

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Müller-Kirschbaum**

**Member of Advisory Boards, Scientific Advisor,  
Lecturer**

**Former Corporate Senior Vice President,  
Innovation & Sustainability  
Henkel AG & Co. KGaA**



Thomas Müller-Kirschbaum has thirty years of management experience at Henkel AG & Co. KGaA.

After studying physics, chemistry and environmental technology at the University of Cologne and RWTH Aachen, he joined Henkel in Düsseldorf in 1989. For more than twenty years, he headed Global Research and Development for detergents and cleaning products.

He was responsible for the successful integration of the research organisations involved in three major acquisitions. As part of the master plan he developed, central research was integrated into the operating business units in 2008. In addition, he has been the spokesman for Henkel Research since 2008.

At the same time, from 2005 to 2014, he headed the production and supply chain with around ten thousand employees at over forty sites worldwide. Within a global restructuring program he and his team improved the processing costs by 30% within only three years.

Externally, he represented the company in national and international scientific bodies and industry associations such as the VCI Committee for Research, Science and Education, the VCI Sustainability Board, the Circular Economy Initiative Germany and the Alliance to end plastic waste.

His particular passion is sustainability and innovation. As early as 2010, he played a decisive role in the development of the company's first holistic sustainability strategy. Since 2013 he was Co-Chair of the Henkel Sustainability Council and was responsible for the further development and implementation of the sustainability strategy. Until his retirement, he coordinated the topics of innovation and sustainability across the group.

After 31 years of exciting group experience in the chemical and fast moving consumer goods industry, he acts now as member of Advisory Boards and as Scientific Advisor. In these roles he brings his many years of expertise in developing creative, practical and efficient solutions to new projects.

His core competencies are the optimization of research and development, innovation and technology, production and supply chains as well as all topics of sustainability starting with strategy and ending with its implementation. A particular focus is on sustainable packaging, circular economy, a climate-neutral value chain and taxonomy in the context of sustainable finance.

He has always been fascinated by the further development of young people. He has been teaching Global Innovation and Technology Management at the Hochschule Niederrhein since 2003.