



## Lehmann Group with two at the helm

Sönke Schlüter heralds in a new generation in management

**In December 2015, Sönke Schlüter (34) was appointed Technical and Logistics Director of MARTIN LEHMANN Verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG in Minden. The proprietor and managing owner, Renate Schlüter, retains responsibility for Finance, Sales and Human Resources. This dual leadership represents the planned transition of generations at the family-owned company, which is a leading manufacturer of cylinder locking systems. Construction of a new production facility at the Minden-Dützen site will commence shortly.**

The son of the managing owner, Renate Schlüter, knew from an early age that he wanted to run the company which his grandfather Martin Lehmann founded in 1962. To achieve his ambition, he studied engineering at Karlsruhe University (2002 - 2008); during this time, Sönke Schlüter worked as a factory student and intern for PORSCHE. While working with PORSCHE CONSULTING, he completed his thesis "value stream mapping in the product creation process".

After a period in Cambridge (UK), Sönke Schlüter played a pivotal role in the integration of HUWIL into the LEHMANN Group after this companies acquisition in 2009. From the beginning, it was the intention of both Renate and Sönke Schlüter that he should gain further external experience following the successful integration of HUWIL into the Group. As a consultant with HORVATH & Partners in Stuttgart, Sönke Schlüter spent September 2011 until Summer 2015 as a specialist for Lean Management in the Organization and Operations Division, ultimately as Senior Project Manager for a number of overseas projects.

During the summer of 2015, Sönke Schlüter returned to the LEHMANN Group, where since December 2015 he shares the management of the company with his mother, Renate Schlüter. This transition of generations sets the course for the future for LEHMANN, which is now being launched with the consolidation of facilities with construction of a new factory, which will also increase capacity and permit process optimization to enable a stronger focus on the requirements of customers.

Construction of the new factory will commence shortly and will allow the company to consolidate it's 3 Minden locations into one facility. The Goldin die-casting plant in Porta-Westfalica with development, product development and toolmaking, machine construction, die-casting and injection moulding; the MARTIN LEHMANN core production unit (where today electro-plating and assembly are concentrated) and the LEHMANN Sales and Marketing company which is already located in Minden-Dützen, will shortly be operating from a unified base in a brand-new facility.

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*Caption: Managing partner Renate Schlüter with her son Sönke Schlüter who has been responsible as managing director for technology and logistics at Martin Lehmann Verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG, Minden since December 2015. Photo: Lehmann*