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Top Skills

Project Management
Business Development
Licensing

Languages

French
German
English

Jens Kristian Damsgaard

CEO at Science Ventures Denmark A/S | Partner at OpenCircle Capital
Copenhagen

Summary

I help to build great tech companies.

Working as a venture capital partner and a university spin-out creator I play a "quarterback" role in the space between entrepreneurs, corporates, investors, and universities.

I have been involved at partner level in 40+ VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS in high-tech companies in 13 countries.

I am a driving force all the way from project due diligence and investment over business development to exit. And I continuously do international SYNDICATED INVESTMENTS. Currently with funds like Epidarex Capital (UK), Sway Ventures (US), Inventure (FI), Techstars (US), and The Danish Growth Fund (Vækstfonden). I also work with and syndicate investments with business angels like founders and senior managers from eg. Netflix, Google, Skype, Vinted, Unity, Klarna, Tesonet, and Universal Robots.

Portfolio companies have been exited with a number of corporate acquisitions including Aker (NO), Indutrade (SE), Widex (DK), Teradyne/320M€ exit (US), Infineon (DE), and - so far - with 2 IPOs (Nasdaq First North and Oslo Børs).

I work across industries and cultures; currently with US, Danish, Israeli, German, Russian, Chinese and Lithuanian team members.

I am an experienced TECHNOLOGY LICENSING manager. I have hands-on managed 50+ licensing deals from portfolio companies and research labs to large corporates worldwide - like Toyota (JP), Novo (DK), Honeywell (US), Vestas (DK) Roche (CH), Oracle (US), and Siemens (DE).

I am ADVISING PUBLIC and PRIVATE organizations in Denmark and abroad on regional development, technology transfer, and innovation management.

I have an ENTREPRENEURIAL background with hands-on experience driving value in early-stage tech companies.

EDUCATED at the University of Southern Denmark, INSEAD, and MIT/Sloan.

CULTURE ENGAGEMENT

Former chairman of The Royal Danish Theatre's Ballet School in Odense (Det Kongelige Teaters Balletskole in Odense).

MORE FUN & COOL STUFF...

Ongoing engaged as an external university lecturer and co-examiner, EU-H2020 evaluator, conference speaker (OECD, Thomson Reuters, EU and a number of professional associations), member of "expert panels" and boards (eg EU Commission and Danish Proof-of-Concept pgm), student and business mentor, and lots of more fun stuff :-)

Experience

Open Circle Capital

Partner

October 2017 - Present (3 years 6 months)

Vilnius - Helsinki - Odense

Venture capital investments in tech-based companies in Europe.

From due diligence to exit.

Thankfully working with great European start-ups and early-stage tech companies.

Science Ventures Denmark A/S

CEO

January 2005 - Present (16 years 3 months)

Odense - Denmark

Managing commercialization of R&D projects.

Spin-out creations, venture capital investment process from due diligence over investment, business development, and all the way to exit. Working with a

large number of companies, investors, and R&D organizations in Denmark and abroad.

Scouting for new ideas, teams, technologies, and projects with commercial potential.

Interim management positions (CEO, CFO, board member) in portfolio companies.

CEO of Energy Invest Fyn A/S

Syddansk Universitet - University of Southern Denmark

Head of technology transfer

February 2003 - June 2006 (3 years 5 months)

Odense Area, Denmark

Head of technology transfer, legal- and project finance department.

Building the University technology transfer office from scratch to 10 people licensing university inventions and creating new business ventures based on university IPR

Risø National Laboratory for Sustainable Energy

Head of technology transfer

February 1999 - January 2003 (4 years)

Copenhagen Area, Denmark

IPR licensing and portfolio management

Project management

Business development

Legal administration

European Commission

Corporate liason manager, i3net

June 1997 - January 1999 (1 year 8 months)

Odense Area, Denmark

Consultancy unit for European Commission, coordination of i3, ESE and Disappearing Computer research programmes.

Euro Info Center

Head of office

May 1994 - May 1997 (3 years 1 month)

Brussels Area, Belgium

EU-consulting and fundraising services for companies, semi-public and public sector organizations. Focus on R&D and organizational development

programmes. Project manager for medical technology project in Malaysia (Asia Interprise programmes)

Syddansk Erhvervsskole

Project coordinator

October 1992 - February 1994 (1 year 5 months)

Odense Area, Denmark

International Department

Designing and coordinating international courses and development projects.

Fundraising from national and international programmes.

Forsvarsministeriets Personalestyrelse

Non comm. officer

March 1986 - August 1992 (6 years 6 months)

Denmark, Croatia and Bosnia

On and off between 1986 and 1992...

- United Nation Protection Force, UNPROFOR (1), Croatia and Bosnia

- Gardehusarregimentet, Næstved -

reconnaissance/scouting unit (5. oplaring)

- Jydske Dragon Regiment, Holstebro -

reconnaissance/scouting unit (1. oplaring)

- Fynske Livregiment, Odense - infantry regiment

- Sergeant School, Sønderborg - infantry

Education

MIT Sloan School of Management

Executive Certificate - innovation and strategy, Business

development · (2010 - 2011)

INSEAD

Executive Management Programme, Management · (2009 - 2010)

Syddansk Universitet

Master of Public Management (MPM), Economics, business- and public

administration · (2004 - 2006)

Syddansk Universitet

M. Sc., Economics (Cand. Oecon) · (1989 - 1996)

Grindsted Gymnasium

Highschool diploma · (1982 - 1985)