

PRESS RELEASE

Zeppelin Systems mourns the loss of former Managing Director Rochus Hofmann

Friedrichshafen, September 28, 2024 - After almost 20 years at the helm of the company, plant manufacturer Zeppelin Systems did not bid farewell to Rochus Hofmann until July 2023, when he took his well-deserved retirement. On September 8, 2024, the much-loved and esteemed CEO passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 71. A sad moment for Zeppelin Systems and the entire Zeppelin Group.

“His unexpected death has deeply shocked us all and our sincere condolences go out to his family. I probably feel the same way as many people in Friedrichshafen: In my perception, he was in top shape, cheerful, sporty and still very active even in retirement. Unfortunately, he has now left us far too early,” Markus Vöge, CEO of Zeppelin Systems GmbH, announced in an internal message of mourning to the workforce.

Rochus Hofmann took over as Managing Director of Zeppelin Materials Handling GmbH (the former name of today's Zeppelin Systems GmbH) in 2005 and has achieved numerous internationalization successes for the company over the course of his career. In the 2000s, for example, he carried out valuable development work to establish the international Zeppelin Systems subsidiaries in Korea, India and China. He also oversaw numerous mergers and acquisitions in Germany and abroad, such as the purchase of the Italian company Nuova Ciba (processing of rubber compounds for the tire industry) and Smart Controls in India (digitalization and automation solutions for plant engineering and industry).

As an entrepreneur, he recognized the importance of automation for plant engineering early on and, as Managing Director, set the course for the expansion and further development of this area. He was also particularly valued for his passionate commitment as a negotiator and bridge-builder in difficult business situations. The staff valued him as an experienced manager who left a lasting mark on the company through his integrity, reliability and humanity. “Rochus Hofmann was not only a valued business partner for me, but also a confidant, and I deeply regret his sudden passing,” says Peter Gerstmann, CEO of the Zeppelin Group. “We will honor his memory and our deepest sympathies go out to his family and loved ones in these difficult times,” added Gerstmann.

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About Zeppelin Plant Engineering

Zeppelin Systems specializes in the design, construction, and technological upgrading of industrial plants for storing, conveying, mixing, dosing, and weighing high-quality bulk materials and raw materials. With around 1,900 employees worldwide, Zeppelin Systems provides daily solutions for customers in the plastics, chemicals, rubber, and tire industries. Customers in the food industry also value Zeppelin Systems' many years of technological know-how and experience in delivering turnkey solutions. From plant planning and project implementation to after-sales service including process optimization – Zeppelin Systems is an integrated solutions provider, delivering complete solutions from a single source. Every Zeppelin plant is characterized by tailored features to meet specific customer requirements, smart automation solutions, and comprehensive service. We refer to this as the embodiment of engineering art, and we apply it to the entire life cycle of a system. With roots in Germany and global operations at more than 20 sites around the world, Zeppelin Systems makes industrial-scale testing available to its customers, thereby facilitating the assessment and sustainable optimization of their plant design. Zeppelin Systems also develops and manufactures mechanical and plant engineering components that can be seamlessly integrated into third-party systems. We Create Solutions for our customers every day. For more information, visit www.zeppelin-systems.com.

About the Zeppelin Group

The Zeppelin Group offers solutions in the construction industry, drive and energy systems, engineering and plant engineering. The Group provides customers with expertise in a number of areas, from the distribution and service of construction, mining, forestry and agricultural machinery, through rental and project solutions for the construction sector and industry as a whole, to drive and energy systems as well as engineering and plant engineering and enhances its offering with digital capabilities in all areas. Zeppelin is active worldwide in 26 countries. In the 2023 financial year, the Group workforce comprised over 10,000 employees and generated sales of EUR 3.9 billion. The Group organizes its activities into five strategic business units (Construction Equipment Germany & Austria, Construction Equipment International, Rental, Power Systems, and Plant Engineering) and the Zeppelin Group IT Services. Zeppelin GmbH is the Group holding company. It is legally domiciled in Friedrichshafen and has its head office in Garching near Munich. The Zeppelin Group is a foundation-owned company. Its roots can be traced back to the establishment of the Zeppelin Foundation by Graf Ferdinand von Zeppelin in 1908. For more information, visit zeppelin.com.

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