

Curriculum Vitae Prof. Rolf Henke



Professor Rolf Henke joined the DLR Executive Board on 1 November 2010 and is responsible for Aeronautics research. He graduated in 1980 in Aerospace Technology from the Technical University in Berlin (Technische Universität Berlin). After working as research fellow at Cranfield University and TU Berlin Aerospace Institute from 1980 to 1985, he joined MBB (Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, now Airbus Operations) from 1985 to 2006. Amongst others he was responsible for Airbus High Lift Technology.

“DLR is a governmental organization for applied research, so it is our duty to give advice to politics, inform the public and support our industry. In this sense, we will support the BAS 2020 and the present activities to set up political action plans in Germany as well as in the EC. We facilitate activities of our industry for the next generation of aircraft and we explore the way forward for the next but one aviation system. As Europe’s largest research organization for aviation, today and tomorrow DLR will play a significant role in forming the future of aviation.”

Alongside his industrial responsibilities, Professor Henke has been an active presence in academia. He was lecturer in Aerospace Engineering at the Bremen University of Applied Sciences (Hochschule Bremen) from 1992 to 1996. In 2006, he became Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Technical University of Rhineland Westphalia (Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule, RWTH) in Aachen and head of the Institute of Aerospace Technology (Institut für Luft- und Raumfahrt, ILR).

Since 2013, he is President of the German Society for Aeronautics and Astronautics (DGLR). Furthermore, Professor Henke has an active presence in European Aviation Research Initiatives. He was involved in drafting of “Flightpath 2050”, the European vision for aviation. Also, he is strongly involved within ACARE since 2015, the Advisory Council for Aviation Research and Innovation in Europe, being Chair and now Co-Chair.