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Management board responsible for the transformation of the Berner Group restructured

Berner Group adds five new members to the top management level

Stuttgart/Künzelsau, January 19, 2016: The Berner Group appointed three new board members in autumn 2015. After Christian Berner had been managing the company as sole director for more than a year, the board was expanded. The new faces within the company since October 1, 2015 are Mischa Franz as chief financial officer (CFO) and Ingo Brauckmann as chief supply chain officer (CSCO) and since November 1, 2015 Christoph Möltgen as chief information officer (CIO). The group brands will also be represented at board level in future: Armin Heß, chairman of the board at Berner Trading Holding GmbH, will also assume the role of chief operating officer (COO) of the Berner division in future; Carsten Rumpf, chairman of the board at Caramba Holding GmbH will additionally take on responsibility for the Caramba division as chief operating officer (COO).

“We have drawn up a clear plan for the transformation. With the five new board positions we will also be consistently supporting the strategic realignment of the Berner Group on a personnel level.” explains Christian Berner, CEO of Berner SE.

Christian Berner has now been in charge of the Berner Group as sole CEO for over a year. The expansion of the Executive Board is

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a clear sign that the transformation of the business model also requires investment in additional expertise within the company and the strengthening of its leadership.

After Christian Berner had been managing the Berner Group as sole director for more than a year, the expansion of the management board is a clear sign that the transformation of the business model also necessitates investment in enhancing expertise within the company as well as stronger management.

Since digitalization is affecting and altering the key drivers of the retail business, Berner has decided to position the IT and e-commerce sections at board level in order to underline their importance to the future growth of the business. For retail companies like Berner in particular, optimizing the supply chain establishes an important basis for being able to quickly supply customers with products throughout Europe. This function will also be managed at top level in future. The new CFO will have the task of giving the group certainty in times of change by providing useful figures.

With the exception of the chief financial officer, who succeeds Lothar Aulich, the positions at the Berner Group have been newly created. The new board members will report to Christian Berner as spokesman of the board. They will work in the offices of the holding company in Künzelsau. In addition, they have also been working at the company's other offices in Cologne since autumn 2015.

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Mischa Franz, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Mischa Franz (*1971) holds a degree in business management and has been chief financial officer since October 2015, succeeding Lothar Aulich, who left Berner in 2014. He joined the company from the SCA Group, where he held various positions since 2003, including director of group controlling and chief financial officer, following a spell as a management consultant at KPMG. As CFO he is responsible for the finance and controlling departments as well as integrated company acquisitions.

Christoph Möltgen, Chief Information Officer (CIO)

Christoph Möltgen (*1967), new chief information officer (CIO) since November 2015, holds a degree in economics and has joined Berner from the Otto Group. As IT director at that company since 2011 and, most recently, chief transformation officer (CTO), he was not only responsible for its IT strategy, but also for the future direction of IT in the areas of business intelligence and big data.

Ingo Brauckmann, Chief Supply Chain Officer (CSCO)

Ingo Brauckmann (*1970) holds a degree in industrial engineering and has been the new chief supply chain officer (CSCO) at the Berner Group since October 2015. After spells at Henkel and DHL, Brauckmann was most recently chief operating officer (COO) responsible for sourcing and operations, among other things, at Redeem Holding (Bathgate, UK), a company that specializes in e-recycling.

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Armin Heß, Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Armin Heß (*1966) holds a degree in business management and is the new chief operating officer (COO) of the Berner division at the Berner Group. He began his professional career in 1986 at the German sales company of Berner and after spells at U.I. Lapp GmbH and Technolit GmbH he returned to the Berner Group in August 2011 as senior vice president and, later, chairman of the board at Berner Trading Holding GmbH.

Carsten Rumpf, Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Carsten Rumpf (*1963) holds a business degree and is the new chief operating officer (COO) of the Caramba division at the Berner Group. He has many years of experience in various management roles in Europe and the USA. Since 2003, Carsten Rumpf had been managing director of seven business units in four countries at the Brady Corporation. He had already held other management positions in the electrical/electronics sector prior to that. Carsten Rumpf has been chairman of the board at Caramba Holding since July 2013.

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The restructured board responsible for the transformation of the Berner Group (from l. to r.: Armin Heß, Carsten Rumpf, Mischa Franz, Christian A. W. Berner, Ingo Brauckmann, Christoph Möltgen)

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The Berner Group

The Berner Group is a family-run European business enterprise headquartered in Künzelsau (Baden-Württemberg). The group of companies deals in the fields of multichannel distribution and production of MRO (maintenance, repair, and operations) goods, such as tools and chemical products, for the automotive sector and industry as well as the building trade. More than 9,000 employees in the business units Berner, Caramba, and BTI in about 60 companies and 25 countries make sure that customers profit from a partnership with the Group. In the last financial year, the Berner Group generated revenues of over one billion euros.