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Berend Denkena is the full-time Institute Director and Chair of Production Engineering and Machine Tools at Leibniz University Hannover. This institute employs about 100 scientists and Ph.D. students, about 200 bachelor and master students, and another 30 technical and administrative staff. In the past 10 years, Denkena and his team have raised an average of more than 10 million Euros in third party funding per year. His h-index is 52 with over 14,000 citations according to Google Scholar.

Denkena is a trained machinist and a mechanical engineer. In 1992, after completing his doctorate in Hannover with our CIRP Honorary Fellow Hans Kurt Tönshoff on ceramic cutting tools, he went into the machine tool industry as a design engineer and later head of various research and development teams at Hueller Hille in Germany and the USA. This company merged into today's MAG IAS GmbH, now part of the Fair Friend Group, Taiwan. From 1996 to 2001, Denkena headed product development and engineering at GILDEMEISTER Drehmaschinen (Turning Machines), now part of the DMG MORI Group. In 2002, after ten exciting years in industry, he returned to the University of Hannover in the above-mentioned position. Denkena is an enthusiastic scientist, inventor and developer of machine tools and related technologies. His passion belongs to innovative concepts for machine tools including their further development towards more autonomy as well as future tools and manufacturing processes, and solutions for a more sustainable manufacturing. Denkena is a member of CIRP (former Chairman, Board Member and currently Vice President), WGP (former President), acatech and a member of relevant supervisory boards (i.e. DMG MORI AG).

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