

Jesko A. von Windheim, PhD, MBA

Associate Dean, Professor of the Practice, Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment

Office: (919) 613-8136

Cell: (919) 949-8970

jesko@duke.edu



Dr. von Windheim is a technology entrepreneur who is focused primarily on early-stage innovations in the physical sciences. He has played a key role in a number of manufacturing companies based on new materials, processes and functionality. He helped form Unitive Electronics, which was later acquired by Amkor and remains a leader in its field. He was a co-founder of Cronos Integrated Microsystems, a microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) company. Cronos was acquired by JDS Uniphase. Dr. von Windheim was also CEO of Nextreme Thermal Solutions. He founded Nextreme in 2004 with technology acquired from RTI International and licensed from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Nextreme was acquired by Laird Technologies in 2012. A current project is Zenalux (www.zenalux.com) which is commercializing technology developed at Duke University that uses white light to measure response to therapy and diagnose disease such as cancer.

Dr. von Windheim leads the Environmental Innovation and Entrepreneurship Certificate Program at the Nicholas School of the Environment. The program is taught by a team of successful entrepreneurs and includes courses covering engineering entrepreneurship, start-up operations, finance and marketing, with a focus on engineers, scientists and technology entrepreneurs (<http://sites.nicholas.duke.edu/innovate/>). The mission of the program is to translate challenges we face in our environment into sustainable, value-creating ventures using a combination of practice-oriented education, a disciplined start-up process and the excellent infrastructure available within Duke University. Dr. von Windheim is also involved at Duke to help promote entrepreneurship in various capacities with the Pratt School of Engineering, the Fuqua School of Business, and the Duke Global Health Institute.

Dr. von Windheim holds bachelor's degrees in chemistry and physics (McMaster University, Canada), a master's degree and a Ph.D. in chemistry (University of Guelph, Canada), and an MBA from the Kenan-Flagler business school. Dr. von Windheim holds 8 patents and has numerous publications in the fields of solar cell research and diamond thin film materials.