

KRIS MEERT

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Global ICT, R&D, and Transformation Executive with 25+ years leading large-scale engineering operations, enterprise modernization, hybrid cloud, and mission-critical programs across telecom, SaaS, retail, and government. Experienced in managing €100M+ portfolios, improving delivery performance, and strengthening operational efficiency. Trusted partner to executive leadership with deep expertise in architecture, AI, cloud, cybersecurity, and ERP/CRM modernization. Recognized for modernizing legacy environments, elevating PMO governance, and building high-performing global teams.

Skills

- R&D Operations Leadership
- PMO & Portfolio Governance
- Cloud & Infrastructure (Hybrid/Azure/AWS)
- Mainframe & Mission-Critical Systems
- Cybersecurity & Risk Management
- Digital & AI Transformation
- ERP / CRM Modernization
- Enterprise Architecture
- KPI Frameworks & P&L Ownership
- C-Suite & Board Engagement
- Vendor Ecosystem Management
- Multisite Engineering Leadership

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR R&D OPERATIONS / DIRECTOR OF PMO / SITE R | 01/2025 - Current

Ekinops - Heverlee, Belgium

- Built and unified ICT & R&D governance across hardware, software, cloud, and infrastructure, reducing cross-team friction by 35%.
- Modernized hybrid cloud and data center environments, boosting innovation throughput by 30% and accelerating prototype cycles.
- Established global PMO and portfolio governance for a €100M+ R&D portfolio, increasing delivery efficiency by 20%.
- Enhanced cross-functional coordination and site operations, achieving 20% facility efficiency gains and raising release cadence by 20%.

SENIOR ICT TRANSFORMATION DIRECTOR | 01/2023 - 01/2025

Colruyt Group - Brussels, Belgium

- Led multi-year ICT transformation (ERP, CRM, infrastructure, cybersecurity), delivering 30% operational efficiency uplift across core business units.
- Executed enterprise-wide ERP re-architecture that reduced supply chain cycle time by 30% and operational costs by 15%.
- Consolidated fragmented CRM into a unified Salesforce platform, eliminating legacy risk and improving commercial insight.
- Built and deployed GenAI architecture and modern analytics stack, improving project throughput by 25% and executive decision speed.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise - Valencia, Spain

- Oversaw a \$250M mission-critical portfolio for US federal agencies, modernizing mainframe and hybrid cloud architectures with 30% improved uptime.
- Implemented enterprise architecture frameworks that increased global release predictability by 10% YoY and reduced delivery timelines by 3 weeks.
- Directed cybersecurity modernization to meet DoD and IRS compliance, successfully passing multi-year federal audits.
- Led 500+ engineers across continents, optimizing operating budgets and delivering high-security infrastructure programs.

SENIOR DIRECTOR – R&D PROGRAM ENGINEERING | 01/2015 - 01/2019

Hewlett Packard Enterprise - Valencia, Spain

- Directed global R&D programs in analytics, big data, and security, generating \$180M in annual revenue.
- Increased operational efficiency 25% through architecture modernization, automation, and improved cross-team alignment.
- Built advanced executive reporting frameworks that improved C-suite strategic decision-making by 30%.
- Delivered multi-year transformation under budget, converting market insights into 15+ product initiatives.

DIRECTOR – SOFTWARE ENGINEERING & PROGRAM M. | 01/2012 - 01/2015

Hewlett-Packard - Valencia, Spain

- Led 10 Agile engineering teams delivering mission-critical releases, increasing customer satisfaction by 35%.
- Launched a proprietary storage performance platform that raised competitive win rate by 45%.
- Reduced feature rollout time by 20% by aligning ICT and product strategy through Agile methodologies.
- Managed \$5M-\$15M engineering budgets, ensuring governance, compliance, and risk mitigation across all projects.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR – R&D FACTORY CONSULTING | 01/2007 - 01/2012

Hewlett-Packard - Valencia, Spain

- Delivered 50+ concurrent engineering and transformation programs with 100% on-time delivery.
- Strengthened cybersecurity posture, reducing vulnerabilities by 30% and protecting \$90M in recurring revenue.
- Standardized Agile/Lean practices across US, EMEA, and APJ, improving delivery timelines by 20%.
- Enabled cross-regional engineering excellence through consistent process governance and operational frameworks.

ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT – EMEA | 01/2000 - 01/2007

Hewlett-Packard - Brussels / Valencia, Belgium / Spain

- Drove technical architecture and commercial strategy across five countries, achieving 3% YoY market share growth.
- Led EMEA contract negotiations delivering 29% profit growth and optimized TCO models.
- Executed large-scale ICT deployments that increased customer satisfaction by 30%.
- Supported cross-border delivery teams through scalable architecture frameworks and governance models.

IT ARCHITECT – MAINFRAME & INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTION | 01/1995 - 01/2000

IBM - Brussels, Belgium

- Designed high-availability mainframe architectures supporting mission-critical finance and public sector workloads.
- Reduced batch processing times by 30% through system optimization and workload automation.
- Delivered DR/BCP solutions achieving RTO less than 4 hours and RPO less than 15 minutes.
- Improved system resilience and performance across multiple enterprise clients through advanced architecture design.

Education and Training

Katholieke Industriële Hogeschool Oost-Vlaanderen - Gent, Belgium | Master of Science

Electromechanical Engineering, 06/1995

- Egemin Reward

Certifications & Licenses

PMP® — Project Management Professional