

PRESS RELEASE

New strategy to get Dr. Schneider back on the road to success.

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New concepts and technologies such as Clean Air are positioning the automotive supplier from Upper Franconia for the future.

Kronach-Neuses. In the business year of 2018, the Group posted a global turnover of approx. 548 million Euro. That result pushed the automotive supplier from Upper Franconia beyond the almost 517 million of the previous year by more than six percent. However, despite a solid capital base, management is not satisfied with this business result, and clearly expressed this sentiment at the annual press conference. "The slowdown in the automotive industry negatively impacted the second half of 2018. Plus, over-proportional costs through new production starts further diminished the Group's result." Wilhelm Wirth, Managing Director, explains the deviation from the business plan.

More than a total of 54 million Euro were invested in production technology and buildings in 2018 – 70 percent thereof alone at the headquarters in Kronach-Neuses. A milestone is the new Technology and Process Center that will be completed in the next few weeks after one and a half years of construction. "The new technology and Process Center aims at increasing our own value creation in the areas of new tool and jig building and optimizing the industrialization process", says Thomas Stadelmann, President & CEO, emphasizing the importance of the new building. By the end of this year, a new multi-purpose hall currently under construction will be completed as well.

In 2018, Dr. Schneider was once again counted among the 100 most innovative small and mid-sized enterprises in Germany and was recognized with the TOP 100 Award. With this award, Dr. Schneider has once again lived up to its reputation as a competent partner in the development of innovative automotive solutions. Parag Shah, Managing Director of Sales and Program Management, is convinced that "the subject of clean air for car interiors is gaining in relevance." The strongest impulses are coming from the Asian region. There, new standards with even stricter threshold values are expected for car interiors. And it is for exactly this situation the pre-development innovation engineers at Dr. Schneider worked out a suitable solution with their "Clean Air" climate concept that is also perfect for other kinds of mobility solutions.

“We will get Dr. Schneider back on the road to success.” says Thomas Stadelmann, the new President & CEO with conviction. The goal is to secure the family company’s future in its third generation and develop a sustainable position. A long-term strategy paper has been created, which bundles the most important measures. They include: apart from adapting to a changed market environment, reconsidering the strategic alignment, removing internal weak spots and being more economical. This is set to put the supplier in a robust and secure position and above all, secure more than 4,000 jobs.

Management expects a stable and steady development of the results and the capital base for the planning period up to 2022. The very volatile and difficult to predict market make any projections difficult.

Despite all the dark clouds hanging over almost all automotive suppliers, Dr. Schneider is looking towards the future with confidence. The company from Neuses manufactures products for the car interior – and that makes it independent of the car’s internal drivetrain. In its more than 90 years of company history, the supplier has weathered several storms and has also used every crisis as an opportunity. Thomas Stadelmann sees another strength factor in the potential of the company’s employees. “We have many experienced employees of many years that stand behind the company and will continue using their expertise to make the car the best place in the world.”

Dr. Schneider Unternehmensgruppe | Short Portrait

The Dr. Schneider Unternehmensgruppe is headquartered in the Upper Franconia region of Bavaria in the town of Kronach-Neuses. The Group has made itself a name as a specialist for first class products for automotive interiors – from innovative ventilation systems and sophisticated modules for dashboards and center consoles to highly integrated panels and mechatronic components. As a flexible system coordinator and strategic business partner for our customers, Dr. Schneider is working on intelligent solutions for tomorrow’s mobile world today. We produce at seven locations in Germany, China, Poland, Spain and in the USA as well as maintaining numerous distribution offices worldwide. More than 4,000 employees work for us around the globe using smart technology for a premium driving experience with a “Focus on Excellence”. As a full-service supplier, our expertise and services include the latest techniques in tool design and construction to highly modern injection molding technology and advanced industrial coating technology all the way to cutting-edge assembly technology. Our customers include such prominent brands such as BMW, Daimler, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Ford, Jaguar/Land Rover, PSA, Renault, Toyota, Volvo as well as the the VW Group. Chairman of the Board Thomas Stadelmann and the Managing Directors Parag Shah and Wilhelm Wirth serve at the helm of this internationally successful family owned company, which was founded in 1927 by Franz Schneider Senior.

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