

PRESS RELEASE

An entrepreneur and family man

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Dr. Franz Schneider passed away on 15th April 2020

Kronach-Neuses. He has significantly contributed to the industrial history of Upper Franconia and was considered one of the great entrepreneurial personalities in the region: Dr. Franz Schneider. The senior boss of the globally active Dr. Schneider Unternehmensgruppe passed away in the company of his family on Wednesday 15 April 2020 at the age of 91. With him the administrative district Kronach loses an outstanding entrepreneurial personality. The life of Dr. Franz Schneider is inseparably connected with the history of the company that his father, Franz Schneider, founded in Wilhelmsthal in 1927.

Born in Wilhelmsthal

On 9 February 1929 Dr. Franz Schneider was born in Wilhelmsthal. He was one of the first 13 students, who graduated from high school in Kronach. Already during his schooldays he proved to be an enthusiastic and talented violinist. With the violin he also partially financed his studies in Munich. After his graduation and some „apprenticeship and travelling years“ he joined his father’s company in 1955. Just one year later, the company, which had previously produced cigars, made its first contacts with the automotive industry. In the age of the incipient „automotive industry“ in Germany’s burgeoning economic miracle, Dr. Franz Schneider was quick in recognizing the opportunities offered by a dynamic future market. The success story took its course. Under the management of Dr. Franz Schneider, the Dr. Schneider Unternehmensgruppe developed from a company with just over 30 employees to a global player that now employs more than 4,000 people worldwide.

The success and his untiring commitment have been honoured many times. Dr. Franz Schneider is an honorary citizen of the city of Kronach and the communities of Tschirn and Judenbach. He was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit on Ribbon in 1989 and received the state medal for special merits to the Bavarian economy in 2001.

In the 90s, the supplier company passed on to the third generation through his two daughters. Dr. Schneider withdrew from the current day-to-day business. Nevertheless, the enthusiastic quadruple grandfather, who had been married to wife Inge since 1961, never quite put the sceptre down. As long as he could, hardly a day went by Dr. Franz Schneider did not go through the factory halls, talked to his employees and informed himself about the latest processes.

Passionate pilot

There was hardly any time left for hobbies for the active entrepreneur. He has travelled around the globe - but mostly to advance his company. It was not unusual for the passionate pilot to be driving his own twin-engined Piper or to take the wheel of his motorboat.

Dr. Franz Schneider also liked to devote himself to historical topics: Film documentaries and literature about the Middle Ages or recent history interested him greatly. Once a week you could see him with friends at the regulars' table. Even during the Kronacher Freischießen, the sociable entrepreneur was a guest at the Schützenfestplatz almost daily. And that characterized him: Despite his cosmopolitanism and all his success, he had remained a down-to-earth person. One to whom values like politeness or discipline were important and who lived them. For his farewell he would certainly have liked to be accompanied by private and business companions. Unfortunately, this is not granted to him due to the current situation.

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 Malte Mornhart serve at the helm of this internationally successful family owned company, which was founded in 1927 by Franz Schneider Senior.

Media Contact

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