



PRESS RELEASE

Franke Management AG
Franke-Strasse 2
P.O. Box 230
4663 Aarburg
Switzerland

Telephone +41 62 787 3131
www.franke.com

Franke Group appoints Thomas Meier as the new Head of Franke Coffee Systems

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The Franke Group has appointed Thomas Meier as Head of the Franke Coffee Systems division and simultaneously a member of the Management Board. Meier follows Yvo Locher, who will now become Head of Global Sales for Franke Coffee Systems, in this position.

Thomas Meier will be taking over as Head of the Franke Coffee Systems division as of August 1, 2016, and will at the same time be appointed to the Management Board. He follows Yvo Locher, who has been responsible for Franke Coffee Systems since 2012. Locher's achievements in recent years have included opening up new customer segments and launching an entirely new generation of products on the market at the start of 2015. In order to continue the success story with even greater urgency and attentiveness, the existing sales organization is to be more strongly oriented towards future growth. Yvo Locher, who is already responsible for sales in the EMEA region, will significantly promote these growth ambitions and for that reason he will take up the newly created position of Head of Global Sales.

Thomas Meier comes from Lindt & Sprüngli, where the 45-year-old Swiss manager held various key positions since 2003, most recently as Managing Director Asia-Pacific. In that role, he built up the business for Lindt & Sprüngli in the Asia-Pacific region, headed two subsidiaries and successfully established Lindt as a well-known brand in various markets within this large region. Before Lindt & Sprüngli, Thomas Meier performed various marketing and sales functions for Unilever and Novartis Nutrition. Thomas Meier has a degree in Business Administration from the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

In response to this change in personnel, Alexander Zschokke, CEO of the Franke Group, says: "I am delighted that we were able to fill these two important positions so ideally with Yvo Locher and Thomas Meier. I would like to thank Yvo Locher for his valuable contribution in recent years. We are now at a

turning point, at which we must grow more strongly and with greater focus. His sales expertise, market knowledge and passionate commitment to Franke will significantly boost our success in sales. In Thomas Meier we have an internationally experienced manager, who has profound marketing knowledge and a wide range of experience in establishing brands and products, at our disposal. Thanks to these valuable characteristics he will provide new momentum in our coffee machine business – focusing on strategic brand management – and further establish the Franke brand worldwide."

***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 and coffee preparation. The Franke Group operates worldwide and employs around 9,000 people in 38 countries, generating sales of over CHF 2.0 billion.*

About Franke Coffee Systems

Franke Coffee Systems is a leading provider of solutions for coffee preparation beyond the kitchen. The product range encompasses fully automatic as well as traditional coffee machines, capsule machines, and high-volume coffee brewers. A total of 500 employees work at headquarters in Aarburg (Switzerland) as well as the subsidiaries in Germany, the United States, Great Britain, and Japan in order to provide the very best coffee solutions. The company also relies on a global service and distribution network with over 1000 employees.

Contact

*Gabriele Hepp
Head of Communications
Franke Holding AG*

T +41 62 787 3358

M +41 79 108 3225

E gabriele.hepp@franke.com