

**Keith N. Nippes**  
**CEO / COO / President /**  
**Global Mass Transportation Industry Leader**



Keith is a global company leader with a reputation for creating rapid multimillion-dollar growth for companies in the industrial engineered products industry. Over his career he has launched new and international markets, driven product innovation, designed highly successful business development strategies, and improved operational efficiency for a variety of companies large and small. He has a keen ability to design and implement internal and external initiatives that increase revenue, manufacturing capability, market share and customer satisfaction, while reducing costs and waste that cut into profitability.

Most recently, Keith was president and chief operating officer of Milwaukee Composites, a privately-owned world leader in custom engineered phenolic composites products for the transportation market. In this role he increased top line growth, developed and introduced a new product and opened the European market – all generating millions of dollars in revenue and profit.

Immediately prior to that, he ran two custom engineered equipment manufacturing companies serving the mass transportation market, Kustom Seating Unlimited, Inc., where he was president, and Ultimate Transportation Equipment, LLC, where he was president and chief operating officer. In both of these roles he drove sales, operating performance and profit to new levels.

In 2005 Keith was recruited as vice president of sales and marketing for Ricon Corporation, a global manufacturer of ADA compliant products for various vehicle types, to build revenue and market share through product expansion. He launched an industry leading anti-graffiti window which boosted sales by almost \$8M, increased sales of existing products by 30%, and grew margins significantly by repositioning the company for the OEM market.

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*“Keith is a strategic global “C” Level professional with extensive career experience in the mass transit industry, both public and private. From championing business and sales to strategic growth and operational improvement, Delivering the Thrill of Business Victory.”*

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In the late 90’s, as president Keith led Vapor Bus International, a global manufacturer of complete automatic door systems for the bus industry. He doubled sales to over \$150M and grew market share from 45% to a dominant 95%, and in three short years drove EBIT from an anemic 2% to a healthy 21%.

Keith is an expert in establishing strategic partnerships and OEM and end user relationships both on and off-shore, and is proficient in applying Toyota Production System (TPS), lean manufacturing and Six Sigma continuous improvement to a variety of manufacturing environments.

He completed the Finance and Accounting for the Non-Financial Manager and Executive Management programs at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, the Advanced Management Program at Brunswick Corporation, is a board member of the SRACLC Foundation, an association devoted to the recreational needs of people with special needs. He is also a member of the Executive Leadership Alliance.

Keith resides in Mundelein, IL, a community in the northern suburbs of Chicago.

**Find out more about Keith at [www.linkedin.com/in/keithnippes](http://www.linkedin.com/in/keithnippes)**  
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