

Message from the CTO



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Andre Roggan

Executive Officer and
Chief Technology Officer (CTO)

Injecting at Least a Few of the Attributes of a Startup Company in My New Role as CTO

I am proud and respectful of the challenges in transforming the Olympus R&D team into a more modern R&D organization.

I joined Olympus in 2004 through the acquisition of Celon AG, a small startup company near Berlin that has since become a competence center for energy devices within Olympus. I’m a physicist by education, so I like analytical thinking, and I have a good technical understanding and deep experience in the surgical business and Therapeutic Solutions Business, which I think supports the organization.

I have long promoted the best cultural attributes from Japan, Germany, and also the U.S. to deliver our best outcomes. And, I think it’s also worth mentioning one lesson from that startup company, which is to be very agile. I learned to value a faster decision-making processes, and my hope is that I can inject least a few of the attributes of a startup company in my new role as CTO.

R&D Team’s Strengths and Challenges

I believe agility would help us to overcome some of our biggest challenges, such as to build customer trust by becoming more predictable in what our R&D is accomplishing, and slashing the time for product approval in the different regions. One way is to bring everyone, including expert functions like quality assurance and regulatory affairs on board from day one deep inside each project, so that the process can be more efficient and discrepancies caught early instead of much later. In that regard, one of Olympus’ strengths is that it has a good relationship with its customers and understands their unmet needs. Our engineers have

direct contact with healthcare professionals to observe their procedures and translate unmet needs into truly valued technical solutions.

In the past, Olympus has been trying to develop everything in-house, and I believe this is not a strategy that will achieve sustainable growth. So, we will collaborate with strategic partners, or we may consider the acquisition of products and technologies like the recent acquisitions. In general, I believe that collaboration with third parties will gain us more speed in the future.

Five External Challenges for Olympus

From the CTO’s point of view, I note five external challenges for Olympus. The first is digitalization; for example, internet or cloud connectivity, or AI to improve the detection or diagnosis functions of our products. Next is healthcare cost efficiency and value focus. It is important to develop a clinical strategy for all new products to provide evidence of their value for our customers.

Another is agile development and short innovation cycles. Given the exponential pace of new technologies and innovation, it’s my mission to introduce agile development processes to stay competitive in innovation.

We also want to accelerate the ESG focus across the supply chain. Our R&D team will promote efforts to ensure that the products we launch contribute to a sustainable economy.

Finally, we will also focus on organizational health. We will start support programs for female leaders in technical jobs, and over the next few years, we will strengthen our diversity and inclusion efforts.