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Sigmar Wittig

Former Chairman, German Aerospace Center Cologne, and Professor emeritus of the Institute for Thermal Turbomachinery, KIT Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, Germany.

Office: ARMS



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Biography

Since September 2009, Prof. Wittig is a Member of the Board of Presidents of the Technical University System of the State of Niedersachsen (Association of the Universities of Hannover, Braunschweig and Clausthal).

German-born Sigmar Wittig is chairman emeritus of the executive board of the German Aerospace Center (DLR e.V., the equivalent of NASA) and a member of the executive board of the German Telekom Foundation.

After earning his PhD in mechanical engineering in 1967 from the Technical University Aachen, Dr. Wittig became an associate professor at Purdue and a development engineer with Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1976 he became professor, head, and chair of the Institute for Thermal Turbomachinery at Karlsruhe University. Following his tenure as prorektor/vice president of the University of Karlsruhe and as vice president of the German Research Foundation, Dr. Wittig served as rektor/president of the University of Karlsruhe from 1994 through 2002. In 1996 he was elected chairman of the Conference of University Presidents, Baden-Wuerttemberg, and in 2002 assumed his position at DLR. From July 2005 to June 2007, he served as the chairman of the Council of the European Space Agency (ESA).

Dr. Wittig received the Karl Heinz Beckurts-Prize, the Heisenberg Medal of the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation, and the R. Tom Sawyer Award of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. In 2003 he obtained the Federal Cross of Merit, 1st class, of the Federal Republic of Germany, and in 2007 the Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur of the French Republic. He is a member of the German National Academy of Scientists Leopoldina, the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and other academic societies. He has received honorary doctorates from the Technical Universities at Darmstadt (Germany), Budapest (Hungary), and Ufa (Russia), as well as from Purdue and the Aristoteles University in Thessaloniki (Greece).

Dr. Wittig also serves as a member of several boards of directors and trustees. Among others, he is a member of the SEW-EURODRIVE Foundation, Bruchsal, the advisory board of MAN Turbo, Oberhausen, the advisory board of the Technical University Darmstadt and the advisory boards of the School of Mechanical Engineering and the College of Engineering, Purdue University.

Dr. Wittig is married and has two children.

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