

# Danish Quantum Community

## General Assembly 2024

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## Basil Garabet, President & CEO of NKT Photonics



As the CEO of the largest exporter of quantum hardware in Denmark, it is my ambition to bring our experience in doing successful business in the field to the Danish Quantum Community and the growing number of quantum startups.

Denmark's greatest resource in the quantum race is its talent pool and prowess for doing business. I have founded, run, acquired, and sold international high-tech companies for over 25 years and hope my experience can be of value to those aspiring to do the same.

For many years, NKT Photonics has been the leader in fibers and fiber lasers for the global quantum community. As a supplier of fundamental technology to the leading players in quantum computing, metrology, and sensing, we have unique and early insight into roadmaps and trends in these fast-changing markets, making NKT Photonics an attractive partner to the Danish Quantum Community.

[Basil Garabet | LinkedIn](#)

[Management Team - NKT Photonics](#)

## **Erik Stangerup, Head of European Operations & CEO of QunaSys Denmark**



**Erik H. Stangerup, BSc. MBA**

**Head of European Operations & CEO Qunasys Denmark**

### **Background:**

The period from 1990 to 2016 was the corporate highlight of my career, where I worked for IBM, Sun Microsystems and Hitachi in various leadership positions. In 2016 I made a deliberate transition into SMEs and ultimately co-founded Lotus Microsystems, a fabless microchip manufacturing company. 2016 also marked the beginning of other relevant engagements as I joined the mentor corps at DTU and several boards in aspiring high-tech and deep-tech companies. Since 2021 I have served on the Smart Electronics & Systems Committee of the Confederation of Industries in Denmark (Dansk Industri) and since 2023 as a mentor in the NATO DIANA programme.

### **Motivation for running for the DQC BoD:**

Now with QunaSys, I am engaging deeply in not just the Danish but also the European quantum ecosystem(s) and immediately felt a need for broad-line commercialisation of the technology and increased industry collaboration, as we are basically reproducing the evolution in conventional computing that I knew so well from my early career. I believe my combined experience working with corporates as well as high-growth tech companies represents a relevant value-added in the board. My vision for DQC is to climb above the technological hype and grow the level of commercial engagements around real-life applications between real-life companies and quantum vendors.

## Henrik Møller Kristensen, Strategy & Operations Lead, Maybell Quantum Industries ApS



I am writing to express my interest in serving on the DQC Board of Directors for the 2024-2025 term. Maybell builds quantum infrastructure hardware for the most ambitious quantum research projects with our reliable, scalable and user-friendly solutions. We were founded in Denver, Colorado, and have since established our European HQ in Copenhagen and consider ourselves Danish as well.

I am one of the Danish leads of our Copenhagen office, ensuring that our MayQ Labs at the Niels Bohr Institute can accelerate the research agenda of the Danish quantum ecosystem.



Before Maybell, I have played many roles including startup co-founder, VC investor, board advisor and COO in a venture-backed startup. With my experiences both as investor and operator, I hope to contribute with ideas on shaping the quantum ecosystem and attracting startups from the region and beyond.

As a scale-up ourselves, serving leading quantum-focused companies and researchers as our customers, we possess deep insights into the sector's challenges and opportunities. On the DQC board, I aim to represent the voices of quantum startups and researchers, advocating for policies to support them.

In the US, Maybell is a founding member of the Elevate Quantum consortium, which won the EDA technology hub designation. Leveraging our transatlantic know-how and experiences, we aim to accelerate the lab-to-market transition by reducing the time and cost of commercializing quantum innovation in Denmark.

At Maybell we think a lot about workforce development. We have started and are committed to continuing deep engagement with the educational community to ensure we can utilize our infrastructure for classes, internships and job opportunities. As part of DQC, I hope to further this engagement so that Denmark continues to be one of the world's leading producers of quantum specialists who are trained to tackle the research problems of the future.

I am excited about the possibility of contributing to the DQC Board of Directors and I'm eager to bring my experience along with insights and capabilities from Maybell Quantum to help shape the future of Denmark's quantum industry. I hope to earn your trust to serve the Danish quantum community.

## Jonatan Kutchinsky, VP at Quantum Machines & Country Manager of QDevil



Jonatan Kutchinsky, PhD, Vice President of Cryogenic Electronics at Quantum Machines, Country Manager (adm.dir.) of QDevil ApS, which is the Danish branch of Quantum Machines. Member of the Board of Directors (bestyrelsen) of the Danish National Metrology Institute (DFM).

As co-founder of QDevil in 2016, I have been part of the Danish quantum community since the early beginning, turning university innovations into global business. I hope to contribute in strengthening the entire Danish quantum ecosystem with more activities and community building from DQC. If I am elected to the DQC Board of Directors, I am ready to help organise events and networking activities, to make DQC even more valuable for its members. I can also help with my experience in bringing innovations from the academic labs into the industry.

## Jørgen Ellegaard Andersen, CEO of Qpurpose & Director of Center for Quantum Mathematics, SDU and SDU Q-Hub



Jørgen Ellegaard Andersen, D.Phil, Professor  
Director of Centre for Quantum Mathematics, SDU Director of  
the SDU Q-Hub  
CEO and founder of Qpurpose.

I have, as member of the board of the DQC, the past year actively work on maturing the DQC from a small startup organization into a significant player in the Danish and International Quantum Ecosystem, by, in particular, working on proposing that the DQC creates subcommittees, so that the political initiatives by DQC are discussed broadly in the organization, such that they represent all involved partners. This work is not finished, and I will be very happy to continue it another two years, ensuring the DQC represents all its partners, so they get the political attention they need, ensuring the whole ecosystem develops successfully.

I bring the following to the table in the board of DQC:

1. Contacts to the worldwide elite research community within the field of Quantum Mathematics and quantum computing through a lifelong academic care in the field.
2. Extensive knowledge of quantum computing covering quantum algorithms for all the different QC computing platforms.
3. Broad experience with QC/QC-inspired algorithms solving actual challenges and problem for a number of the major Danish companies.
4. Contacts to the relevant QC stakeholders at a brought spectrum of major Danish Companies, via my role as founder and CEO of the spin off company Qpurpose.

I offer these contributions to DQC based on the following background:

My contributions to Quantum Mathematics and in particular to topological quantum field theory, which is the model behind *topological quantum computing* began with my thesis from Oxford University, continue during my hire at UC Berkeley and further with my directorship of the DNRFF Centre for Quantum Geometry of Moduli Spaces at Aarhus University to now as director of Centre for Quantum Mathematics (QM) at SDU, which is a permanent centre funded by dedicated SDU funds together with a number of European and Danish research Grants, including the most prestigious in Europe, an ERC-Synergy grant and the most prestigious in the US, a Simons Collaboration grant. We have further research grants joint with several quantum hardware groups at DTU and KU.

At QM, at SDU, we have a world class research group dedicated to development and application of quantum and quantum inspired algorithms. A number of academic partners, including several medical research groups at OUH and weather/climate experts at the Danish Metrological Institute have funded such research projects at QM aim at developing quantum and quantum inspired algorithms with applications within their own research areas.

At our Spin off company Qpurpose we have a similar development program, in close cooperation with QM, serving a number of major Danish companies, such as Ørsted, Jyske Bank, Novo Nordisk, Simcorp, Mærsk, EnergiNet, to mention a few, with QC/QC-inspired algorithms solving some of their actual challenges and problem.

The leadership of SDU has recently asked me to create and direct the SDU Q-Hub where we organize and unit all SDU activates within Quantum, so I am well positioned to represent all relevant activities at SDU with regards to the DQC.

<https://www.sdu.dk/en/qm> <https://qpurpose.dk> <https://www.sdu.dk/en/forskning/quantum-hub>

## **Kim Splittorff, Associate Professor, Niels Bohr Institute & Head of Education and Outreach, NQCP**



**Kim Splittorff, Associate Professor The Niels Bohr Institute, Head of Education and Outreach The Novo Nordisk Foundation Quantum Computing Programme.**

If we in Denmark are to keep our position among the front-runners in the development of quantum technologies we must work pro-actively to secure a quantum-ready workforce. Already now quantum trained employees are in high demand and the expected growth of the Danish quantum ecosystem in the coming years will only make this demand higher.

DQC has the potential to become a central player also when it comes to the Danish quantum-workforce development. By coordinating efforts across industry and universities in Denmark, DQC can be instrumental in giving Denmark an educational quantum advantage.

If elected for the DQC board, I bring in ample experience in educational matters both from my time as deputy-head of the Niels Bohr Institute and from my current work as Head of Education and outreach at the Novo Nordisk Foundation Quantum Computing Programme.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kim-splittorff-a47578200/>

<https://science.ku.dk/english/press/news/2023/the-university-of-copenhagen-is-awarded-a-quantum-technology-training-laboratory/>

## Lydia Baril, Head of Quantum DTU



My name is Lydia Baril, and I lead the quantum center at DTU.

As a current member of the DQC technical working group, I am seeking a board position within DQC to actively support the ongoing development of the Danish Quantum Ecosystem.

I have had the opportunity to work in various international settings, including IBM Silicon Valley, Oxford Quantum Circuits, Microsoft Quantum in the Netherlands, and as a startup co-founder in France. This diverse experience has given me a broad perspective that I believe can be useful in contributing to our local efforts. Here are a few examples:

- I have been educating stakeholders in other countries about Denmark's quantum ecosystem. For instance, I am invited to speak at a French Quantum Tech Day in October to discuss Denmark's quantum ecosystem. I also gave a talk at Johns Hopkins University last year. Additionally, I organized a visit to DTU and NBI for the main French influencer in quantum tech, O. Ezratty. Some of these initiatives have resulted in new collaborations.
- I have connected relevant Danish actors with the House of Quantum in the Netherlands to share best practices.
- I have been actively involved in the new Nordic Quantum community, mapping quantum activities across the Nordics and helping to write a white paper that will be distributed soon.

On the local side, during my time in Denmark, I have had the chance to connect with most Danish stakeholders in quantum, strengthening or initiating collaborations. I find the ecosystem to be dynamic, rich, and highly motivating.

My aim is to help build stronger connections and collaborations, both here in Denmark and abroad, to support the growth of our quantum ecosystem.

**LinkedIn:** [Lydia Baril | LinkedIn](#)



## Michael Kjær, CEO of DFM – Danish National Metrology Institute



My name is Michael Kjaer and I am CEO of DFM, the Danish National Metrology Institute. I have a MSc.E.E. from DTU and a graduate diploma in Business Administration from Copenhagen Business School. I have a background in photonics, working with product development, sales, product management and business development. Before DFM I was CEO of a Danish photonics technology startup company Crystal Fibre A/S for 8 years. The company is part of NKT Photonics today.

DFM is appointed as both the Danish National Metrology Institute and as a GTS institute. We develop, maintain and provide traceability to the Danish primary measurement standards and develop state of the art metrology solutions for Danish industry. DFM is one of the partners in the NATO DIANA center for quantum technologies in Denmark and cofounder of Danish Quantum Community. DFM leads the establishment of a consortium developing Quantum Denmark consisting of a quantum innovation hub and a quantum test center both located at KU-NBI, financed by the Ministry of higher Education and Science, Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial affairs and the Novo Nordisk Foundation

There is a significant need for new metrology solutions as well as development of written standards within quantum technology and DFM is committed to develop these is close collaboration with our Danish and international partners for the benefit of Danish industry.

Within DQC I will contribute to creating a globally leading quantum technologies ecosystem in Denmark, ensuring close collaboration between all partners and industry with DQC having a critical and leading role.

## **Natasha Friis Saxberg, CEO of Danish ICT Industry Association (IT-Branchen)**



**NATASHA FRIIS SAXBERG**

CEO, Danish ICT Industry Association

Vice chair, Danish Quantum Community

The Quantum agenda is crucial for Denmark as a nation, in terms of our future growth and for the industry's ability to compete on a global market in the future. That is why I founded DQC with NBI, with the goal to unite as many stakeholders as possible to cultivate and strengthen the ecosystem, that is necessary to succeed with the Danish Quantum agenda. That is also why I have worked intensively for the past 4 years together with the Danish ICT Industry Association (ITB), to get Danish organizations and our politicians aware of the urgency to act, with a national strategy and with funds, to compete with other nations, on the global quantum race that is taking place.

I will continue to work with promoting the engagement of our industries, our politicians and secure funding for the increasing number of quantum startups in Denmark, and to secure that we get more people educated in the field on our universities.

I believe I have succeeded in collaboration with DQC and ITB, to get our first national strategy, get +50 partners into DQC, ensure government funding and create awareness amongst venture capital and Danish corporations, to join the Danish Quantum agenda. The race has only just begun, and there is still a lot of work to do, and a lot of goals to achieve, and I hope to get elected to the BoD, to continue my work and create more results in the future, together with the rest of the Danish Quantum Community.

## Niels Gregersen, Professor at DTU Electro



Quantum technology is an emerging technology, hard to comprehend for non-physicists and with long return-of-investment. The DQC board needs a strong academic presence to ensure that the DQC understands the technology, what it can and cannot do, what the business opportunities are, when investors can expect a return on investment, and how long it will take to reach practically useful and advantageous applications, in particular within computing. I want to promote continuous long-term investment into the fundamental research still needed. Further, I want to ensure that the Danish quantum strategy and the stakeholders properly take into account the current (lack of) maturity and the long timescale for the commercial deployment, such that hype and disappointment are avoided.

I represent DTU Electro with >300 employees performing research within electrical and photonics engineering, including quantum photonics: In the “Quantum and Laser Photonics” group (20 persons), fundamental effects including phonon-induced decoherence and new engineering tools such as dielectric confinement for enhanced light-matter interaction are investigated. In the “Quantum Light Sources” group (11 persons), we design and fabricate highly efficient single-photon sources for optical quantum computing. In the “High-Speed Optical Communications” group (35 persons), integrated photonics for quantum information processing as well as advanced QKD protocols for quantum communication are pursued. Additionally, the spin-out company SiPhotonIC produces advanced silicon photonic integrated circuits for e.g. on-chip multi-dimensional entangling experiments.

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**Web:** <https://electro.dtu.dk/>

## Nikolaj Juncher Wædegaard, Vice President of Digitalization, Technology & Strategy at Danish Chamber of Commerce/Dansk Erhverv



Quantum is a game-changing technology field, where Denmark has a significant role to play, not least due to world class academic institutions and scientists. I have had the pleasure of actively promoting quantum technology for years at the national and international level, and from different positions within government, the tech industry and most recently from one of Denmark's largest trade associations. Recently, I have contributed to the National Strategy for Quantum Technology and have been given a seat at the National Forum for Quantum

Technology established by the government. I wish to strengthen the collaboration between key players in the quantum field and create more links within the ecosystem. I am committed to leveraging my cross sectorial experience, national and international network and political and business expertise in support of the Danish Quantum Community (DQC).

The Chamber of Commerce was one of the founding organizations of DQC and we remain very committed to the agenda. Should my candidature be successful, I will work tirelessly on the following priorities: 1) Help develop a professional multistakeholder approach, involving all relevant actors (research institutions, companies, trade organizations etc. in order to further a diverse quantum ecosystem. 2) Promote Danish quantum interests internationally, via my personal network within e.g. NATO (Secretary General's office), EU institutions (Commissioner Cabinets, DG Connect, MEP's etc.), and across European governments (e.g. Berlin, Paris, the Hague) as well as in Washington D.C. (where I was posted as diplomat for three years) 3) Build a constructive and coordinated relationship with Danish authorities and ministries. 4) Explore synergies between quantum research and commercial opportunities and use-cases. Specifically, by bringing into play the Chamber of Commerce's (18,000) member companies across sectors such as life science, energy, transportation, and defense.

I have for several years had the opportunity to work as a bridge-builder in the intersection between technology, politics, public and private sectors and across the domestic and international level, incl. as one of the founding fathers of 'TechPlomacy' and the establishment of Denmark's (and the world's) first embassy to technology – and in my subsequent capacity as Deputy Tech Ambassador. After that, inside one of the leading global companies in quantum, Microsoft, as the company's Chief of Staff in Europe, based out of the Europe HQ in Brussels. And now from my position in the Chamber of Commerce, where I have been tasked to help lead the efforts of building a new and ambitious technology focused organization and political agenda.

Right now, in spite of current momentum, my main concern is that fierce international competition means that our national legacy and position in the quantum field is at risk if the right policies and investments are not made, and if we don't make our efforts a team sport, leveraging all actors of the ecosystem. I am very committed to help promoting both companies already involved in the quantum agenda as well as the emerging start-up community – which will be crucial in order to consolidate Denmark as a European frontrunner in quantum business. One of the key next steps for DQC is to support the commercialization and promotion of the technology. I believe I can play an active role in bolstering the ties between the ecosystem and the broader business community. I look forward to meeting and strengthening the dialogue with all the members and partners of the DQC in the months and years to come, and I hope you will consider casting a vote for me.

**LinkedIn profile:** [Nikolaj Juncher Wædegaard | LinkedIn](#)

## Nikolaj Thomas Zinner, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Aarhus University



### Motivation:

Aarhus University (AU) is the home of excellent research groups in basic and applied quantum research. AU is dedicated to playing a central part in the development of quantum technology, and its use in industry. With the recent establishment of Quantum Campus Aarhus spanning across all faculties, AU is ready to provide its full support on the strategic and organizational agenda of DQC. I am therefore running for the Board of Directors of DQC as a representative of AU.

I am one of the co-founders of DQC and have been operational from the start in the organization, supporting the growth to the best of my ability. We can all be very proud of what has already been achieved by the partners and the Board members, and I hope to be part of the continued journey. My background is in theoretical quantum physics, and I work mainly on quantum algorithms and industrial use cases for quantum computers, but also have projects on design proposals for new quantum hardware. Furthermore, I am one of the co-founders of Kvantify, a Danish quantum software company with offices in Aarhus and Copenhagen, as well as in London.

**LinkedIn profile:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/zinner/?originalSubdomain=dk>

## Sofie Lindskov Hansen, Quantum Business Developer, Sparrow Quantum



Name: Sofie Lindskov Hansen

Job: Quantum Business Developer at Sparrow Quantum

With a background in experimental quantum physics, and strong ties to both academia and industry, I am uniquely positioned to aid in building a unified quantum ecosystem in Denmark.

My membership of the Young Academy of Technology, Science, and Innovation (YATSI) has deepened my commitment to fostering collaboration between industry and academia, which is essential for the burgeoning quantum sector. Denmark has an enormous potential in this field, and we must cultivate partnerships and synergies among all stakeholders to leverage this opportunity.

Quantum technology holds transformative potential, but it also presents significant challenges, from the development of hardware and software to the geopolitical implications, and I believe it is important to understand and respect these challenges when bringing people together to find ways to overcome them.

I am convinced that knowledge of Quantum physics and the potential of second-generation quantum technologies, can and should be made more broadly accessible, and I am eager to engage in efforts that increases quantum awareness in society at large.

On the Board of Directors in Danish Quantum Community I will represent not only young women in tech, but also small and medium-sized enterprises. My goal is to ensure that diverse perspectives are included in strategic decisions, driving forward a dynamic and strong quantum ecosystem.

## **Sune Bro Duun, Research & Development Manager, Topsil GlobalWafers A/S**



**Sune Bro Duun**

**Research & Development Manager at Topsil GlobalWafers A/S**

As a representative of a Danish company seeing a steadily increasing involvement in the exciting developments within the Quantum technology field, I wish to register my candidacy for a DQC board member position.

Quantum computing and sensing represents the frontier of technological innovation with a potential to transform many fields ranging from cryptography to material science, which by itself should make it interesting for almost any tech business. Topsil's primary stake in the Quantum community stems from the close connection between the fields of semiconductors and Quantum computing/sensing.

The full potential of Topsil's ultrapure Float Zone (FZ) silicon material for Quantum applications is still being investigated and expanded day by day, and as a subject of R&D, I envision a future in which we can offer customized semiconductors for Quantum and possibly tailor them to suit the needs of specific niches within the field, putting this upstream and important part of the Quantum ecosystem firmly on the world map – in Denmark.

Topsil is Denmark's largest semiconductor company, already with several international customers in Quantum computing and sensing – and with others in the pipeline, both within and outside of Denmark. Topsil offers a strong global network with access to important players across the semiconductor value chain, as well as universities and research institutions worldwide, including those in Denmark - and with its long history of successful development projects, the company is an experienced hub for the sort of collaborations that will be needed to better integrate the Danish Quantum Community.

Should I be appointed as a DQC board member, my aim will be to help this integration become fruitful, agile and strong internationally.

## Torben Larsen, Professor, Department of Computer Science, Aalborg University



Torben Larsen (professor, dr.techn.),  
Aalborg University, Department of Computer Science.

Mail: [tola@cs.aau.dk](mailto:tola@cs.aau.dk)

I was educated as electronics engineer in 1988 and has since then worked research-wise with topics such as microwave electronics and measurement techniques, noise in circuits and systems, integrated circuits, system design, etc. Later I turned more towards signal processing, and high performance computing. In recent years, I was associate dean for >10 years until 2022 in research and digitalization. Close to 2 years ago, I moved to my professor position to computer science where I since the beginning of 2022 have only worked on quantum.

Besides involvement in DeiCs quantum efforts, I have been co-lead (Danish lead) for a Quantum Excellence Center initiated by the DeiC board. At Aalborg University, I took the lead to form a cross department and cross disciplinary AAU Quantum Hub similar to most other universities and ensured this Hub applied for membership of DQC. I have a background covering hardware electronics, software, algorithms, and, not least, system knowledge.

I believe that many different scientific disciplines are necessary to make quantum technology a success both internationally and in Denmark. I also strongly encourage diversity – including several universities and companies in the DQC board, having joint activities like DQC and joint research and development projects. DQC serves as an important facilitator of collaboration among Danish universities, companies, and public organisations, and I believe I can add positively to the DQC board.



## Ulrich Hoff, Quantum Engagement Specialist at Kvantify



Name: Ulrich Hoff  
Job title: Quantum Engagement Specialist  
Employer: Kvantify ApS  
E-mail: ubh@kvantify.dk

I have a PhD in quantum physics and with 10+ years of academic research experience I have a deep technical understanding of the field of quantum technology, its potentials, and challenges. In late 2023, I left academia for a position at Kvantify – a position that puts me right in the machine room where quantum technology is turned into practical value.

In my previous positions as leader of QuantumDTU and Senior Advisor in quantum technology at DTU, I have dedicated much of my time to supporting and nurturing the Danish quantum ecosystem and I have played a central part in bringing to life several field demonstrations of quantum technology. Through my engagement in the ecosystem I have built a broad and strong network across academia, businesses, trade organisations, and public authorities, and since the inception of DQC I have enjoyed a position on the BoD, contributing actively and with dedication to the operation of the association.

Science runs deep in me and I have a strong passion for science outreach and communication. I enjoy communicating to all audiences – laypeople and professionals, funders and decision makers, children and adults – and I do so in articles, public talks, podcasts, videos, and as co-author of more than 14 artistic science books.

### **What motivates my candidacy?**

The national quantum ecosystem is steadily growing from the inside and thanks to a strong research environment, significant private investments, and the announcement of a funded national quantum strategy, leading international quantum players are now gravitating towards Denmark. To me this signifies that very interesting times are ahead. However, the ecosystem is still in its infancy and reliant on support from a diverse group of stakeholders. This requires a pragmatic BoD that can bridge the different interests. Furthermore, to build a successful and valuable quantum industry, DQC must raise broader awareness and commitment among potential quantum technology end-users across Danish industries. This must be done through fact-based communication and without fueling the hype. It would be my pleasure to continue actively contributing my background, experience, and skillset to this important work as member of the BoD.