

## Peter Rambusch: A captain of industry who helped shape Afera

**The certoplast leader and former Afera President played a decisive role in building both a leading European tape manufacturer and the Association that serves the industry today.**

The European adhesive tapes industry has lost one of its most defining personalities. Peter Jürgen Heinrich Rambusch, long-time leader of certoplast and former President of Afera, passed away on 16 February 2026 at the age of 82. With his passing, the industry says farewell to a true captain of industry — a builder, strategist and bridge-maker whose influence shaped both company and association life for decades.

For many across Germany and Europe, Mr. Rambusch was synonymous with entrepreneurial courage, technical conviction and institutional leadership. For the Afera community, he was much more: a driving force behind the modern Association we know today.

Mr. Rambusch began his career in the adhesive tape industry in 1979, remaining actively involved for more than four decades until the end of 2023. Over that time, he became widely recognised as one of the sector's most influential personalities, combining entrepreneurial drive with a deep commitment to strengthening the broader tape industry community.



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### Building certoplast into a European force

Mr. Rambusch's entrepreneurial journey at certoplast began in 1991, when he took the helm of the company and began transforming it from a regional adhesive tape producer into one of Germany's most respected and internationally recognised manufacturers of technical adhesive tapes.

Under his leadership, the Wuppertal-based company expanded its product portfolio, invested in coating and converting capabilities, and positioned itself as a specialist supplier to demanding industrial sectors including automotive, electrical insulation and cable harnessing.

He believed deeply in the future of specialty tapes and in the importance of engineering competence close to the customer. In interviews over the years, he emphasised that adhesive tape was far more than a commodity: It was a functional component in modern industry: "Tape is not simply something that sticks. It solves problems. It makes processes faster, cleaner and more reliable."

**certoplast**  
Technik, die klebt!

Through continuous investment and long-term thinking, certoplast became an important player not only in Germany but across Europe and internationally. Today the company continues under the leadership of

the next generation, with René Rambusch, Mr. Rambusch's son, ensuring continuity of the family-owned enterprise and preserving the technical culture and customer orientation established by his father.

His legacy at certoplast is not only measured in production capacity or market presence, but in reputation: reliability, engineering depth and loyalty to partners.

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## Shaping Afera's modern era

Mr. Rambusch's impact extended well beyond his own company. He served Afera for decades, including as Afera President and as a long-standing member of the Steering Committee. He represented Central Europe (when Afera had regional Membership classes) and played an important role in strengthening the Association's governance and strategic direction.

In the 1990s, Afera was still a smaller, largely French-driven technical association. Mr.

Rambusch was among the strongest advocates for transforming it into a broader, pan-European organisation with professional management and greater strategic ambition. Despite resistance at the time, he pushed for reform and internationalisation.

He also played a decisive role in the discussions that ultimately led to bringing Afera under Lejeune Association Management in The Hague in 1997–1998, a structural shift that helped lay the foundations for the organisation Members benefit from today.

Astrid Lejeune, Secretary General of Afera, recalled, "He was absolutely remarkable, and such a driving force behind what Afera became. Peter was without question a very exceptional and influential person. I — and we as an organisation — have experienced and lived through a lot with him.

It was Peter who had the conversations with my father back in 1997 and 1998 about bringing Afera under Lejeune. He remained deeply committed until the very end, with full dedication to Afera and to keeping it a strong, pan-European association."



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## Creating a home for the German tape industry

Mr. Rambusch also played a defining role in strengthening the German adhesive tape sector through his work with IVK, the German Adhesives Association, which is an Affiliated Member of Afera.



On his initiative, the Working Group for Adhesive Tapes and the Technical Commission for Adhesive Tapes (TKK) were established within IVK in 1995, creating a formal organisational home for the German tape industry. He chaired the working group from 1995 to 2018, and in this role represented the interests of the adhesive tape industry — particularly those of small and medium-sized enterprises — on the IVK Board.

The lasting influence of Mr. Rambusch's initiative remains visible today. At a recent

meeting of the TKK, participants reflected on his role in founding the group and on the continuing connections between the German tape community and Afera. Several participants in the IVK meetings are also active in Afera Committees, reflecting the strong institutional bridge that Mr. Rambusch helped build between the national and European levels of the industry.

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## **A bridge between generations**

Having worked in the industry over five decades, Mr. Rambusch witnessed and helped shape the transformation of adhesive tapes from largely commodity products to highly engineered industrial solutions.

Those who worked alongside him remember his clarity, strategic instinct and refusal to accept stagnation. He believed associations must evolve or risk irrelevance — a philosophy that guided both his work in industry organisations and his approach to business.

Evert Smit, Afera President and consultant at QBond, reflected over the three decades he knew Mr. Rambusch, "I have fond memories of him, as customer and as competitor. He was very tough, but faithful — and full of energy. We always got along very well, and we had many lively discussions."

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## **A lasting legacy**

Mr. Rambusch leaves behind a company he strengthened, an Association he helped modernise and a European adhesive tapes community that benefited from his determination.

Through his work as an entrepreneur, an industry organiser and an association leader, Mr. Rambusch helped shape not only a successful company, but also the institutional foundations of the adhesive tape community in Germany and across Europe.

He will be remembered as a captain of industry who combined entrepreneurial independence with collective responsibility — tough but loyal, demanding yet committed, and always convinced that the adhesive tape industry was stronger when it worked together.

He will be greatly missed by the Afera community and the wider European adhesive tapes industry.

For more information, visit <https://afera.com/latest-news/news-archive/spotlight-on-adhesive-tape-manufacturer-certoplast.html>.

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