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Walter Krenkel is professor of ceramics and chair of the Department of Ceramic Materials Engineering at the University of Bayreuth in Germany. He received his diploma degree (Dipl.-Ing.) and Ph.D. (Dr.-Ing.) in aeronautics and aerospace from the University of Stuttgart, Germany. He worked as a research associate at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in Stuttgart from 1985 to 2004. Walter Krenkel joined the University of Bayreuth as a full professor of ceramics in 2004. From 2006 to 2012 he worked also with Fraunhofer Gesellschaft and established the Center of High Temperature Materials and Design (HTL) in Bayreuth.

The focus of Walter Krenkel's research is the generation of engineering solutions for the development of process routes that display technical and economic advantages over existing techniques for ceramics.

Walter Krenkel holds 35 patents, is author of more than 200 publications and has edited numerous books on ceramics. Key developments of his research about ceramics and composite materials have been successfully translated into industry. He received several awards like the Karl Heinz Beckurts Award in Germany and the Bridge Building Award from the American Ceramic Society. He is fellow of the American Ceramic Society, Academician of the World Academy of Ceramics and Member of the Board of the German Ceramic Society (DKG).