

Obituary for Dr. Dieter Jänchen, 1927–2018



CAMAG's founder Dr. Dieter Jänchen died at the age of 91 on December 22, 2018, at the hospital in Liestal, near Muttenz, Switzerland.

We are sad that he is no longer with us. Until the very end, we and the CAMAG employees greatly appreciated his guidance and wisdom. Our comfort is that he did not have to suffer long and that he found his rest and his peace. It is hard to say goodbye, because in the past 60 years Dieter Jänchen has vastly influenced CAMAG and the company's culture. Unfortunately, his health denied him participation in the festivity of the 60th anniversary of the company on December 14, 2018.

We keep Dieter Jänchen in our memories. He was a figure of respect and, though not always easy to deal with, a highly esteemed, caring and well-respected company boss. He was no friend of quick decisions. He reflected, discussed with others, analyzed the pros and cons, and thereafter, whatever he did, he led straightforward in the desired direction. Well-justified arguments convinced him to continue in the chosen direction.

Dieter Jänchen was born in Berlin where he studied Chemistry at the Technical University. In 1954 after a promotion and on recommendation of his supervisor, he found a job as a young chemist in Switzerland. As a result of favorable circumstances, he was able to start his own business and in December 1958, he founded the company CAMAG.

He managed the development of this highly specialized company and succeeded in advancing the initially small company into a well-known brand. Through his persistent commitment, he led the company to international acceptance. The company group consists of the headquarters in Muttenz and daughter companies in Germany and the USA as well as an established network of distributors

around the world. Today CAMAG stands for a solid high-tech enterprise with highly qualified and highly motivated employees.

In time, Dieter Jänchen saw the logic of connecting the sale of instrument systems with application methods. For this, he founded the application laboratory and the scientific literature service. His CAMAG Bibliography Service, named CBS, and the cumulative CBS database (CCBS) are highly recognized among experts. Over the decades, the literature service resulted in an extensive collection of TLC/HPTLC methods and literature abstracts, which are a valuable, cost-free source of information for the user.

Dieter Jänchen dedicated his life's work to the building of CAMAG. He literally lived CAMAG. CAMAG is Dr. Dieter Jänchen. He remains unforgettable.

He lived frugally for his means. Besides the company, he had one sole passion – flying. In the 60ies, he joined the Luftsportgemeinschaft Hotzenwald, the local air sports community. His hobby came clearly second after the company, even though he was intensely devoted to this hobby. He practiced first glider and later motor flying. As a motivated flying instructor and local division trainer, he shared his experiences as a top pilot with his pilot trainees. He was very influential to the Luftsportgemeinschaft Hotzenwald, serving in many capacities and was a mentor to many.

10 years ago, Dieter Jänchen decided to gradually step back. To ensure the continuity of his life's work CAMAG, the CAMAG foundation was created, which is inalienable and thus controls the fate and the future of CAMAG. The slow, irresistible aging process shaped Dieter Jänchen's last years. Except for the last days, he was able to spend the end of his long life at home, as was his wish.

We are very grateful for his exemplary work. We will keep Dieter Jänchen in a very good memory and will think of him with heartfelt respect.

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