



PRESS RELEASE

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## **Patrik Wohlhauser appointed new CEO of the Franke Group**

Aarburg, March 14, 2018

**Change at the top management level of the Franke Group: CEO Alexander Zschokke has decided to leave Franke due to different opinions about the further development of the company. His successor Patrik Wohlhauser takes over the leadership of the Franke Group as of March 19, 2018.**

Alexander Zschokke leaves the Franke Group due to different opinions about the further development of the company. He has been CEO of Franke since January 2013. Under his leadership, the Group has been strategically realigned over the past five years and the organic growth was strengthened.

Patrik Wohlhauser takes over the leadership of the Franke Group as of March 19, 2018. He previously was CEO of Wittur Holding GmbH, a leading global manufacturer and supplier of elevator components. Prior to joining Wittur, the 53-year-old Swiss spent 15 years in various management roles at Evonik and Degussa respectively, including Head of the business units "Construction Systems Europe" and "Exclusive Synthesis & Catalysts". In 2011, he was appointed to the Executive Board of Evonik Industries AG with responsibility for the "Consumer, Health & Nutrition" segment. In 2014, he became Chief Operating Officer (COO), assuming responsibility for all operations throughout the chemicals business. Before joining the leading German industrial group for specialty chemicals with global presence, he worked for Sandoz International AG and MBT Schweiz AG. Patrik Wohlhauser holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

Michael Pieper, owner and CEO of the Artemis Group, to which the Franke Group belongs, comments: “We thank Alexander Zschokke for his excellent work and for remaining in his role until we found a successor. We are pleased to welcome Patrik Wohlhauser as our new CEO. Today Franke is well positioned and we believe that under his leadership the company can develop quickly and successfully as well as further increase its profitability. With Patrik Wohlhauser’s broad and extensive experience in international and operational management, he has a proven track record of success. He is also an effective leader with strong financial, operational, and sales skills – ideal qualities to accelerate the Group’s profitable growth.”

#### **Picture**



#### **Franke\_Patrik\_Wohlhauser**

Patrik Wohlhauser will take over the management of Franke Group as CEO, effective March 19, 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, coffee preparation, and beverage supply. Franke Group operates worldwide and employs around 9,000 people in 40 countries, generating sales of over CHF 2.0 billion.*

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