

Entrepreneurial ID «venture leaders» 2007



Giovanna Davatz

davatz@arktis-detectors.com +41 44 633 2407

«**Project**»: arktis radiation detectors

The "arktis" project proposes a new technology for the detection of radiological and explosive threats in cargo containers.

Industry: Security/Transportation

Biography

Born 1977 in Chur, Switzerland
 1997-2003 **Dipl.phys.ETH**
 2000 Exchange Semester in Toulouse, FR
 2003-2007 **Dr.sc.** in particle physics at CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research)

Currently working as an entrepreneur and as a researcher at the Institute for Particle Physics (ETH) for the project arktis radiation detectors.

Experience in large international collaborations, project management.

Company / project

Product: Sensors for radiological threats in freight containers

The technology developed by arktis improves the capability to distinguish between dangerous radioactive materials and naturally occurring radioactive materials, in other words: By reducing the false alarm rate significantly, customers save time and money.

USP: arktis's technology outclasses today's products in three points:

1. Higher security due to better threat identification
2. Higher savings due to reduction of false alarms
3. Higher speed due to simple and efficient screening process (all in one product)

The production price is comparable with current competitive products.

Technology: The arktis technology is the subject of an ETH-held patent application and has a high potential in the "Homeland Security" market. In order to successfully transfer this technology from fundamental science to the market, its performance must be demonstrated by a laboratory-independent prototype based on the presently lab-dependent technology. More advanced applications of this technology include exploiting the device's sensitivity to fast neutrons for screening systems to detect explosives, drugs, and chemical agents.

Market: Detector market (Portal Monitors) by 2010: 2 billion US\$

Target customers: Border authorities, sea ports, steel and transport industry

Status : Project underway since end of 2005. Currently 2.5 FTE employees- the company will be incorporated in the coming months. Arktis won the first prize in the Venture 2006 business plan competition, and participated in the IMD 2007 Competition and Swiss Tech Tour 2007.

Exclusive licensing terms negotiated with ETH Zurich, financing secured for 18 months proof of concept.

Financing: CTI-Discovery grant, ETH Zurich, and self financing

We are looking for investors and strong partners, such as system integrators for co-development once the proof of concept is given (within the next 18 months).