

# Board of Trustees for Polymer Engineering and Science Leoben

Greetings from  
**KommR Ing. Mag. Dr.  
Michael Pöcksteiner,**  
Chairman and Technical Council

and

**Prof. Dr. Hans J. Kaluza**  
Honorary Chairman

50 years of the study program in Polymer Engineering and Science at the Montanuniversität Leoben, 31 years of the board of trustees for Polymer Engineering and Science, two milestones, closely connected by a shared history.

According to the statutes of the Association of Leoben Plastics Engineers (Verband Leobener Kunststofftechniker, VLK), the "Board of Trustees for Polymer Engineering and Science Leoben" has been active since 1989. It consists of leading personalities of the Austrian plastics industry and appoints itself, in accordance with the proposal of its chairman. The Board of Trustees currently has 17 members. The chronology of its development is shown on the following pages.

In the commemorative publication on the occasion of "25 Jahre Kunststofftechnik 1969-1994" (25 years of Polymer Engineering and Science), the founding of the Board of Trustees is described as follows:

*"The Board of Trustees Polymer Engineering and Science Leoben goes back to a proposal of the graduate Dipl.-Ing. Dr.techn. Florian*



Hans J. Kaluza



Michael Pöcksteiner

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*Altendorfer in the context of the general assembly of the Association of Leoben Plastics Engineers (VLK) on May 27, 1988. This proposal was embraced by Dipl.-Ing. Eduard Figwer in his function as newly elected president of the VLK and by Ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr.phil. Klaus Lederer, Chairman of the Study Commission for Polymer Engineering and Science, in the fall of 1988. This led to the foundation of the Board of Trustees for Polymer Engineering and Science Leoben, for which fourteen personalities of the Austrian plastics industry were welcomed as members in time for the constituent meeting on April 26, 1989.*

*At that time, the study program of Polymer Engineering and Science was stuck in a difficult phase of its development; characterized by the vacancies at all three polymer institutes and their corresponding chairs. Therefore, there was an acute need for the institutionalization of cooperation with all important plastics technology industries. In coordination with Magnificence O.Univ.-Prof. Dr.mont. Franz Jeglitsch, Rector of the Montanuniversität Leoben, the following*

areas of responsibility had been defined:

- Consultation of the university committees regarding the priorities of the further expansion of the study program Polymer Engineering and Science .
- Advising the Study Commission for Polymer Engineering and Science on modern teaching content.
- Promotion of the cooperation of Leoben's polymer engineering institutes with the Austrian plastics industry.

The resulting most important topics of the consultations were:

- Spatial expansion of the study program (procurement of property for the construction of a new pilot plant hall, new building for Polymer Engineering and Science).
- Concepts for research and teaching of the newly appointed full professors Langecker, Lang and Wörndle and
- ongoing development of the four institutes of Polymer Engineering and Science.
- Ongoing development of initial enrollment and graduate numbers (recruitment first year students, career opportunities for graduates).
- Reform of studies (design of internships, shortening of study periods, shortcomings in education, international exchange of students and professors).
- Plastics and the environment (disposal, image problems, public relations for industry and technical training centers, international trends, e.g. in the context of APME).
- Economic trends (mergers, price developments, etc.).
- Efforts to fully expand the Institute of Polymer Chemistry by assigning a full professor.
- Training courses offered by the institutes of Polymer Engineering and Science.
- University of Applied Sciences for Polymer Engineering and Science.

*The input from the consultations were continuously implemented in corresponding work programs".*

So much for the quote. Today – 25 years later – it can be stated that many of the goals set at the time were achieved, taking into account the dynamics of changing framework conditions. Thus, an important contribution could be made to a solid base on which the successful development of the study program Polymer Engineering and Science can continue.

To date, approx. 800 graduates have successfully completed this study program. They contribute to the success of the Austrian plastics industry in responsible positions and are also in great demand internationally. The globally recognized research activity of Leoben's Polymer Engineering and Science – with 50 years of experience in research and teaching – is reflected in more than 125 ongoing projects and a total workforce of around 240 (including PCCL employees) in Leoben.

The intense cooperation with economic and industrial enterprises is an essential element of the research and development activities at the Montanuniversität Leoben. In this sense, Leoben's Polymer Engineering and Science sees itself as a modern and independent research partner open to all companies in the plastics industry. This approach is also convincingly expressed by the successful development of the Polymer Competence Center Leoben GmbH (PCCL).

Leoben's Polymer Engineering and Science department has therefore made an important contribution to strengthening Austria and Europe as a location for plastics and



Members of the Board of Trustees for Polymer Engineering and Science and professors for Polymer Engineering and Science in the staircase of the main building of Montanuniversität Leoben.  
First row, f. l. t. r.: Michael Pöcksteiner, (Chairman), Elisabeth Ladstätter, Martha Mühlburger (Vice-Rector for Finance and Infrastructure), Walter Häder;  
Second row, f. l. t. r.: Gerald Pinter, Hans J. Kaluza (Honorary Chairman), Clemens Holzer, Ernst Pöcksteiner, Werner Balika; Third row, f. l. t. r.: Wolfgang Kern, Thomas Schwarz, Harald Bleier, Rudolf Wölfer, Peter Höllwarth; Fourth row, f. l. t. r.: Marco Grugger, Armin Holzner, Christian Kukla, Ralf Schledjewski

composite technology as well as polymer sciences. Excellently trained specialists and ambitious R&D activities are crucial for the Austrian plastics industry to be able to assert itself in global competition – but they also strengthen Austria as a research location.

In order to maintain and further develop this high standard, the following important prerequisites have been created for continued successful development in the future: The new Leoben Center for Polymer Engineering and Science with its state-of-the-art research infrastructure was opened in April 2010. In addition, two new Institutes were established in the fields of "Injection Molding of Polymers" and "Processing of Composite Materials". The K1 application, which is really

important for the Polymer Competence Center Leoben (PCCL), was also approved in full at the end of 2009. The COMET application for the continuation of the PCCL until 2024, which is so important for the Polymer Competence Center Leoben (PCCL), was also fully approved in 2016. In February 2020, the application for the 2021 to 2024 funding period was submitted.

These success stories were not borne out of chance, but came from a systematic approach, which was also consistently supported by the Board of Trustees. A close connection between science and industry is an important prerequisite for a goal-oriented innovation process. However, the Board of Trustees also sees its role in extending the

spectrum even further, from science to industry and business and on to associations, interest groups, authorities and politics.

The Board of Trustees would therefore like to take this opportunity to express its special thanks to all the personalities and institutions involved in making these successes possible. In addition, we want to extend our thanks also to the university management, the professors of Polymer Engineering and Science with their dedicated teams, and the representatives of the city of Leoben, who always showed great interest in the work of the Board of Trustees. Especially

the members of the Board of Trustees are to be thanked for valuable impulses and important contacts in connection with the achievement of the set goals.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for Polymer Engineering and Science Leoben, we would like to congratulate on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the study program of Polymer Engineering and Science at the Montanuniversität Leoben.

Glück auf!  
Dr. Michael Pöcksteiner,  
Dr. Hans J. Kaluza

### **Members of the Board of Trustees for Polymer Engineering and Science, starting from 1989, with the changes in subsequent years up to 2019**

**KommR Ing. Walter Kadl, MBA** since 1989  
CEO of PCD Polymere GmbH from 1988 to 1997.  
CEO of Borealis from 1998 to 2000.  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1989 to 2001.

**Technical Council Prof. Dr. Hans J. Kaluza** since 1989  
Managing Director of Bayer Austria GmbH until 2001.  
President of the Austrian Research Institute of Chemistry and Technology, ofi, until 2007, thereafter Honorary President.  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2010.  
Honorary Citizen of the Montanuniversität Leoben.  
Honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees since 2010

**Dkfm. Hans M. Berlisg** 1989 – 2001  
Member of the Executive Board of Cincinnati Milacron Austria GmbH until 2008.  
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**Dr. Roland Bruckmüller** 1989 – 2005  
Head of the Material and Technology Development of Video Plant of Austrian Philips Industrie GmbH.

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**KommR Dipl.-Ing. Wilhelm Klepsch** 1989 – 2017  
Managing Director of Senoplast Klepsch & Co GmbH, Senova Kunststoffe GmbH & CoKG and Zellmetall GmbH.

**Dipl.-Vw. Ing. Georg Mayerhoffer** 1989 – 1994  
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**Prof. Dkfm. Dr. Ernst Pöcksteiner** since 1989  
Honorary Member of the Board of Trustees since 2008.  
Shareholder of Dietzel GmbH. Executive Shareholder of Dietzel GmbH from 1969 to 2000.  
President of the Plastics Processors Association of Austria (VÖK) until 2000, thereafter Honorary President.  
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Honorary Citizen of the Technical University Vienna.

**Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Prinzborn** 1989 – 1997  
Shareholder of W. Hamburger Unterland Gesellschaft für Kunststofftechnik.

**Hon. Prof. Dr. Harald Rauch – Puntigam** 1989 – 1991  
Head of Research Department of Vianova – Kunstharz AG.

**Mag. Peter Roos** 1989 – 2004  
Managing Director of Karl Eder Robustplastik Kunststoffverarbeitungsges.m.b.H.

**KommR Georg Schwarz<sup>†</sup>** 1989 – 2010  
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**Hon.Prof. Dr. Franz Sommer** 1989 – 2007  
Technical Director of Semperit Technische Produkte GmbH until 2000.

**Ing. Siegfried Stichauner** 1989 – 2004  
Federal Guild Master of the Plastics Processing Industry.

<b>Dipl.-Ing. Ernst Thun<sup>†</sup></b> Head of Technology at Poloplast GmbH. Thereafter Managing Director of Geberit GmbH.	1989 – 2008	<b>Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Thomas Schwarz</b> Managing Director of SKF Sealing Solutions Austria GmbH.	since 2004
<b>Dkfm. Dr. Werner Tessmar-Pfohl<sup>†</sup></b> Chairman of the Board of Sattler AG. Chairman of the University Council of University of Graz. Vice President of the Federation of Industry Styria.	1991 – 2011	<b>Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Abel</b> Board Member of Borealis Polyolefine GmbH until 2007. Vice President Operations & Asset Development Polyolefines, Borealis AG	2006 – 2019
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<b>Dr. Kurt Nordberg</b> Head of Research of Department Technical Resins Vianova – Kunstharz AG.	1991 – 2003	<b>Dipl.-Ing. Gerhard Schwander</b> Chairman of the Executive Board of Isovolta AG.	2006 – 2013
<b>Ing. Leopold Katzmayer</b> Managing Director of Gabriel Chemie International Holding GmbH. President of VÖK from 2000 to 2015.	since 2001	<b>Dipl.-Ing. Richard Ehrenfeldner</b> Member of the Executive Board of Semperit AG Holding.	2007 – 2018
<b>KommR Ing. Hans Prihoda</b> Federal Guild Master of the Plastics Processing Industry. Managing Director of Lasergruppe Materialbearbeitungs GesmbH.	since 2001	<b>Dipl.-Ing. Alexander Komenda<sup>†</sup></b> Project Manager „ecoplus“ and Plastics Cluster Lower Austria.	2008 – 2013
<b>KommR Herbert Willerth</b> Executive Vice President of Operations Borealis AG. Deputy CEO Borealis AG.	2001 – 2006	<b>KommR Ing. Mag. Dr. Michael Pöcksteiner</b> Executive Shareholder of Dietzel GmbH. Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Polymer Engineering and Science Leoben since 2011	since 2008
<b>Dipl.-Ing. Walter Häder</b> Managing Director of battenfeld-cincinnati Austria GmbH, Division Infrastructure; currently Managing Director of WINDMÖLLER & HÖLSCHER Machinery GmbH.	since 2001	<b>KommR Mag. Adolf Seidl</b> Managing Director of Solvay Vienna GmbH until 2015, Managing Director of Inovyn Österreich GmbH since 2015 Chairman of Plastics Europe Austria.	since 2008
<b>Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Jürgen Miethlinger, MBA</b> Managing Director of Poloplast GmbH. Chairman of the Supervisory Board of ofi, Vienna, from 2007-2012.	2004 – 2008	<b>Dr. Peter Neumann</b> Managing Director of Engel Holding GmbH	2010 – 2017
<b>Dr. Wilhelm Paar</b> Managing Director of Cytec Austria GmbH, 2004 – 2013. Global Development Director Liquid Resins & Additives at Allnex Austria GmbH, 2013 – 2015	2004 – 2015	<b>Dipl.-Ing. Alexander Tessmar-Pfohl</b> Managing Shareholder of Sattler AG	since 2011
		<b>Mag. Heinz Riedler</b> Isovolta AG	2013 – 2018
		<b>Dr. Christoph Mauracher</b> Managing Director of STRATEC Consumables GmbH	2013 – 2019
		<b>Dr. Stefan Engleder</b> Managing Director of Engel Holding GmbH	since 2017

Ing. Harald Bleier  
Cluster Manager of Plastics and Mechatronics  
Clusters Lower Austria at ecoplus.

since 2017

Dr. Armin Holzner  
Head of R&D of Semperit AG.

since 2017

Dipl.-Ing. Marco Grugger  
Head of Process Engineering at Senoplast Klepsch & Co. GmbH

since 2017

Dr. Peter Höllwarth  
Member of the Board of Isovolta AG

since 2019

Dipl.-Ing. Rudolf Wölfer  
Head of Circular Economy Solutions, Innovation Studio  
& Innovation Head Quarter at Borealis AG

since 2020

Dipl.-Ing. Dr.mont. Werner Balika  
Engineering Manager, Stratec Consumables GmbH

since 2020

## Polymer Competence Center Leoben GmbH (PCCL)

**Dipl.-Ing. Dr.mont. Elisabeth Ladstätter**  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

and

**Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kern**  
Chief Scientific Officer (CSO)

Under the leadership of the institutes of Polymer Engineering and Science at the Montanuniversität Leoben, the establishment of a Kplus Competence Center in the field of Polymer Engineering and Polymer Science was applied for in 2001. In doing so, Polymer Engineering and Science followed the example of the Material Center Leoben, founded in 1999 in the area of metallic materials.

After approval of the application by the FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency) the Polymer Competence Center Leoben GmbH (PCCL) was founded as a limited company, with the Montanuniversität Leoben, the Graz University of Technology (TU Graz), the University of Linz, JOANNEUM RESEARCH Forschungsgesellschaft mbH, Upper Austrian Research GmbH and the Municipality of Leoben being the owners. The role of the municipality of Leoben is, e.g., mirrored by its support for setting up the research facilities at the headquarters site of PCCL in Leoben.

Today, PCCL is a K1-Center within the COMET Program of the FFG, funded by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK, formerly BMVIT), the



Elisabeth Ladstätter



Wolfgang Kern



Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW), and the Federal States of Styria, Upper Austria and Lower Austria. PCCL's annual research budget in the COMET-K1 area amounts to € 5.65 million.

The Management Board of PCCL consists of Dr. Elisabeth Ladstätter (Chief Executive Officer) who started in July 2018 following Mag. Martin Payer, MBA, and Prof. Wolfgang Kern (Chief Scientific Officer), following Prof. Reinhold Lang in 2008.

Elisabeth Ladstätter is in charge of overall operation, finance and controlling, legal issues, contacts with funding organizations, public relations, human resources and she also heads the Center's overall administrative services. Prof. Wolfgang Kern is responsible for the implementation and supervision of the research activities. He also