

Dr. TOM ENDERS



CEO EADS and Airbus (2005-2019)
President of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Thomas "Tom" Enders is one of Europe's most successful industrial leaders. As CEO of Airbus, he has transformed what was once considered a difficult company into a model of modern corporate culture .

Born in 1958, Thomas Enders began his career after studying economics, politics and history in Bonn and Los Angeles. In 1988, he worked as a research fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) before joining the planning staff of German Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg. In 1991, he joined the aerospace industry at MBB/DASA in Munich, where he held various positions until 2000, most recently as Head of Corporate Development.

From 2000 to 2019, Dr Thomas Enders served in various capacities as a member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of EADS NV and its successor, Airbus SE. From 2005 to 2019, he was Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of EADS/Airbus. During his tenure as CEO, he not only led Airbus, but also strategically reshaped the company. He restructured and repositioned the company and set it up for long-term success. With a deep passion for the industry and exceptional leadership skills, he successfully transformed internal tensions into productive collaboration, while maintaining close ties with employees at all levels.

Beyond his industrial career, he has been actively involved in a number of organisations. He was President of the German Aerospace Industries Association (BDLI) from 2005 to 2012 and Chairman of Atlantik-Brücke e.V. from 2005 to 2009. Tom Enders was Chairman of the Board of Lilium N.V. and is a member of the Board of GE Aerospace (formerly General Electric Company) and Linde plc. He is also President of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP).

As a speaker, Tom Enders captivates with his clear communication, profound expertise and remarkable strategic foresight. Thanks to his extensive network in politics and business, he is in close contact with international decision-makers and contributes valuable perspectives to economic and security policy debates.

Topics (Selection):

- No Future for Germany as an Industrial Location?
- Foreign and Security Policy
- Europe's Defense Capability and Technological Sovereignty
- Europe's Dependence on the USA