

Prof. Volker Gass, Swiss, born 1964,



After completing his master's degree in Microtechnology at the Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne in 1989 he worked as a Project Manager at Mecnex SA, a Swiss High-Tech company active in the field of Aerospace Mechanisms. While working at Mecnex he completed a PhD in Science in the field of applied Micro-Systems Technologies at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 1994.

In 1995, Volker Gass participated in the Management Buy Out of Mecnex SA and was at that time elected Vice-President of that company with main responsibilities in Sales and Marketing. In 2000, Mecnex was acquired by the Swiss Defence and Technology group RUAG and its operations affiliated to RUAG Aerospace's Systems & Space Division. Volker Gass remained in his operative position in Sales & Marketing at that time.

In 2004, following the successful integration of Mecnex into RUAG Aerospace, Volker Gass was appointed to lead Customer Relations and Business Development of the newly formed Systems & Space Division at RUAG Aerospace's headquarters in Emmen. In the same year he was appointed member of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences for his contribution in the field of High-Technology Space applications. From November 2006 to June 2007, Volker Gass successfully graduated RUAG's Top Leadership Course, and held the position of General Manager, Sales & Marketing in the Space Division of RUAG in Switzerland as well as Member of the Board of Directors (President) of Mecnex USA Inc., Berlin, CT, subsidiary of RUAG Aerospace until December 2009.

In 2008 he successfully led the acquisition of SAAB Space and its subsidiary Austrian Aerospace. In January 2009, he was appointed head of Innovation and Products, covering the corresponding technology development coordination activities of the Space business unit in Switzerland, Austria and Sweden. From January to June 2009 Volker Gass led the business team in the successful acquisition of Oerlikon Space. From mid-2009 to September 2011 he was responsible for Special Projects in the Marketing & Sales Organization of RUAG Space Switzerland.

Since October 2011, Dr. Volker Gass is nominated Director of the Swiss Space Center at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. In March 2012, he is awarded the title of Adjunct Professor at the School of Engineering (STI) of the EPFL. In January 2014, he was nominated member of ESA's Human Spaceflight and Exploration Science Advisory Committee (HESAC) and in spring 2015, observer at ESA's Earth Science Advisory Committee (ESAC).

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