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In 1988, he joined the Microwave and Radar Institute, German Aerospace Center (DLR), Cologne, Germany. He was the Lead X-SAR Calibration Engineer for both SIR-C/X-SAR missions in 1994 and for the SRTM mission in 2000. In August 2000, he joined the European Space Agency (ESA) and took over the responsibility for the calibration/validation of the ASAR onboard ENVISAT. After successful in-orbit commissioning of the ASAR, he was appointed as the Principal System Engineer for ESA's TerraSAR-L Program. In May 2005, he returned to DLR's Microwaves and Radar Institute, where he is currently heading the Satellite SAR Systems Department. He is also managing the TanDEM-X Mission with the primary objective to generate a globally consistent DEM of unprecedented accuracy.

Dr. Zink has been an active member of the CEOS Working Group on Calibration and Validation, SAR Subgroup, since 1991, and he has been chairing this group, since 2011. He was the General Chairman of the European SAR Conference (EUSAR) 2014. He was the recipient of the DLR Science Award in 1991 and the EUSAR Best Paper Award in 2008. In 2012, he and his colleagues were presented with the IEEE W.R.G. Baker Prize Paper Award and have been nominated for the "Deutscher Zukunftspreis"—Federal President's Prize for Technology and Innovation.