



PRESS RELEASE

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Lukas Burkhardt appointed new Chief Operating Officer of the Franke Group

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The Franke Group has appointed Lukas Burkhardt as its new Chief Operating Officer and as a member of the Management Board.

Starting November 1, 2015, Lukas Burkhardt will be taking over as Chief Operating Officer and will also be appointed to the Management Board. In his new role, he will be responsible for the group-wide Operations functions, including Procurement, Production, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, as well as the group-wide Operational Excellence Program. Lukas Burkhardt succeeds Hans-Juerg Ott, who, after 36 successful years working for the international Group, will remain with Franke as a Senior Project Leader for the areas of Innovation and Technology.

Lukas Burkhardt joined Franke Group in February 2015, as Head Global Manufacturing. Previously, the 36-year-old Swiss national spent around eight years in various key management positions at Autoneum, most recently as Head of Operations & Manufacturing for the Business Group Asia. In this position, he was responsible for Autoneum's seven production facilities in Asia, where he developed the operations strategy with considerable intensity and success. Lukas Burkhardt holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Switzerland.

Alexander Zschokke, CEO of the Franke Group, commented on the latest personnel changes: "I am pleased that we were able to recruit Lukas Burkhardt for this position. We introduced the Operations function in mid-2013 at the Group level and have been able to develop it very successfully thanks to Hans-Juerg Ott. The goal now will be to build on our achievements in Operational Excellence, a strategic issue that is very important to us. With Lukas Burkhardt we have gained an internationally experienced manager, who has a broad range of experience and profound expertise. These valuable qualities will

allow him to drive his area of responsibility, thereby progressing our Group further with the implementation of efficient processes.

***Franke** belongs to the Artemis Group and is a leading global provider of solutions and equipment for domestic kitchens, private bathrooms, semi-/public washrooms, professional food service, coffee preparation and beverage delivery. The Franke Group operates worldwide and employs around 9,000 people in 37 countries, generating sales of around CHF 2.1 billion.*

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