

**Dr. Frank Stefan Becker**

**Engineering education – academic interests versus industry needs?**

My presentation focusses on the discrepancies between the requirements of an academic training and selection process and the needs of industry. As the gaps are widespread, age-old and have frequently been analysed (as well as lamented), the reason for their persistence cannot be attributed to a lack of information, but rather to different interests of academia (« producers ») and industry (« customers »). This talk discusses the underlying mechanisms, tries to define « quality » from an industry perspective, highlights the future challenges for industry and derives conclusion regarding the requirements that practicing engineers must meet. Some prerequisites for making universities more autonomous in determining the quality assurance process as well as responsive to their customers' needs (including the interests of the students) are outlined.