

Dear Jan-Peter Toennies,

On the occasion of your 95th birthday, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and wish you all the very best - above all, good health and lasting joy. It brings me great happiness to see you again, to reconnect with former colleagues from the Max Planck Institute for Fluid Dynamics, to spend a few hours together, and to revive memories of the time we shared.

From 1992 to 1996, I had the great privilege of working in your department as a doctoral student, focusing on helium atom scattering on germanium, silicon, and diamond surfaces. I look back on those years with deep gratitude. They were marked by excellent working conditions, an inspiring scientific spirit that you embodied, your continuous encouragement and support, and a vibrant exchange with institute staff, guests, doctoral candidates, and diploma students. At the same time, that period felt in many ways like a continuation of student life - full of curiosity and a strong sense of community.

After completing my PhD, I joined Siemens in 1996 as a development engineer in what was then the semiconductor division (since 1999 Infineon Technologies) in Munich. Later, I was responsible for many years as a program manager for new technology platforms in the field of volatile semiconductor memories (DRAM) at Infineon and its spin-off company Qimonda.

This phase of my professional career was also characterized by numerous reunions with former colleagues from your department who later worked in Munich.

In 2009, I moved to the then photovoltaics company Q-Cells in Berlin, and since 2012 I have been back at Siemens (over ten of those years spent in Erlangen). During this time, my professional focus shifted from development and project management to sales-related responsibilities.

The years I spent working in your department at the Max Planck Institute for Fluid Dynamics were especially meaningful to me. It shaped me not only professionally but also personally. I am deeply grateful to have been part of it.

With kind regards,

Gerrit Lange



Visiting Jan-Peter Toennies
(Goettingen, April 2016)