



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Franke Group strengthens its Board of Directors**

Aarburg, October 18, 2018

**On October 17, 2018, the General Meeting of Franke Holding AG elected three new members to the Board of Directors of the Franke Group: Alexander Pieper, Patrick Naef and Dr. Michael Reinhard. The Chairman, Thomas A. Erb, and two other members will resign at the Ordinary General Meeting in spring 2019. Christian Mäder will become the new Chairman, and Alexander Pieper the new Vice Chairman. The changes will lead to a rejuvenation of the Board of Directors, and the appointment of Alexander Pieper will ensure the long-term succession of the owner family.**

Chairman Thomas A. Erb has decided not to take up a further term of office and to resign at the Ordinary General Meeting on May 1, 2019 after more than 13 years of dedicated work on the Board of Directors. He will then hand over his position as Chairman of the Board of Directors to Christian Mäder, CFO of the Artemis Group, who is already a member of the Board of Directors. Christian Mäder joined the Artemis Group as CFO in May 2015, and was simultaneously appointed to the Board of Directors of Franke Holding AG. The 49-year-old is a proven financial expert with many years of extensive professional experience. Before joining the Artemis Group, he worked as CFO for the automation and logistics company Swisslog. He has also held various senior positions at KPMG and the Motor-Columbus Group.

Furthermore, Michael Pieper will resign as Vice Chairman, but remain a member of the Board of Directors. Alexander Pieper will succeed his father, Michael Pieper, in this role. The 35-year-old has worked for the Franke Group for more than ten years in various management positions in Switzerland and abroad, most recently as Managing Director of a subsidiary in the United Arab Emirates. Today he is the owner and Managing Director of the Swiss company Kraftwerk, which operates internationally in the tool industry.

Two other members of the Board of Directors, Dr. Andreas Hauswirth and Dr. Michael Soormann, will resign at the same time as Thomas A. Erb, at the Ordinary General Meeting on May 1, 2019, having joined the Board in 2013.

Along with Alexander Pieper, Patrick Naef and Dr. Michael Reinhard have been newly elected to the Board of Directors. Patrick Naef, 53, spent twelve years with Emirates Group as CIO. Before the computer sciences engineer joined Emirates in 2006, he had also worked as CIO at the packaging manufacturer SIG and at Swissair, as well as in senior positions at Zurich Insurance, HP, and Julius Baer. Dr. Michael Reinhard has retired after twelve years with Geberit. Between 2005 and 2017, the 62-year-old mechanical engineer was a member of the Geberit Group Management Board responsible for various Group divisions (Sales, Products, Operations). He previously held management positions at Schott Glas and McKinsey & Company.

Michael Pieper, owner and CEO of the Artemis Group, says: "Thanks to his extensive knowledge and judicious approach, in his thirteen years as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Thomas A. Erb has played a key role in the successful development of the Franke Group. Dr. Andreas Hauswirth and Dr. Michael Soormann have also made valuable contributions to Franke with their many years of experience in industry and their high level of commitment. I would like to thank the departing members for their close cooperation and their outstanding achievements, and I am pleased that they will remain on the Board until spring 2019 to ensure continuity."

"Patrick Naef and Dr. Michael Reinhard will provide international experience and important industry knowledge from different areas. Dr. Michael Reinhard is an experienced marketing, sales, and operations expert. Patrick Naef is an IT expert with a wealth of experience, who is very familiar with current digital challenges. With them, we are strengthening the skills set and specialist knowledge of the Board of Directors in strategically important areas," emphasizes Pieper. "I am also pleased that, with Christian Mäder and my son Alexander Pieper, we have been able to fill the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman with two people from within our own company. Both are very familiar with the Franke Group's business and corporate strategy," he says, and adds: "With all these personnel changes, not only have we achieved the desired rejuvenation of the Board of Directors, but we have also increased Franke Group's independence from Artemis Holding AG – and through the appointment of my son to the Board, long-term succession has been assured. With these changes, we are sending out a strong signal of our intent to take the Franke Group to the next level of development in a dynamic market environment."

## Images



**Christian\_Mäder**

Christian Mäder will be appointed the new Chairman of the Board of Directors at the General Meeting of Franke Holding AG on May 1, 2019.



**Alexander\_Pieper**

Alexander Pieper was appointed a member of the Board of Directors at the General Meeting of Franke Holding AG on October 17, 2018 and will be appointed the new Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors at the General Meeting on May 1, 2019.



**Patrick\_Naef**

Patrick Naef was appointed to the new Board of Directors at the General Meeting of Franke Holding AG on October 17, 2018.



**Dr.\_Michael\_Reinhard**

Dr. Michael Reinhard was appointed to the new Board of Directors at the General Meeting of Franke Holding AG on October 17, 2018.

***Franke** belongs to the Artemis Group and is a world leading provider of solutions and equipment for residential kitchens and bathrooms, public/private washrooms, the professional foodservice sector, and coffee preparation. The Franke Group operates worldwide and employs around 9,000 people in 40 countries, generating sales of over CHF 2.1 billion.*

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