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Simon Bickerton is a Professor within, and Head of the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering at the University of Auckland. He graduated with Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the same department in 1993, before completing his PhD at the Centre for Composite Materials, at the University of Delaware in 1999. Simon then returned to New Zealand, taking up an academic position at the University of Auckland. In 2012 he took extended leave from the university, taking up a position with the BMW Group, Munich, Germany. There he worked within the department responsible for manufacture of structural carbon fibre parts, with a focus on the BMW Project i. Simon returned to his academic post at the University of Auckland in 2015, focussing on sustainable composite materials manufacturing, and multifunctional materials and systems. He was Director of the Centre for Advanced Composite Materials, and Co-Director of the recently established Centre for Advanced Materials Manufacturing and Design until February of 2024.