

Press release

Henning Karbstein will be taking over as managing director of KRAIBURG TPE Americas
Waldkraiburg, September 2024
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KRAIBURG TPE welcomes new managing director for Americas: Henning Karbstein

Henning Karbstein will be taking over the management of KRAIBURG TPE for the North, Central and South America region as of October 1, 2024. He will be managing the operational business of the global TPE manufacturer from its location in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Karbstein has extensive experience from the automotive and engineering industries and is taking over from Jeff Frankish, who is retiring after 17 successful years.

Waldkraiburg, September 4, 2024 – Henning Karbstein will be taking over the management of KRAIBURG TPE for the North, Central and South America region (“Americas”) as of October 1, 2024. Mr. Karbstein will be managing the operational business of the global TPE manufacturer from its U.S. location in Atlanta, Georgia. He has already been receiving extensive training and an introduction to his new areas of responsibility since April 1, 2024 – both at the head office of the U.S. branch and at the company's headquarters in Waldkraiburg, Bavaria, Germany. He will have full operational scope in his new position from the start of the fourth quarter of 2024.

Mr. Karbstein will be taking over the position and duties from his predecessor, Jeff Frankish. Mr. Frankish has successfully conducted his role as managing director for 17 years and will be retiring after a six-month transition phase that ends on September 30, 2024.

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Oliver Zintner, CEO at KRAIBURG TPE: "Jeff has done pioneering work in the Americas and has advanced the development of our business areas there at a high level. This and his extraordinary presence have left lasting traces on the whole company. However, we are confident that his successor, Henning Karbstein, will continue on this path to success in the best tradition and, with his management and industry expertise from the automotive and engineering industry, will take us to the next stages of development in America in the coming years."

After graduating in 1996 in mechanical engineering in Karlsruhe, Germany, with a diploma dissertation on "The Development of Gasoline V Engines" in the design department at Mercedes-Benz AG, Hennig Karbstein started his professional career at Schaeffler Group, an automotive Tier-1 supplier based in Herzogenaurach, Germany. There he initially worked in application engineering and product management for valve train components, before moving to the Detroit, Michigan, US area, in 2001. He joined the "engine systems" division in 2002 to lead a global project team as program manager.

In 2005, he moved to Schaeffler Group USA in Fort Mill, South Carolina, and took over the position of Lean Process Manager in 2007, for the headquarter at that site and for all the production plants in North America. In 2012, Mr. Karbstein moved to North Carolina, from Schaeffler to BASF Corporation in Charlotte, where as Manager for New Business Development & Idea Management, Dispersion and Resins, he was responsible for the division's business development in North America. In 2019, he switched to Badische Stahl Engineering in Charlotte, where as Vice-President of Sales, he was responsible for the North American region.

Henning Karbstein: "KRAIBURG TPE has long been established as a major player in the plastics processing industry in the region. Going forward, I want to contribute to expanding our business activities in North, Central and South America even further so that we can gradually unlock our full potential there."

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Image: From October 1, 2024, Henning Karbstein will be managing the operational business of the global TPE manufacturer from its location in Atlanta, Georgia *(Image: KRAIBURG TPE).*

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About KRAIBURG TPE

KRAIBURG TPE (www.kraiburg-tpe.com) is a global manufacturer of custom thermoplastic elastomers. KRAIBURG TPE was founded in 2001 as an independent business unit of the KRAIBURG Group and is now the industry's competence leader in the field of TPE compounds. The company's goal is to provide safe, reliable and sustainable products for customer applications. With more than 660 employees worldwide and production sites in Germany, the USA and Malaysia, the company provides a large product portfolio for applications in the automotive, industrial and consumer goods industries, as well as for the strictly regulated medical sector. The established THERMOLAST®, COPEC®, HIPEX®, and For Tec E® product lines are processed by injection molding or extrusion and offer manufacturers numerous advantages not only in processing but also in product design. KRAIBURG TPE is characterized by its innovative strength, global customer orientation, customized product solutions and reliable service. The company is ISO 50001 certified at its headquarters in Germany and holds ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certifications at all its sites worldwide.