition and execution of innovation projects with SMEs and research institutions in a wide range of technology fields. Building up of a national network of universities and research partners in the field of Nanotechnology. Organizing various thematic workshops and networking events to promote the attractiveness of the canton Aargau.

Key Accomplishments: I am working currently with several SMEs on various innovation projects

Leister AG, Kägiswil, OW, Switzerland

Aug 07 – Jan 14

Leister is the world leader in plastic welding and industrial process heat tools with about five hundred employees. Leister exports ninety-five percent of its products through its subsidiaries and worldwide distribution network with over seventy sales partners.

Director Marketing (Leister Technologies AG)

Jun 11 – Jan 14

Key Responsibilities: Managing a team of seven product managers with responsibility for over one hundred products generating more than ninety percent of the company's revenue. Coordinating with R&D, Production, Sales and MarCom departments during all phases of the product lifecycle. Supporting worldwide Sales Partners and Key Accounts. Reporting directly to the CEO, member of corporate management.

Key Accomplishments: Successfully launched new products to the market many by far exceeding sales targets. Implemented a rigorous gate-based Product Management Process with workflows and analytical tools thereby shortening time-to-market, reducing development costs and eliminating product flops.

Head of Sales & Marketing (Axetris AG, a Leister company)**Aug 07 – May 11**

Axetris, about fifty employees, designs and manufactures micro-technology based infrared sources, gas detectors, mass-flow controllers and micro-optical lenses for OEM customers.

Key Responsibilities: Lead the Sales & Marketing team of ten sales and product managers with overall responsibility for the sales budget and product requirements. Responsible for technical and marketing documentation. Perform advertisement campaigns through electronic and print channels. Organized trade-fairs. Responsible Product Manager for the Micro-Optics products.

Key Accomplishments: Achieved double digit growth thereby tripling sales over a four year period. Build-up the group from initially two sales managers to a staff of ten sales and product managers, including satellite offices in USA, China and Japan. Successfully managed a software project introducing a new CRM. Implemented sales budget reporting and sales forecasting by product line. Successfully negotiated frame contracts with key customers.

VentureLeap LLC, USA / Switzerland**Jan 04 – Jul 07**

Venture Leap is an international consulting company advising high-tech Start-up companies, Venture Capitalist and Business Incubators

Management Consultant

Key Responsibilities: Responsible for all aspects of client interactions and delivery of consulting and advisory services mainly in the areas of due diligence, project management, business planning & strategy, market research, technology assessment, patent review and writing. Assignments included Member of the Technical Advisory Board for Teknoinvest Management AS, Member of the Advisory Board for QuNano AB, Sweden. Start-up Coach for CTI/KTI start-up companies in Switzerland.

Key Achievements: Recommended over € 12 Mio capital investments due diligence analysis for USA and Scandinavian Venture Capitalists. Successfully lead due diligence and co-founded QuNano AB, a venture backed Nanotechnology company.

Ad Interim Positions:**Lead / Co-Founder / Head R&D (QuNano AB)****Mar 04 – Jul 07**

Lead / co-founder of the spinoff company of QuNano AB from the University of Lund, Sweden heading overall strategy, Sales & Marketing, research & development teams until appointment of the CEO.

Vice President of Portfolio Development, ad interim (CIC business incubator)**Mar 06 – Jun 06**

Responsible for the delivery of incubator services to fifteen plus start-up companies for the Chesapeake Innovation Center in Maryland, USA business incubator.

Senior Director of Product Management, ad interim (COVEGA Inc.)**Nov 04 – Aug 05**

Responsible for Product Lifecycle management for the optical amplifier company COVEGA Corp., Maryland, USA

OCG Ventures LLC, Columbia, Maryland, USA**Mar 00 – Dec 03**

OCG Ventures was a \$250 Mio Venture Capital fund with a 60'000-sqft business incubator which invested in over twenty high-tech start-up companies in optical telecom

Chief Technology Officer

Key Responsibilities: Supported and oversaw all technology and market aspects of the portfolio companies. Lead due diligence analyst screening new business plans / ideas and managing a network of external subject matter experts.

Vice President Engineering, ad interim (Optinel Systems Corp.)**Aug 02 – Nov 03**

Stepped in as VP Engineering, managing the R&D department of 25 engineers/technicians and spear-headed the turn-round of the portfolio company Optinel Systems Corp..

Key Accomplishments: Lead technology and market analysis, re-focus portfolio companies from optical telecom to optical sensors and medical markets. Successfully sold one third of the portfolio companies to incumbent players such as Intel Corp., Weatherford Inc. and Neo-Photonics (company acquisitions). Implemented a stage - gate development process.

Ciena Corporation, Linthicum, Maryland, USA**Mar 97 – Feb 00**

Ciena designs, manufactures and sells open architecture optical transport and switching equipment for the telecommunication networking industry

Principal Engineer

Key Responsibilities: Specified and qualified key optical components for Ciena's optical transport systems. Developed and tested high capacity next generation optical transport systems. Supervised Ciena's R&D systems laboratory. Managed external component vendors

Key Accomplishments: Qualified many optical components for Ciena's optical transport systems. Advanced optical transport technology to developed leading edge optical systems.

Lucent Technologies Bell Labs (formerly AT&T), Holmdel, New Jersey, USA

Jan 95 – Feb 97

Lucent designs, develops, manufactures and services network equipment and software

Postdoctoral Member of Technical Staff

Key Responsibilities: Researched novel semiconductor photonic integrated circuits in the III-V semiconductor material system in the group of 'Optical Network Research'

Key Accomplishments: Invented, designed, fabricated and characterized novel optoelectronic devices. Contributed many publications, presentations and patents to the field.

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich, ZH, Switzerland

Oct 89 – Dec 94

Micro-Technology Group of Prof. Dr. H. Melchior, Zürich, Switzerland (ETHZ)

Research Assistant

Key Responsibilities: Research on next generation optoelectronic semiconductor lasers, optical amplifiers and waveguides. Lectured graduate and under - graduate courses in Physics. Participated in the international European RACE project

Key Accomplishments: Achieved international recognition. Contributed technical articles in international scientific journals and technical conferences in the field of semiconductor lasers and optical amplifiers. World record in highest optical coupling efficiency by means of an invented novel fabrication method. Achieved the title of "Doctor of natural sciences".

Education and Further Education

Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, ZHAW, Winterthur, Switzerland

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Corporate Development	2014
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George Washington University, Holmdel, NJ, USA

Certificate in Project Management	1996
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Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, ETHZ, Zürich, Switzerland

Doktor der Naturwissenschaften, ETHZ (Doctor of Natural Sciences)	1994
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Diplom als Physiker, ETHZ (Diploma in Physics)	1988
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Höheres Lehramt für Mathematik & Physik (M.Ed. in Mathematics & Physics)	1987
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Kantonsschule, Zofingen, AG, Switzerland

Matura, Typ C	1983
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Patents, Publications & Presentations

9 international patents

29 papers & presentations with international scientific journals and conferences

Languages

German	Native
English	Business
French	Intermediate
Czech	Intermediate

Personal

Date of birth	March 23, 1963
Marital status	Divorced
Children	Natalie (1992), Selina (1994)
Citizenship	Switzerland, USA (abandoned in 2012)
Interests	Arts, culture, sports, music, travel, reading, dancing

Associations

ETH Zürich Alumnus
Optical Society of America