



Dr. BIRKMAYER, WOLFRAM

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Professional Experience

02/2025 - present Founder & Interim Executive, Birkmayer Aerospace, Hirschaid, Germany

- Founded own consultancy focused on interim executive mandates in aerospace and technology industries
- Prepared strategic positioning, offering portfolio, and market outreach
- Available for mandates in product & engineering excellence, safety, systems engineering, and transformation leadership

8/2016 – 1/2025 Safety Manager Commuter Aircraft Program, Siemens/Rolls-Royce-Electrical, Erlangen, Germany

Safety engineering for the development, certification, and industrialization of hybrid-electric propulsion systems and aviation products using Agile methods (Scrum, Kanban):

- Led international safety team (4 staff) within a multidisciplinary project team (50 staff)
- Developed safety plan and conducted comprehensive safety analyses (FHA, IHA, (P)SSA, CCA, FMECA) according to ARP 4761A and ARP 4754B
- Derived safety requirements and translated them into system architecture and design requirements
- Performed risk assessments and managed scheduling and resources for the safety work package
- Acted as primary safety interface for internal and external stakeholders (authorities, partners, customers)
- Achieved successful validation and certification of complex technical solutions
- Introduced innovative technical solutions – 4 granted patents and 13 patent applications
- Delivered agile, hands-on technical support for fail-safe systems with graceful degradation
- Established new capabilities in Safety, Reliability, and Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) tools
- Increased efficiency: 75% reduction in safety requirement processing time

9/2004 – 7/2016 Head of Transverse Engineering, Airbus, 31700 Blagnac/Colomiers, France

Led a multi-site, multinational department (56 staff) with an annual subcontracting budget of €15M:

- Technical responsibility for system architecture and optimization of electrical platforms (avionics, electrical systems) for Airbus A350
- Accountable for integration of safety-critical environmental hazard protection systems (lightning, HIRF, EMC, vibration, climate) for the entire aircraft
- Successfully introduced and certified the world's first EWIS (Airbus A350)
- Reduced development time by 50%; saved \$500,000 and 700 kg per aircraft
- Restructured department: reduced staff by 24%, achieving €50M in savings
- Introduced and led: functional architecture, model-based systems engineering (MBSE), requirements engineering, validation & verification
- Built in-house capabilities for environmental hazard protection and for engineering and procurement of system suppliers aligned with Airbus' strategy for complete system procurement
- Enabled governance and supplier management of system suppliers leveraging their latest technology know-how
- Applied Lean methods: SQCDP, go-look-see, value stream mapping, practical problem solving

Competences

Interim Management, Product- & Engineering Excellence, Safety Engineering, Systems Engineering, Transformation Leadership, Change Management, Innovation Management, Agile Methods (Scrum, Kanban), Lean Engineering, Process Optimization, Aerospace Engineering, Avionik, Electrical Systems, Safety Critical Systems, ARP 4761A, ARP 4754B, EWIS, HIRF, EMC

Tools

Polarion ALM, Teamcenter, Computer Aided Reliability Assessment (CARA), Primavera P6 / Oracle Primavera Cloud, Item Toolkit, APIS IQ-FMEA

Training & Leadership Development

Leadership Progression (Rolls-Royce – Level B People Leader), Leading at Rolls-Royce, The Great Strategy Debate, Attracting Future Talent, Finding Your Purpose, Networks that Work, Empowering Others, Performance Enablement Conversations, Bring People Along, Peer Coaching Group

Languages:

German: Native

English: Native

French: Fluent

- 12/2003 – 8/2004 Head of A330/A340 Final Assembly Line Improvement, Airbus, 31700 Blagnac, France**
 Led international improvement taskforce (30 staff) using Ishikawa & PDCA methodology
- Served as focal point for internal and external stakeholders
 - Increased on-time delivery from 25% to 100% within 10 months
 - Reduced production defects and quality-related claims by up to 75%
 - Delivered measurable performance improvements aligned with corporate goals
- 06/2001 – 11/2003 Senior Manager Organization Development, Airbus, 31700 Blagnac, France**
 Led transformation team (30 staff) during Airbus merger integration
- Strategically realigned and reorganized engineering structures to enable scalable growth
 - Aligned interfaces between program and sales organizations to improve delivery performance
 - Optimized HR and finance collaboration for cross-functional efficiency
 - Published the first Airbus Code of Conduct – aligning all corporate functions with governance principles
- 01/2001 – 05/2001 Head of Production Technology, Airbus, 21129 Hamburg, Germany**
 Led multidisciplinary team (60 staff) to recover industrialization delays of the A340-600 program
- Secured on-time readiness for first flight and aligned delivery with program milestones
- 10/1996 – 12/2000 Head of Propulsion Electronics, Astrium (now Airbus Defence & Space), 82024 Taufkirchen, Germany**
 Managed full product lifecycle: proposal, development, qualification, delivery, and in-service support
- Turned loss-making product lines into profitable programs (30% excess margin)
 - Improved quality through PDCA and FMEA prior to delivery
 - Led propulsion electronics during Astrium merger integration
- 09/1986 – 09/1996 Project Manager & System Engineer - Optoelectronics Systems, Deutsche Aerospace, MBB/ERNO (now Airbus Defence & Space), 82024 Taufkirchen, Germany**
- Led high-precision optical attitude control sensor development for satellite applications
 - Managed end-to-end development of optoelectronic systems with high innovation risk (e.g. LIDAR pollutant detection, optical beamforming network for phased-array antennas)
 - Led international consortium proposing German antenna subsystem in a multinational military satellite program
 - Full responsibility from concept and proposal to delivery in cooperation with European partners
- 01/1979 – 09/1986 Forschungsassistent & Systementwickler, USA / Deutschland / Puerto Rico**
 Affiliations:
- Arecibo Observatory, Cornell University, Puerto Rico
 - Space Plasma Physics Group, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA
 - Max-Planck-Institut für extraterrestrische Physik, Garching
 - Center for Atmospheric and Space Sciences, Utah State University, Logan, USA
- Focus areas:
- Development of electronic systems for ground, rocket, and satellite-based experiments
 - Chirped incoherent scatter radar systems for ionospheric research
 - Frequency analyzer systems for space missions
 - Microcontroller hardware and software for scientific satellite payloads (e.g. ROSAT)

Education

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| 6/1982 – 9/1986 | Doctor of Philosophy Electrical Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, U.S.A. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus: Control systems, radar signal processing, ionospheric plasma diagnostics• Dissertation: Chirped Incoherent Scatter Radar Plasma Line Measurements |
| 9/1981 – 6/1982 | Master of Engineering in Electrical Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, U.S.A. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus : Control Systems |
| 9/1978 – 6/1981 | Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Utah State University, Logan, UT, U.S.A. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduated Cum laude |
| 9/1977 – 6/1978 | American High School Diploma, American Community School, London, Vereinigtes Königreich |
| 9/1975 – 6/1977 | Parsippany Hills High School, Parsippany, New Jersey, U.S.A. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licensed amateur radio operator |
| 9/1971 – 7/1975 | Christoph Scheiner Gymnasium, Ingolstadt, Deutschland |