



PRESS RELEASE

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100 years of Franke: four entrepreneurs – two families – a Swiss success story

What began 100 years ago as the “Spenglerei Hermann Franke (plumber’s workshop)” in Rorschach (SG) is today – three generations later – a global Swiss company group comprising 70 companies and around 11,000 employees. Franke, whose products are used in more than 100 million household kitchens, is entering into a close cooperation with the Eidgenössischen Technischen Hochschule Zürich (ETH Zürich: Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich) on its 100th birthday. In addition to the award of two scholarships, the “Franke – ETH Zurich Excellence Scholarships”, the company is also supporting the Strategic Fund of the ETH Zurich. Several festivities are also planned, including an event for domestic and foreign guests in Lucerne and an employee event at Franke’s headquarters in Aarburg.

Hardly any other Swiss company has grown as much as the Franke Artemis Group in the last few decades. An average of three companies a year have been acquired in the last one and a half decades, always funded from self-generated cash flow. A tradition of active entrepreneurship, seeing opportunities in challenges and realizing them, as well as placing customers at the focus of all activities, are the success factors behind the one-hundred year history of Franke, according to CEO and owner Michael Pieper.

Innovations for the anniversary

In 2011, Franke will be setting further technological milestones with numerous anniversary products. The multi-functional “Centinox” household sink is just one outstanding example of this. Stylish design, perfect workmanship and well-thought-out applications reflect the customer focus that has now been at the centre of activities at Franke for 100 years.

ETH scholarships and investment in the Strategic Fund of the ETH

Well educated employees make the difference: Michael Pieper is convinced of this. Franke promotes talent – also at the ETH Zurich. Through an investment in the Excellence Scholarship and Opportunity Programme, as well as in the Strategic Fund, the Franke Artemis Group is not only strengthening the valuable cooperation with one of the most famous universities in the world, but is also making a significant and effective contribution to the further development of the research and economic location of Switzerland.

Major anniversary events

“The customer decides whether a company is successful or not” says Michael Pieper. “We are proud to have relationships with individual customers that stretch back for nearly half a century. This is also thanks to the passion with which our employees do everything to ensure that the customer is satisfied, and remains satisfied. I am therefore very pleased to be able to say thank you to everyone within the context of our event in Lucerne and the employee party in Aarburg.” A grand ceremony for customers and business partners will be taking place at the Culture and Congress Centre Lucerne (KKL), with a concert of the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra. A large party will also be taking place in Aarburg for all Swiss employees, and local events are being organized in the more than 70 companies over the course of the year. Franke regards the successful history of the company as a foundation and as an obligation for the future. The exciting history of the group will be on show in the Franke Museum from May 2011.

Other activities

At the start of the anniversary year 2011, the Franke Artemis Group is also entering into the United Nations Global Compact. The companies thereby undertake to observe the ten principles of the Global Compact and to contribute to their proliferation.

*The industrial activities of **Franke Artemis Group** include Franke Kitchen Systems Group and the Franke Commercial Systems Group. The **Franke Kitchen Systems Group** is the world-leading provider of kitchen systems (sinks, extractor hoods, fittings, hobs, ovens etc.). The **Franke Commercial Systems Group** includes Franke Foodservice Systems (kitchen systems and services for quick-service restaurants), Franke Washroom Systems (washroom and sanitary systems in the public and semi-public sectors), Franke Coffee Systems with a wide range of superautomatic, professional and semi-professional coffee machines, Franke Beverage Systems (beverage containers) and industrial engineering. Furthermore, the Franke Artemis Group manages an extensive real estate portfolio (**Franke Artemis Real Estate Group**) in Switzerland and abroad and holds various strategic participations in Swiss listed companies (**Franke Artemis Asset Management Group**). The Franke Artemis Group employs around 11,000 staff worldwide and is established in over 40 countries with about 70 subsidiaries. The Franke Artemis Group generated consolidated sales of CHF 2.4 billion in 2009.*

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