DIETMAR TOURBIER

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Education

MBA, UCLA Anderson School of Management, 2004

Focus on International Business. Final project: Consulting New Zealand firms to expand to the U.S. market.

PhD Aerospace Engineering (Minor: Mathematics), The University of Arizona, 1996

Thesis: "Numerical Investigation of Transitional and Turbulent Compressible Axisymmetric Wakes"

Dipl. Ingenieur, Aerospace Engineering, University of Stuttgart, 1991

Thesis: "Numerical Investigation of the Spatial Stability of an Axisymmetric Jet by Solving the Full Navier-Stokes Equations"

Experience

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

Director, Energy BU, Dec 2022 – today

Leading the Energy BU with 300+ staff developing technologies in support of the Australian Energy Transformation towards net-zero emissions.

Science Director and Deputy Director, Energy, Oct 2020 – Nov 2022

Supporting a multidisciplinary team of scientists, engineers, economists and business professionals in solving current and future energy challenges to enable the transition to lower emissions energy future.

Director, Australian Solar Thermal Research Institute (ASTRI), June 2018 – Sep 2020

Providing overall leadership within ASTRI and providing the vision, direction and strategic oversight for the delivery, adoption and impact of the ASTRI objectives. Responsible for delivering ASTRI's Strategy driving ASTRI's role in enabling the commercial viability of Concentrated Solar Technology (CST) through the development, demonstration and deployment of emerging CST technologies, with a focus on areas where Australia has a comparative advantage.

Responsible for leading and managing ASTRI's world class capability in CST and actively managing key relationships with ASTRI partners, Government, Industry, international stakeholders and other Research institutions to ensure ASTRI outcomes are achieved in the national interest.

GE Global Research Europe

Executive Regional Technology Leader Europe, March 2017 – May 2018

Leading a team of 90 researchers in the areas of aerodynamics, thermodynamics, power electronics, electric machines, power systems and controls. Key focus areas: same as below plus turbomachinery and advanced heat transfer for compressors and aircraft engines, advanced aerodynamic and structural design for wind turbines.

Teaching

- 8-10 annual two-hour seminars for external business and technology students and executive MBA about technology development in a global business setting

GE Global Research Europe

Operations Leader Europe Technology Center, February 2016 – May 2018

Responsible for site operations (Finance, Health & Safety, IT, Facilitites) of the GE European Technology Center. (additional role to Technology Leader)

GE Global Research Europe

Executive Technology Leader, Electrical Systems, 2011 - 2017

Led a team of 60 researchers in the areas of power electronics, electric machines, power systems, controls and mechatronics. Key focus areas: electric power conversion for renewable energy, locomotives & large mining vehicles, power grid technologies for increased penetration of renewables, incorporation of SiC as new semiconductor switch, life science technologies (radiochemical synthesis)

Product Prototype Development:

- Multi-generation successive DFIG wind converter product upgrades from 1.5MW to 2.8MW (2011 2016)
- 5-level and 7-level MV motor drive converter 3+MW, improved cost, volume, availability (2012)
- First GE active magnetic bearing prototype (self-sensing) (2014)
- Mining truck electrified auxiliary system (2015), weight and efficiency improvement over hydraulic-mechanic system
- First GE SiC 99% efficient solar inverter (2016), improved efficiency at reduced cost (air-cooled)
- First GE chip-size radiochemical synthesizer for Positron Emission Tomography (PET)

Teaching

 8-10 annual two-hour seminars for external business and technology students and executive MBA about technology development in a global business setting

GE Global Research Europe

Lab Manager, High Power Electronics, Electrical Systems, 2007 - 2011

Grew a new team to 20+ researchers in the area of power electronics. Key focus areas: power electronics for renewable energy, locomotives & large mining vehicles, and electrically driven compressors for the oil and gas industry.

Product Prototype Development:

- First GE three-level full conversion MV Wind converter prototype (2009), improved grid code compliance
- Compact Inverter for mining vehicles (new devices, 30% volume & weight reduction) (2010)
- First GE MW-class solar inverter based on Wind converter bridges (2011), 50% cost reduction over existing solar inverters

Teaching

- Bi-Annual 3-day Program Management course for experienced researchers
- Bi-Annual 2-week Six Sigma DFSS and DMAIC courses

GE Global Research

Site Leader, Hybrid Power Generation Systems, 2006 - 2007

Responsible for research site of 60 employees in the area of solid oxide fuel cell technology development. Facility management, strategy, staffing and career development

GE Energy

Manager, Hybrid Integration Systems, 2004 – 2006

Managed a group of 12 Engineers in the area of fuel cell technology electric power generation system development and integration. Staffing, career development and human resource function for engineering group

GE Energy

Senior Program Manager, Solid Oxide Fuel Cells, 2002 – 2004

Management of externally funded Solid Oxide Fuel Cell (SOFC) programs. Development of strategy for internally funded program for SOFC-GT hybrid power generations systems

Honeywell Aerospace

System Engineer, Fuel Cells, 2000 – 2002

Project manager and lead systems engineer on 50 kW PEM fuel cell system development program (customer DOE); lead a group of 5-10 engineers and several technicians

Honeywell Aerospace

System Engineer, Aerospace Technologies, 1998 – 2000

Project manager and lead engineer on advanced spacesuit glove development program

The University of Arizona

Post Doctorate Research Associate, 1997 - 1998

Implementation of Large-Eddy Simulation into compressible Navier-Stokes codes; led a team of 5 graduate students in the field of numerical simulation of fluid dynamics

Teaching

Undergraduate courses in Fluid dynamics and Mathematics as teaching assistant.

Languages

German (native), English (fluent)