



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Berner Group expands holding location in Cologne

**The Berner Group is expanding its holding location in Cologne's Rheinauhafen. More than 130 employees will soon have office space of approx. 2,200 square meters at their disposal on Anna-Schneider-Steig. In January 2016, the commercial enterprise founded in Baden-Württemberg relocated the holding company's second pillar to Cologne in order to master the challenges of digital transformation more quickly. Since then, more than 130 new jobs have been created in the Rhine metropolis.**

By renting an additional area on the ground floor, approximately 230 square meters could be created for additional mobile workstations and a large but partitionable conference room. Here, work can be carried out flexibly using the latest technical equipment. In the future, Berner Group employees will have access to a total of over 2,200 square meters of work space in Rheinauhafen. Collaboration took place with the Cologne architecture and interior design office "hell und freundlich", as was the case when the company moved in two years ago.

#### Networking across all hierarchical levels

In the coming weeks, multipurpose office premises will be created with a distinct industrial charm. Similar to the floors that have already been rented, the materials of Berner Group customers – steel, glass, wood and concrete – have been used to create a contemporary working environment. But a modern office concept was not only visually important. The "office of the future" is also lived out at Berner in daily business life. With the move to Cologne's Rheinauhafen, the family business introduced non-territorial work arrangements. This means that workstations can be freely selected each day and must be cleaned and cleared by employees before leaving for the night. This enables the staff to sit together and organize themselves flexibly according to the projects and tasks at hand. The concept promotes communication and cooperation across all hierarchical levels.

#### Individual solutions for employees

It has become increasingly important for employees to not only be flexible, but also to shift their work location depending on the situation. The Berner Group is reacting to this trend with its modern workstations while also promoting exchange through communicative areas. At the same time, Berner employees also have spaces to retreat. Here they can concentrate on their work and make undisturbed telephone calls. "Companies must react to the fact that the modern working world demands more and more of their employees. We are not only responding to this trend with our flexible workstations, but are also ensuring a proper work-life balance with more areas to retreat and home office opportunities," says Jasmin Fröhlich, Senior Director HR Holding & Corporate Executives.



## The Berner Group

The Berner Group is a family-run European commercial enterprise. Our vision is: “We keep the world together and moving.” This means we are the central B2B trading partner for all materials in the maintenance, repair, and production segments for our customers in the building, mobility, and industry sectors. With more than four channels we create an integrated omni-channel purchasing experience for our customers. In the steel and C materials as well as chemicals segments we are also an innovative manufacturer. We are represented in over 23 countries for our customers with more than 200,000 items and 8,200 employees.