DASTAN AITZHANOV

EXECUTIVE | QUANTITATIVE FINANCE | REAL ESTATE

A versatile and visionary leader with hands on P&L management experience in the US and the emerging markets and deep industry expertise in quantitative finance and commercial real estate. With proven capability in high-level assignments such as: new business development and entrepreneurship, turnaround strategy development and implementation, business performance optimization, and cross-border investments and a hands on technical expertise in: data-science and quantitative finance. Looking to join an Austin based RIA/Hedge-fund as an investment professional or private equity firm as a portfolio company executive.

- ✓ Expanded the investment scope for a deca-million dollar foreign **family office** by founding and managing a **quantitative hedge fund**. Successfully developed thematic **quantitative investment strategies** that consistently outperformed the comparable HFRI indices on a risk-adjusted basis.
- ✓ Successfully led the company through a comprehensive turnaround strategy and the 2008 financial crisis with a consistent CAGR, including: strategic business acquisitions & divestitures and adopting world-class operating and governance standards
- ✓ Successfully advised and brokered the biggest real-estate deal in Aktobe, Kazakhstan to date, a \$70M+ land acquisition and office development for the China National Petroleum Corporation

- Quant Strategy Development
- AI/Machine Learning
- Equity Valuation
- Macroeconomics
- Real Estate Development
- Project Finance
- Project/Program Management

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MetaVi Labs

Investor / Board Advisor (Austin, TX & Bottrop, Germany)

7/2015 - Present

MetaVi Labs is a biotechnology start-up, which developed a revolutionary machine vision cell tracking technology in cooperation with Dr. Frank Entschladen, a leading German cancer research scientist. It markets the technology through a software-as-service model through a strategic partnership w/ Ibidi, a leading global supplier for functional cell-based assays and advanced products for cellular microscopy across 40 countries.

- Advised the CEO on technology commercialization, business development, and capital sourcing

DGI Capital

CEO / Founder (Austin, TX)

3/2014 - 12/2016

DGI Capital is private investment advisory firm, which served a foreign family office through an in-house quantitative long-short ETF strategy.

- Developed and stress/back-tested systemic quantitative investment strategies in Matlab and Python using traditional and alternative research data provided by Quandl through an API. Leveraged various machine-learning techniques such as: clustering, neural networks, decision trees, and regression. Also, engaged outside software engineers for more specialized assignments such as optimizing algorithm performance, complex web scraping, and natural language processing.
- Orchestrated the on-boarding of a deca-million dollar foreign family office, including: coordinating KYC/AML compliance and estate planning through Strassburger & Price, international tax planning through PWC, and establishing brokerage and banking relationships with JP Morgan Chase, UBS, and Wells Fargo Banks

Dastan Group

1/2006 - 3/2014

Dastan Group of Companies is a middle-market diversified real estate development and investment company with headquarters located in Aktobe, Kazakhstan. The company employs over 650 people across its portfolio companies in real-estate brokerage, commercial real estate development, and hospitality/property management divisions.

8/2010 - 3/2014

Vice-President / Member of the Board of Directors (Istanbul, Turkey)

- Developed vision and set strategic direction to portfolio company executives in line with targets for ROI and growth and implementation of strategic initiatives
- Responsible for recruiting and managing incentive pay for C-level executives across 5 portfolio companies
- Negotiated and led a international joint-venture partnership between an established Turkish construction company, Polikon Engineering and Dastan LLP

4/2007 - 7/2010

Director – Commercial Real Estate (Almaty, Kazakhstan)

- Responsible for managing the commercial real estate portfolio. Increased ROI by 63% and yield by 46% over a 2-year period
- Implemented and coordinated capital term sheet re-structure which increased portfolio WACC to 18.3% and reduced cost of financing by 23% through establishing a strategic relationship with UniCredit Bank, and raising capital through mezzanine financing
- Guided the management team through an annual planning cycle, including: review and approval of business plans, operating and capital budgets, and setting targets for KPIs
- Managed a \$25M+ investment budget for new commercial real-estate development projects, including: design and engineering/construction project management

1/2006 - 3/2007

Management Consultant (Aktobe, Kazakhstan)

- Successfully developed and implemented a corporate development and turnaround strategy, including: instituting a board of directors and engaging independent directors, recruiting expatriot CEOs for portfolio companies, overhauling organizational and sub-organizational alignment, and deploying an ERP system across the portfolio companies
- Sourced subsidies and grants through IFC, EBRD, and various state sponsored programs to pay for 80% of the cost of external consultants: Delloite, KPMG, & Pioneer ERP Consultants

Previous & Other Experience

- Saint Jude Medical (former NYSE: STJ), was acquired by Abbott Laboratories (NYSE: ABT) in January 2017, had more than 20 principal operations and manufacturing facilities worldwide with products sold in more than 100 countries. Successfully managed 200+ capital programs in the western US region, reduced non-compliant programs by 37%, resolved complex customer relationship issues: recovering/restructuring \$1.6K in debt as a Contract Analyst.
- **Bechtel Corporation** is the largest construction and civil engineering company in the United States and the 9th-largest privately owned American company in 2016. Performed project controls functions on multibillion dollar projects, including: anticipating and mitigating schedule conflicts or critical path impact, project staffing, and overhead cost management as a Project Management Engineer.
- Nabors Industries Ltd., (former AMEX symbol: AEL) is a global S&P 500 oil, natural gas and geothermal drilling contractor and is the largest land driller in the world with approximately 500 rigs working in more than 25 countries. Assisted an expatriate country manager on all matters relating to establishing presence in Kazakhstan, including: government relations, negotiating leases, business development, and talent acquisition and recruiting as an Executive Assistant.

EDUCATION

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SKILLS

- B.S., Architectural Engineering, University of Texas, Austin, TX 2004
- Excel, VBA, Python, Matlab, R, FactSet/Bloomberg/Quandl
- Economic Development Advisor to the governor of Aktobe State 2011
- Additional Languages: Russian (native), Turkish (fluent)