

Thinking Straight in a Non-linear World



Brainovation

Innovation & Expertise Advice to Grow your Business

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To our new readers, welcome to Brainovation®!
And to our returning readers, welcome back.



As always, I look forward to continue to share insights into global developments in the Innovation and Expertise fields - and how they can work in and improve your business. In the first issue of the year I comment on mergers & acquisitions and include a viewpoint by Arthur D Little on European telecoms consolidation.

Is your organization involved in a merger or acquisition? Share your thoughts on my blog, the Brainovation Twitter feed, Facebook page, or by email.

In Brainovation® Buzz I highlight selected news and upcoming events.

Our contact information is at the bottom, as well as reprint permissions. Also included is a brief taste of what you can expect in upcoming issues. And remember, "in knowledge organizations, learning is work, thinking is doing"
Anders Hemre

In search of synergy: M&As on the rise

Industry consolidations typically occur as a consequence of economic downturns or as part of strategic positioning in competitive growth markets. 2014 was somewhat of a record year in terms of mergers & acquisitions with a global deal value of \$3.5 trillion. Ten of the year's fifteen largest acquisitions were for companies based in the US. European M&A activity was up 55% and Asia-Pacific reached a record total of \$716 billion. The trend is expected to continue. KPMG reports that 82% of surveyed US companies plan at least one acquisition in 2015.

European m&a activity is also expected to continue to increase despite the region's generally weak economic outlook.

Considering the sometimes high premiums paid for major acquisitions, significant synergies would be expected.

Arthur D Little offers this analysis of European telecom consolidations during the last few years with details on four Mobile-Mobile mergers:

[Creating value in telecoms consolidation](#)

Brainovation® Buzz

The 2015 World Economic Forum in Davos concluded on January 24.

Published papers include this report on entrepreneurship and competitiveness:

[Leveraging Entrepreneurial Ambition and Innovation](#)

Bloomberg reports on [Google's wireless plans](#).

Some 2015 conferences and events of interest:

Learning & Knowledge Management

January 28-29: [Learning Technologies](#), London, UK

February 25-26: [Henley Forum](#), Henley-on-Thames, UK

April 30-May 1: [APQC's KM Conference](#), Houston, TX

Innovation

February 9-11: [CoDev](#), Scottsdale, AZ

February 12-13: [ICIEB 2015](#), Amsterdam, Netherlands

March 26: [The Economist Innovation Forum](#), Chicago, IL

April 28-29: [Business Innovation Summit](#), Toronto, Canada

May 20-21: [InnoTown](#), Ålesund, Norway

June 15-17: [ISPIM](#), Budapest, Hungary

June 23-26: [R&D Mgmt](#), Pisa, Italy

For more Brainovation buzz, follow me on [Blogger](#), [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#) where I try to think straight in a non-linear world and where I share "micro thoughts" on life and work in the knowledge economy.

In the Previous Issue

In case you missed the December issue, here it is again:

[Risk perspectives in science based innovation](#)

In Upcoming Issues

Planned features for future issues of our newsletter include conversations with leading management gurus, interviews with international technology management executives as well as more readers' spotlights.



If you have feedback or questions about Brainovation, please contact me by email or through my twitter feed [@geoffdahl](#)

[Geoff Dahl](#)

Brainovation editor

Guru Interviews

Since our inception, sharing management and technology insights from around the world has been a focus of Brainovation. Now we give you the chance to enjoy all our guru interviews in one document.

[What The Gurus Say: Brainovation® Interviews 2007-2013](#) (PDF)

- **Thomas Hagbard:** Realizing Creativity
- **Mats Andersson:** Technology Innovation
- **Richard McDermott:** Knowledge and Expertise
- **Göran Fröling:** Managing Technology
- **Adam Gordon:** Forecasting the Future
- **Alan Middleton:** Managing Innovation
- **Michael Sutton:** Knowledge Management
- **Leif Edvinsson:** Intellectual Capital
- **Benjamin Gilad:** Competitive Intelligence

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