

Interview with Teodor Aastrup Attana AB - Stockholm, Sweden

Dr. Aastrup is co-founder and CEO of Attana AB. He holds an M.Sc. degree in Material Physics from Uppsala University, Sweden and a Ph.D. in Corrosion Science from KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden. Since 2002, he is dedicated to Attana. Based in Stockholm, Sweden, Attana develops biosensors for the pharmaceutical, diagnostic and academic society worldwide. With a strong focus on characterizing molecular interactions exactly as they occur in the human body, Attana is committed to increasing success during clinical trials by providing the life science community with biologically relevant information. Among all his other activities, he enjoys the experiences of starting up and managing companies for international expansion. Focus on innovative business models combined with efficient sales processes and management consulting with focus on business development and growth strategies.



Teodor Aastrup

What made you opt for a career as a researcher? How would you define your job?

I have always been interested in **understanding the world around me**, and in particular surfaces. I am working with identifying important needs that research can be part in solving and how to commercialize these products utilizing their full opportunities.

We'd like to catch a glimpse of your daily activities. What is a typical day (or week) for you?

I travel a lot and have meetings with collaborating partners and customers as well as working with my colleagues in the office to develop Attana. I have had the pleasure to visit many interesting places where ground breaking research are performed, from Shanghai in the east to San Francisco in the west.



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Dynamic Interactive Nanosystems

Marie Curie Initial Training Network

DYNANO brings together Research labs, an SME and two big companies. How do you view research-industry collaboration within the framework of the project?

We have a long history of successful collaboration with the groups of Dr. Barboiu and Prof. Ramström and have now also collaboration with Prof. Vincent, Prof Solís and Prof. Buzas. I think for us **it provides us with valuable competences in different scientific fields as well as good commercial understanding of trends within the field.**

The new field of systems chemistry studies molecular networks: chemists can now investigate how interactions between members propagate through networks, allowing complex behaviors to emerge. Has this new field changed the way you work and consider chemistry?

I constantly try to apply new knowledge in my daily work. I also believe that all influence affect people indirectly, so to concluded I expect that **I have changed my way of working both consciously and unconsciously thanks to the network.**

What advantage will DYNANO's interdisciplinary training give to the PhD students and post-doc researchers recruited?

I think it will elucidate all the possibilities that exists and thereby providing them with more opportunities that will enriched both their professional and private career. I also believe it will make them more successful in whatever they chose to do after this.

The DYNANO project has been designed with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary training. Interdisciplinary work implies integrating concepts from different disciplines: what do you expect from crossing traditional boundaries?

I believe that cross disciplinary insights is key in both academy and industry. I, who am coming from surface physics field have been able to contribute in this field with my insights as well as having learned many new things. **The cross disciplinary competences drives R&D faster forward.**

*Thank you Teodor,
and all the best for DYNANO and Attana.*

Interviewed by Laurence Bosch

DYNANO in brief

Starting date: 1st November 2011

Project duration: 48 months

Number of partners: 15

Project Coordinator: Dr. Mihai BARBOIU,

European Membrane Institute -IEM, Montpellier, France.

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