

Dr.-Ing. Athanasios Dafnis

Dr. Dafnis was born on October 26th, 1956 in Thessaloniki, Greece. From 1977 to 1984, he was studying at RWTH-Aachen University, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, with the special section in Aircraft Engineering and from 1985 to 1988, he extended his study in the specific sector of Spacecraft Engineering. After getting his diploma in 1987, he was engaged in the Department of Aerospace and Lightweight Structures of the RWTH Aachen University, working in the research field of Aeroelasticity and Vortex Effects on Wing Structures. In 1992, he got his doctor degree (Dr.-Ing.) at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. Leaving the University, he started his professional career with DLR (German Aerospace Center), Institute of Aeroelasticity in Göttingen, Germany. In this regard, in addition to the theoretical design, analysis and sizing of load-bearing structures, structural dynamics, qualification testing, as well as development of test methods for aerostructures and mechanical components were his special research and business fields. In 1998 he accepted the position of chief engineer in the Department of Aerospace and Lightweight Structures at the RWTH Aachen University with the aim of establishing the institute departments of Structural Dynamics, Aeroelasticity and Testing. In 2000 he was appointed as vice director of the institute. Since 1995, he is certificated engineer and auditor for Quality Management (QM) and product Quality Assurance (QA) both for industrial manufacturing and for test laboratories. In 2012, he gained the title of "Wind Energy Engineering Specialist-VDI". The main activities in the current position at the Institute are excepting teaching in the fields of theoretical/experimental structural dynamics, theoretical/experimental aeroelasticity, validation/qualification testing and space engineering, acquisition and management of national and international public and industrial projects in the fields of structural dynamics, aeroelastics and space technologies. In this role, he also leads the institute's corresponding departments. Since 2012, he was additionally appointed as a lecturer at the Aachen University of Applied Sciences, a self-governing public academic institution with over 14.000 students, teaching in the Faculty of Aeronautic Engineering the specific lecture "Aeroelasticity for Aircraft and Spacecraft Engineering".