

## **Dr. Christian Kissinger, Founder & CEO of K1SS LLC**

Dr. Christian Kissinger is the Founder & CEO of K1SS LLC, established in 2017 in Charlotte, NC. A multilingual leader with extensive experience in operations and manufacturing management in a global environment from the start-up to full production, Christian is a self-starter with extensive skills and industry experience in composites.



Dr. Kissinger has spent more than twenty years developing his specialization in composite materials from R&D and engineering to the start-up and management of manufacturing operations and building growth strategies to enter new markets. Prior to his illustrious professional career, Dr. Kissinger received a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (Master's Degree) with main focus on Production Technology from the University of Kaiserslautern, Germany. He then continued to serve as an Assistant Professor at the *Institut für Verbundwerkstoffe GmbH* ("IVW"), a non-profit composite research institution and was awarded a Ph.D. in Composite Materials (Dr.-Ing.) in 2000.

After working as a Project and R&D Engineer at IVW, Dr. Kissinger went on to complement his academic education with business and management skills in critical positions at SAERTEX USA LLC, setting up the U.S. branch of the German advanced technical fabrics and composite parts manufacturer. He began his career with SAERTEX USA as a General Manager in 2001. Critically, as an accomplished, entrepreneurial leader with not only extensive knowledge and experience in the business of composite materials research and engineering, but also a deep understanding of the cultural challenges working across continents managing multinational teams, Dr. Kissinger was promoted to the position of Managing Director for SAERTEX USA in 2008. Further, in 2013, Dr. Kissinger successfully launched the company's start-up branch in Brazil, SAERTEX Tecidos Brasil Ltda. as its Managing Director. In these roles, Dr. Kissinger has led the establishment and development of SAERTEX's composite materials business in the Americas to US\$ 100 MM and on a global scale was part of the leadership team that grew the manufacturer of multiaxial non crimp fabrics from a small family owned business in Germany to a world market leader with more than 1,300 employees at 13 production sites in 9 countries on 5 continents.

Following 15 years with SAERTEX, Dr. Kissinger most recently held the position of Director, New Ventures with Owens Corning and oversaw executive duties in building a growth platform and incubator for new business ventures for the Composites Solutions Business. A central piece of the work he lead based on his entrepreneurial and business skills was to design business models to enhance company offerings and services for customers analyzing ecosystems, value chains and customer research to determine relevant solution positioning, including value proposition, pricing model, and go-to-market approach. In that role, Christian and his team experimented with new service models and - in partnership with science & technology - game changing technologies.

Today, with his own company K1SS LLC, Christian is dedicated to bring his Composites, Business and Cultural experience to drive the growth and success of technical solutions in numerous projects on a global scale. Dr. Kissinger's enthusiasm for technology and composites in particular, the ability to take projects from the inception and idea through the concept and strategy phase to a successful implementation, combined with his understanding to translate cultural differences and language barriers, are key to his goal to help companies and businesses strive, to increase the share of composites - and to deliver to the motto of K1SS: keep ONE smart solution.

In addition to his roles in the industry, Dr. Kissinger has served as the Director of the North Carolina Chapter of the German American Chamber of Commerce, is an invited speaker at intl. conferences and was the chairman and organizer of various composite training workshops for industry and academia.

Christian is fluent in German, English and Portuguese and tries to maintain his French skills at an acceptable level. His latest language challenge is to learn Czech.