

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h.c.

Harald Ludanek



„The **automotive sector** has been and will continue to be **a significant innovation driver.** Individual mobility requirements and environmentally compatible logistics will continue to be the **basis of a functioning economy in the future.**“

Harald Ludanek's profound expertise in the automotive sector and his 26 years of experience in automotive development make him an expert in this field.

After his apprenticeship as a Customs Officer, he completed his Mechanical Engineering studies at Clausthal University of Technology, with a focus on analysis technology and operational stability. In 1990, Harald Ludanek received his PhD in the field of machine dynamics and rotor dynamics, for which he worked on the stable running behavior of high-speed centrifuges.

He began his industrial career in Research at Volkswagen in 1992, where he was involved in the development of new engine concepts and transmission technologies and, among other achievements, registered 10 patents. After working as an Assistant to the Board of Management in Volkswagen's Technical Development department, he was responsible for Group Development Management from 2000 to 2002. From thereon, Harald Ludanek became a member of the Board of Management at Škoda Auto, where he was responsible for Technical Development in Mlada Boleslav in the Czech Republic. In 2007, he was appointed Head of Overall Vehicle Development and Test Engineering at Volkswagen in Wolfsburg. In 2012, he was appointed Chief Development Officer at Scania in Södertälje, Sweden. In the context of this role, he focused on the development of a new generation of trucks, new engine development, hybrid development and a modular construction system. In 2016, Harald Ludanek was appointed Chief Development Officer at Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles. Since 2017, he has been devoted his time more intensively to university activities and consulting, as part of an early retirement arrangement.

In addition to his professional career, Harald Ludanek has always sought contact with universities and research institutions. In Sweden, he was pivotal to founding the ITRL Institute at KTH Stockholm University, for which he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Royal Institute for Technology in 2015. He has been teaching at Clausthal University of Technology since 2011 and was appointed Honorary Professor in 2016. As a member of the Supervisory Board at Schmitz Cargobull, Harald Ludanek continues to contribute to solving issues in the field of logistics and future mobility.

Since 2017, Harald Ludanek has also been a member of the 3DSE Advisory Board and supports the consulting company with his ample years of experience in practice and teaching, as well as his high-caliber network from the automotive sector.