From Greenlands to Tellusant

Academic research meets real-world management problems

Staffan Canback, DBA6



In 2002, I received my DBA based on research on diseconomies of scale



Canback, S. 2002:Bureaucratic Limits of Firm Size. DBA thesis, Henley Business School

Where business comes to life



The conceptual framework was converted into a path diagram $\frac{1}{9}$ $\frac{1}{9}$ $\frac{1}{9}$ $\frac{1}{9}$ $\frac{1}{9}$ $\frac{1}{9}$ $\frac{1}{9}$ $\frac{1}{9}$ $\frac{1}{9}$ $\frac{1}{9}$



The next slide converts this path diagram into LISREL notation matrix equations



I learned that a company can be expressed in algorithms; no executives required (in the future)



For this work, I was awarded the EDAMBA first prize for best DBA thesis in Europe, 2002/03



With a McKinsey and Monitor partner background, and fueled by the DBA, I built a next generation consulting firm



Canback Consulting was sold to The Economist Group in 2015



From this, I took the step in 2020 to realize the vision of automating management—Tellusant was founded StrategyAl Self-populated strategic plans TELLUSANT Share of Wallet Who-Where-When

Streamlining Decision Making







Staffan in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, drinking *airag* (fermented horse milk) during an M&A effort

I gained invaluable insights on my 'Greenlands to Tellusant' journey

- My Henley DBA instilled a worldview
 - Rationality
 - Facts
 - Attention to detail
- My professional life got immeasurably more fun after Henley
- It is not the specifics of what I learned, but the generalized wisdom, that matters. I never:
 - applied structural equation models after Henley
 - used the academic papers I read
 - had to write, write, write again



Finally, a large thank you to Henley and some key people. Their support made this journey possible

Phillip Samouel – Thesis adviser	Karl Lippert – CEO, SABMiller Latin America	Jesse Logan – VP, Canback Consulting
David Price – Thesis adviser	Carlos Brito – CEO, Anheuser- Busch InBev	Philip Burgin-Young – CEO, Tellusant (& Canback Consulting)
Louise Hillier – DBA program administrator	Richard Rushton – CEO, Distell	Bobo Shen – Chief Product Officer, Tellusant (& Canback Consulting)



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