

# KNUDT FLOR



## Senior Vice President for Innovation and Industry Engagement



Knudt Flor has more than 33 years of leadership and executive experience within the BMW Group Global Production Network, where he held several management-level positions, such as plant director, COO and CEO in operational business and strategic central functions.

Flor is widely recognized for his achievements in manufacturing, industrialization, international supply chain management, quality management, industry 4.0 implementation and intercultural leadership. Flor retired in September 2021

as president/CEO of BMW Manufacturing Co. LLC, Spartanburg, South Carolina, and joined the College of Charleston in early 2022 in order to share his experience in advanced manufacturing, innovation and industry engagement.

Flor began his career as a production engineer with BMW in 1988 at the Engine Plant in Munich, after earning his degree in mechanical engineering and working at Volkswagen Group. At BMW, he served in several roles in quality assurance and quality management at the BMW Munich plant while obtaining qualifications as a quality engineer and auditor. From 1996 to 2000, he took his first international assignment and worked at the U.S. BMW Spartanburg plant as manager for quality assurance of vehicle assembly and purchased parts.

Flor has been the director of international overseas logistics for the BMW Group, director of the BMW Engine Plant in Munich Germany, director of BMW Vehicle Plant Rosslyn in South Africa and senior vice president of manufacturing and technology at BMW Brilliance Automotive Joint Venture in Shenyang, China. Flor has a total of 14 years of international experience (9 years, U.S.; 3 years, China; 2 years, South Africa) in addition to his years working in Germany. For the BMW Group worldwide (BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce), he served as senior vice president of corporate quality with direct report to the Chairman of the Board.

Flor is active in the community at a local and national level. He is the founding director of South Carolina Fraunhofer USA Alliance, a member of the Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC) of Fraunhofer USA and senior advisor to P3 USA on operational consulting. He served as chairman of the board of directors for Autos Drive America in 2021 and as a board member for the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern United States, Inc.

In September 2021, the governor of South Carolina awarded Flor the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor, in recognition for improving competitiveness of industry operations in the state of South Carolina.

Most recently, Flor was appointed as the senior vice president for innovation and industry engagement and distinguished professor of industry practice.

## EDUCATION

**1995:** Business Administration, FernUniversität in Hagen

**1988:** Diplom-Ingenieur, Mechanical Engineering, Technische Universität Braunschweig

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

**2022-present:** Senior Vice President of Innovation and Industry Engagement, College of Charleston

**2016-2021:** President/CEO, BMW Manufacturing Co. LLC, Spartanburg, South Carolina

**2013-2016:** Senior Vice President for Corporate Quality, BMW Group, Munich, Germany

**2010-2013:** Senior Vice President of Technology and Manufacturing, BMW Brilliance Automotive Ltd, Shenyang, China

**2008-2010:** Director of Vehicle Plant Rosslyn, Pretoria, South Africa

**2006-2008:** Director BMW Engine Plant, Munich, Germany

**2004-2006:** Director of International Supply Chain and Oversea Logistics, BMW AG, Munich, Germany

**2000-2004:** Director of Quality Management, BMW AG, Munich, Germany

**1996-2000:** Senior Manager, Head of Manufacturing and Supplier Quality Assurance for Vehicle Assembly, Parts Supply NAFTA Region and Import Parts, BMW - Plant Spartanburg, S.C.

**1988-1996:** Production Engineer, BMW - Plant Munich Germany

## AWARDS/HONORS

**2021:** Order of the Palmetto, State of South Carolina

**2021:** 50 Most Influential, *Greenville Business Magazine*, Greenville, S.C.

**2018:** 50 Most Influential, *Greenville Business Magazine*, Greenville, S.C.

**2011:** Rose Prize (for developing the region of Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China)