

AN EXTRAORDINARY ENGINEERING ADVENTURE

April 2 2019 Carsten Uttenthal's tenure as Ramboll Foundation board member ended, after 29 years in the Foundation. Carsten can look back at close to 46 years in Ramboll.

TALENT IN HIGH DEMAND

When Carsten Uttenthal finalized his Master's degree in Civil Engineering in 1973 at the Danish Technical University, Ramboll co-founder Johan Hannemann was his supervisor.

"Hannemann was an excellent supervisor who knew how to ask the right questions, rather than reveal the answers", says Carsten.

"I was hired by B. Højlund Rasmussen straight out of university. Back then, the industry was far smaller than today, and I'm sure that my professors at DTU played a role in my hire."

On his first day, Carsten received employee number 32 and started designing bridges.

JOINING FORCES - A HISTORICAL MERGER

In 1990, Carsten became a partner of B. Højlund Rasmussen I/S and the BHR Foundation Board. Therefore, he was also deeply involved when the company

joined forces with Rambøll & Hannemann and merged in 1991.

"We knew each other very well from working on complex projects such as the Great Belt Link and the district heating project CTR in Copenhagen," says Carsten.

"Rambøll & Hannemann was nearly 5 times bigger than B. Højlund Rasmussen, but our disciplines complemented each other perfectly. There were hardly any overlaps." Although the employee number raised to more than 1,200 it was still possible to gather all employees every second year for a sports event.

"To gather everyone, we reserved a "Ramboll-train" in Copenhagen to pick up all Ramboll employees from east to west. I clearly remember the train buzzing with energy as we arrived at Aalborg train station", says Carsten.

Only a few years after, the success of the merger was reinforced, when the company led a joint

venture and was chosen to design the Øresund link.

BOARD MEMBER CAREER

When Carsten became a member of the Foundation Board in parallel with his work in Ramboll, Ramboll's original founders were still members of the Foundation Board.

In 2006, Carsten was elected as Deputy Chairman of the Ramboll Foundation and continued this role until 2016 alongside with Sven Aage Nielsen until 2014, and from 2014-2016 alongside Chairman Flemming Bligaard.

Carsten continued to be a member of the Foundation Board from 2016 to April 2 2019.

According to Carsten, one of the most important achievements of the Foundation work he has been involved in, was to establish the professional governance model, which is still reinforced today. The model ensures that Ramboll is led by three impartial and unprejudiced governance levels. As such the members of



the Ramboll Foundation are not involved in the daily running of the company.

“I’m very proud that we have succeeded in establishing an independent governance model that can attract excellent and professional individuals to Ramboll’s Board of Directors,” says Carsten.

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“Knowing that I’ve been part of this extraordinary engineering adventure brings me great joy,” says Carsten.

He distinctly remembers a leadership workshop, where the leaders shared dreams about Ramboll’s future. At the time, there were around 2,000 employees in the company.

Today, Carsten and his colleagues in the Foundation Board are proud to look at how many of the ambitions are now implemented in the Ramboll we know today – a global company with 15,000 people.

For this reason, Carsten feels confident in passing on his position now at a time, where Ramboll is robust and successful. “I have been following the next

generation of Ramboll blossom, and it feels natural to now pass on the baton to someone who is ready to run a little faster than me,” says Carsten.

Carsten Uttenthal

Civil Engineer
Member of the Danish Society of Engineers (IDA) and the Danish Association of Consulting Engineers (FRI).

Major projects include the district heating project CTR of Copenhagen, Great Belt Link, the Øresund Link and the start of Femern Belt.