

## Press release

2019-05-17

### **E.G.O.-Group writes another chapter in Oberderdingen with opening of new building**

**Company head office opens with celebrations for all employees and the interested public – Economics minister Dr. Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut stresses the significance of the E.G.O.-Group (E.G.O.) and the BLANC & FISCHER Family Holding for the region in opening speech – Blanc-und-Fischer-Platz as new address**

Oberderdingen | Precisely 521 days after the official start of construction, the directors of the E.G.O.-Group and the BLANC & FISCHER Family Holding opened the new company head office in Oberderdingen on 17 May. 'The starting shot was fired for the building works here on Blanc-und-Fischer-Platz in December 2017, and now we can say proudly: we have succeeded. We wanted to be ready by the middle of 2019. And we also succeeded in doing so thanks to the commitment and punctuality of the construction and trades companies, most of which are also from the region', said Dr. Johannes Haupt, Chief Executive Operation (CEO) of BLANC & FISCHER Family Holding. The new three-storey building at the E.G.O. headquarters offers some 5800 square metres of workspace, which will in future house 150 employees of the high-tech company and of BLANC & FISCHER Family Holding. 'The history of E.G.O. has been linked to Oberderdingen since 1931. Now we have written a new chapter', said Dirk Schallock, Chairman of the Management Board of the E.G.O.-Group. E.G.O. has invested a double-digit figure in the millions in the new headquarters, and thereby demonstrated a clear commitment to Oberderdingen – a development that the municipality also welcomes. To show its appreciation for the new building, the local council agreed to rename the section of the Bachstrasse between the Kraich river and the Flehinger Strasse roundabout Blanc-und-Fischer-Platz.

#### **Modern building provides ideal working conditions**

The new head office with its transparent glass facade blends harmoniously and yet also strikingly into its surroundings. 'With this new structure we have created a building that is on the one hand aesthetically restrained but on the other also unpretentious, linear, modern, open, naturally functional – and a

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little bit chic. And people who know E.G.O. and the BLANC & FISCHER Family Holding will say that these attributes match the company exactly', said Dr Haupt. 'A lot of very special people work here, who bring commitment and passion for E.G.O. and for the family holding overall. For these people we have invested to provide the best possible environment', added Schallock. 'We have created a modern building that is fit for the changing world of work – and above all a building in which all employees will feel comfortable. I am certain of this.'

The floor plan forms three arms of an X: three wings currently extend from the main building, and a fourth can be added in future if further space is required. This represents the geometry that the new building stands for – a linking element between E.G.O. and the BLANC & FISCHER Family Holding and also ARPA, Blanc und Fischer IT Services, BLANCO, BLANCO Professional and DEFENDI, which also belong to the family holding. 'Link', or perhaps 'connect', is certainly the keyword here. The Latin translation of these words is 'nexus', and accordingly, neXus is also the name of the new building. This was the winning name in a competition in which over a hundred employees of the entire BLANC & FISCHER Group took part.

### **Prominent guests from the world of politics**

Guests at the official opening in the morning included Dr Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut, Minister of Economics for Baden-Württemberg, plus District Administrator Dr Christoph Schnaudigel and the mayor of Oberderdingen, Thomas Nowitzki. All three highlighted the importance of E.G.O. for the region and for Baden-Württemberg. In her opening speech Dr Hoffmeister-Kraut emphasised: 'Many major corporations and medium-sized businesses in Baden-Württemberg have successfully digitised their business models – and the E.G.O.-Group is an outstanding example. The Group also shows how, thanks to constant product and process innovation, a high level of manufacturing depth and value creation can be kept in the region.'

Employees from all the subgroups conveyed their good wishes in video messages, which were shown during the opening celebrations. 'We have received good wishes and messages from all over the world. In my view this is a fine indication of the strong bond between the employees and the Group', said Dr Haupt. In the afternoon the doors of the new building were opened for all employees of the BLANC & FISCHER Group and for the

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public from Oberderdingen and the surroundings. Visitors were able to inspect the new workspaces and the adjacent E.G.O. Museum. A variety of food and entertainment stands were set up around the new building. With the support of partners and regional associations, organiser E.G.O. offered a diverse programme to its visitors, from a goal-shooting contest and a children's bouncy castle to a cycling trial presentation. 'For us, the inauguration of the head office was a memorable day that we wanted to celebrate, particularly with all our employees and everyone involved with E.G.O.', said Schallock. 'It was a great success. We are delighted that so many people responded to our invitation.'



**Caption: The new company head office of E.G.O. and BLANC & FISCHER Family Holding**

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**Caption: Cutting the ribbon: Thomas Nowitzki (Mayor of Oberderdingen), District Administrator Dr Christoph Schnaudigel, E.G.O. CEO Dirk Schallock, Economics Minister Dr Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut, BLANC & FISCHER Family Holding CEO Dr Johannes Haupt, E.G.O. Blanc und Fischer & Co. GmbH board member and shareholder Georg Fischer, BLANC & FISCHER Family Holding COO Dr Karlheinz Hörsting, BLANC & FISCHER Family Holding CFO Benno Rudolf, E.G.O. Blanc und Fischer & Co. GmbH board member Dr Dierk-Michael Heinzlmann and Wolfgang Bauer (CSO E.G.O.) flanked by trial champions Jonas Friedrich and Oliver Widmann**



**Caption: Thomas Nowitzki and Dr. Christoph Schnaudigel unveil the new E.G.O. company address.**