

Entrepreneurial ID «venture leaders» 2007



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DECTRIS: The first company worldwide selling the next generation of x-ray detectors

Industry: High-tech sensors and detectors

Biography

Christian Broennimann has a Ph. D. in Physics and has worked for over 10 years as head of a research group at the Paul Scherrer Institut (PSI). During this time he adapted technology from high energy physics to develop a radically new type of x-ray detector. His group succeeded in the fabrication and operation of the world largest pixel detector which is used for structure determination of proteins. Due to the success of the project he decided to quit his job as a research scientist at PSI and founded the spin-off company DECTRIS, together with 3 partners. His close connection to the scientific community will enable DECTRIS to bring the new technologies fast into the scientific and industrial market.

Company / project

DECTRIS is the first company worldwide to sell novel hybrid-pixel X-ray detector systems which operate in single-photon counting mode. This new technology features a very high dynamic range, a short readout time and an excellent signal-noise ratio. These properties improve measurement quality and throughput significantly in many areas such as basic research at synchrotron light sources, laboratory diffraction systems or industrial and medical applications.

DECTRIS offers a variety of detector systems scaled to meet the needs of different applications.

The CMOS hybrid pixel sensors were developed at the Paul Scherrer Institut (PSI) in Switzerland in a decade of scientific research. DECTRIS is proud to have the sole responsibility for the development, production, sales, application support and the maintenance of their detector systems.

DECTRIS was founded in October 2007, 6 months later the forecast for 2007 has already been surpassed. 10 high performance detector systems have been delivered to research institutes and industrial customers. Orders for more systems are already acquired. The forecasted revenues for 2007 are 1.5MCHF. In five years we will reach 10 -15 MCHF .

The staff will be increased from currently 4 people to 7-8 people by the end of 2007. We are looking for qualified personnel in the field of production, electrical engineering and software development.

Within 5 years DECTRIS wants to exploit its very promising technology into new markets: The medical market as well as the homeland security market will be targeted by extensions to the current technology.