

# Daredevil CEO Kirk Hawkins, 58, dies in wingsuit crash in Swiss Alps as pal says he ‘gone down laughing’

Kirk was the brain behind the amphibious ICON A5 light aircraft

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A DAREDEVIL CEO has died in a horror wingsuit crash after he collided with trees in the Swiss Alps.

Kirk Hawkins, 58, was described as the "most extraordinary person" by his devastated friend as tributes pour in for the former US Air Force pilot.



Kirk Hawkins, 58, has died in a wingsuit accidentCredit: Getty



Kirk with friend Steen Strand standing near their prototype ICON A5 airplaneCredit: Getty



Kirk had jumped out of a helicopter in a wingsuit - stock imageCredit: Getty

Kirk had jumped out of a helicopter alongside three others near to the peak of the Eiger summit.

They glided along the east ridge before the American CEO of ICON Aircraft hit some trees just west of Schüssellouwinegraben.

He died after crashing to the ground, police confirmed.

An investigation into the cause of the accident is ongoing.

His close friend and business partner Steen Strand announced his passing with a touching tribute.

He wrote: "Kirk was the most extraordinary person I've ever known, or ever will know.

"Kirk devoured life experiences most of us would never touch.

"He was damn good at assessing risks, probably because he took so many.

"He'd get you into tricky situations, but he's also the one you wanted beside you when things got dicey.

"I imagine Kirk, in his final moments, knew what was coming, thought that line, and laughed one last time before the exit."

'America's nicest judge' Frank Caprio dead at 88 after announcing health 'setback' in cancer battle



Kirk and Steen co-founded Icon Aircraft as they created the amphibious A5 light sport aircraft in 2006.

Kirk held a Masters degrees in engineering and business which he earned from Stanford which helped him invent the seaplane.

It was seen as an innovative aircraft when it was first launched but carried a hefty price tag of around \$389,000.

Deliveries started in 2016 but less than a year later a fatal accident took place.

Former baseball player Roy 'Doc' Halladay died aged 40 in a plane crash.

The ex-Toronto Blue Jays and Philadelphia Phillies star was flying a ICON A5 light-sport aircraft when it came down in the Gulf of Mexico near Florida.

Kirk would remain as CEO for another 12 months after the fatal accident before he left the company in November 2018.



Kirk Hawkins poses for photographs in front of a show model ICON A5 aircraftCredit: Getty



The American was known as a daredevil who loved taking risksCredit: Getty