

In the constitutional state, the authorities are public and the citizens are private. In an unconstitutional state it is the other way around.

Charles B. Blankart

CEO's Note

Dear Reader,

In Switzerland everything is (seems to be) very well organized. The trains and buses are on time, you can set your clock by them, the mail arrives the next day, all forms for government interactions are available on the Internet, the land registers are public and completely transparent. Setting up a company can also be done in just a few days, or let's say two or three weeks. Wonderful, we are an island of the blessed.

But when it comes to politics, a lot of things disappear into a dark room. Elections are carried out completely correctly and there are public debates. But what happens then is often the opposite of what the voters who elected the supposed representatives want. This leads to the government being governed by emergency law. Corona sends its regards.

As a citizen, you then ask yourself what else you have to say in Switzerland. We have direct democracy and the people have the final say. At least it should. But in practice this is no longer the case. But maybe it has always been that way. I don't know it. Many politicians want power and not to be representatives of the people. Our National Council President, Martin Candinas, the highest Swiss politician, recently said in an interview that "we politicians have to take the people with us." I know Martin Candinas, he is very nice. But what I don't want is for him to take me with him. It should be the other way around. Politicians should do what the people want. That's what they were elected for. After all, he was very honest and thus exposed the political system.

Fortunately, Switzerland has built an automatic emergency brake into its political system. Did you know that presidents of our country - be it the Prime Minister or the two Speakers of Parliament - are only allowed to serve for one year. Then they have to resign. Believe me, this is the best protection of democracy. Any political stupidity is nipped in the bud and usually only the good ideas last. Therefore, we are an island of the lucky ones.

Beat De Coi

Shanghai ToFFuture Technology develops sensors with the epc660

With its world beating ambient light suppression, the epc660 TOF chip is rapidly gaining popularity with sensor manufacturers around the globe. The Shanghai TOFFuture Technology has chosen ESPROS' flagship chip for both its XT-S 240 series and M120 series of pure solid flash TOF LiDARs, offering extreme reliability and a large FOV along with high resolution equivalent to 240 lines, and extremely high ambient light suppression ideal for cargo volume detection applications.



GUI show the distance image and Amplitude

Check out the video here.

CEO Feng Jin adds:"sensitivity and ambient light suppression that's what it's all about. The epc660's

high QE, which exceeds 50% even at 940nm, enables the S240 series to fulfill the needs of many long range applications. This alongside the epc660's very high ambient light suppression, which ensures the LiDAR operates very effectively even under 100klux ambient light, were the key advantages that made us select the epc660 over all its competitors, for cargo volume detection."

But why solid flash LiDAR? The goods inside the cargo are random and complicated, which make it impos-



sible for the AI camera or radar to detect the depth for volume calculation.

Due to the fact the cargo's length can be up to more than 17 meters, so traditional 3D cameras could not reach that far and the mechanical LiDARs are too expensive and not reliable. So the flash TOF LiDAR based on ESPROS' highly sensitive

chip could exactly meet the requirement with long range detection (17m@10% reflectivity), highly reliable (pure solid flash LiDAR) and a very competitive size (68 x 68 x 45mm only).

Further information about Shanghai ToFFuture you will find $\underline{here}.$

About the epc660, you will find the further information with this **link**.

What is your job at ESPROS?

I'm a Senior Process and Systems Engineer mainly for the Front End Process in our cleanroom that is located in our mountain fab here in Sargans. A key part of my job is predicting challenges before they arise and preventing them. It's preventative maintenance. So ensuring we have the necessary spare parts and solutions should the need arise. I share the knowledge/solutions which I uncovered with the maintenance and operation people.

What do you most enjoy about your job? Well I get real satisfaction troubleshooting for people and solving their challenges. But always with the best method, it's not easy finding a solution. I like to constantly improve my understanding of the processes and therefore, my performance, there really is no limit to this you can always get that bit better. I also love to work with the engineering team. I know very often the easy solution is to replace a part. But I love the challenge of building the parts in-house. I had never experienced this before In previous jobs we would just get a new spare part. It's a bit ironic, in my previous job I worked for the system supplier now we're the end user of the systems. It was a quite a challenge in the beginning.

Where are you from originally and where do you now live?

I'm originally from Pusan the second biggest city in South Korea, I now live in Buchs, where I have done for the most of the last 16 years.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm fascinated by history and living in this beautiful Swiss valley I love simply walking, particularly with my wife. Firstly it's good for my health but I find it great way to meditate, I also find it an excellent way to come up with good ideas.

Swissmem is the leading association for SMEs and large companies in the Swiss tech industry (MEM industry and related technology sectors). ESPROS featured in the recent edition of its Involved magazine. Here is a summary from the lengthy article, the article's approach was to address the layperson rather than experts. It also placed emphasis on ESPROS' production facilities being situated within a mountain cavern offering stability for the ultra sensitive production processes where the tiniest of vibrations can destroy very expensive chips. CEO Beat de Coi revealed how:"As an electronics engineer. I have been involved in sensor technology since the 1980s. I founded CEDES AG and we grew to 500 employees to develop special optical sensors for lifts. However, I was unable to implement many of my ideas because there was simply a lack of suitable semiconductor chips."

Click **here** to the original article. We hope you enjoy the dive inside the Gonzen mountain. Unfortunately, the article is currently only available in the original German version.

If you could have a superpower, what would that be and why?

Because of my love of history I would love to be able to travel back in time and see if things really were the way the books say.



"San-Sik is walking to come up with ideas"

ESPROS features in



ESPROS mountain fab

"A large corporation would never have done what we have developed with ESPROS. The investments would have been too large, with a high risk of going nowhere. It took perseverance, courage and entrepreneurial spirit." Beat De Coi

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