

VOLKER GAERTNER

INTERIM PLANT GENERAL MANAGER | OPERATIONS & TURNAROUND

Stabilize. Improve. Deliver.

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*“Operational
excellence
turns challenges
into opportunities.”*

PEOPLE
PERFORMANCE
SUSTAINABLE RESULTS

PROFILE

Interim Plant General Manager with 30+ years of international manufacturing experience in automotive and packaging. Proven track record in stabilising underperforming plants, leading OEM escalations and delivering sustainable performance improvements.

KEY COMPETENCIES

-  Turnaround & Crisis Management
-  Operational Excellence & Lean Manufacturing
-  OEM Management
-  Plant & Program Management
-  International Leadership
-  Change Management
-  Project & Stakeholder Management

PERSONAL DETAILS

Nationality: German
Residence: Hanover – Isernhagen-Süd
Mobility: International
Available: from January 2027 (earlier by arrangement)
Languages: German (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), Spanish (basic), Portuguese (basic), Chinese (basic)

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- +20%**
OEE improvement
- 46%**
Scrap reduction
- 45%**
Customer complaints
- >98%**
Delivery reliability

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Silgan White Cap Manufacturing GmbH** | Salerno, Italy 07/2026 – 12/2026
Interim Operations Site Manager
 - Stabilised an underperforming plant and improved operational performance.
 - Led a comprehensive improvement program (OEE, quality, planning, changeovers).
 - Strengthened shopfloor management and built a high-performance team.
- Silgan White Cap Manufacturing GmbH** | Hannover, Germany 01/2025 – 06/2026
Interim Plant General Manager
 - Full P&L responsibility for the largest Silgan site in Europe.
 - Improved OEE by +20%, reduced scrap by -46% and customer complaints by -45%.
 - Prepared and executed plant closure and production transfer.
- ABC Technologies Karl Etzel GmbH** | Mühlacker, Germany 11/2023 – 10/2024
Plant Manager
 - Stabilised operations in a demanding OEM environment.
 - Implemented cost reduction and improved material efficiency.
 - Introduced a Lean-based KPI system.
- IFA GmbH** | Haldensleben, Germany 03/2021 – 09/2023
Plant Manager
 - Managed production with focus on performance and efficiency.
 - Implemented measures to increase productivity and reduce costs.
 - Stabilised delivery performance after customer escalations.
- Purem Inc. (Eberspächer AG)** | Saltillo, Mexico 06/2020 – 02/2021
Task Force Leader
 - Stabilised a critical plant under OEM escalation (DTNA).
 - Reduced backlogs and improved delivery performance.
 - Successfully downgraded the plant's Q:Help status from Level 3 to Level 1.

FURTHER EXPERIENCE (1998 – 2021)

- Adler Pelzer Group
- AIS Automotive GmbH
- Bode GmbH
- TVS Nord GmbH
- Bury GmbH
- Faurecia Interior Systems GmbH
- Continental AG

EDUCATION

- Dipl.-Ing. (TU)**
Mechanical Engineering
TU Braunschweig
- MBA (IMM)**
Purdue University (USA) /
Leibniz University Hannover

REFERENCES

Available upon request.