

# Press release

Rittal Foundation



**Rittal Foundation**

Gemeinnützige Stiftung der **FRIEDHELM LOH GROUP**

New chair for the Foundation Board

## New chair and realignment at the Rittal Foundation

**The Foundation Board of the Rittal Foundation has bid farewell to its chairman Friedemann Hensgen after 30 years of service to the company. His successor is Rainer Reissner as Managing Director, who has many years of experience in theological as well as welfare and social work. With him, the Rittal Foundation is repositioning itself as the organ of the Friedhelm Loh Group's social commitment and strengthening its support activities around the company's locations in Germany.**

Herborn, 19 October 2021 – “You have helped to write three decades of company history”, said Professor Friedhelm Loh, Owner and CEO of the Friedhelm Loh Group, summing up Friedemann Hensgen's activities. Mr Hensgen had been employed for 20 years at Rittal, the largest company of the Friedhelm Loh Group, in a variety of positions, including Head of Marketing, before becoming a member of the Rittal Foundation Board in 2011 and taking over as chair in 2014. He has now been ceremonially bid farewell and appointed an honorary member of the Rittal Foundation Board in recognition of his far-reaching commitment.

“You have always acted with passion, responsibility for people and with deep humility. For you, it was not a question of just fulfilling a function, but living it – out of conviction,” said a grateful Professor Loh, expressing his appreciation for the time and commitment Friedemann Hensgen had invested during his 30 years in the family-run business. “This is charity in action.” Since day one, he had shown outstanding commitment to the charitable purpose of the family business's non-profit foundation. He was thus largely responsible for the Rittal Foundation's wide-ranging social impact, particularly in the Central Hesse region.

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At his farewell, Friedemann Hensgen thanked companions and colleagues for the cooperation, support and mutual trust that had kept him going every day for over 30 years. "Without cohesion and mutual trust, we would not have been able to perform our sustainable support activities true to the 'Help for Self-Help' motto," he emphasised, passing on the baton to Rainer Reissner as new Managing Director of the Rittal Foundation.

### **Repositioned for the future**

Rainer Reissner is a trained banker. Before studying business administration, he had completed his theological-diaconal training as a community pastor at the Tabor Foundation, the study and residential community of the EH Marburg (the Tabor Evangelical University in Marburg). A native of Marburg, he can now look back on almost 30 years of experience in the welfare and social fields of work with management responsibility for children's day-care centres, schools, and the care of the elderly. For example, he had been the Managing Director of the Tabor Foundation and chaired the Board of the German Community Diaconia Association Board. "I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me in taking on this important task, and I look forward to the cooperation ahead of us," he added at his introduction. "Being able to do good for people and the region is a gift."

### **Doubling the Foundation's capital**

The change in the Rittal Foundation is accompanied by a strategic realignment intended to strengthen the effectiveness of the Foundation's funding activities. Professor Loh, for example, recently announced that the Foundation's capital would be doubled, from €20 m to €40 million. At the same time, the Foundation Board decided to change the name to 'Rittal Foundation, gemeinnützige Stiftung der Friedhelm Loh Group' (*Rittal Foundation, charitable foundation of the Friedhelm Loh Group*), thus setting a new milestone for the Foundation's work. Until now, the Rittal Foundation has been primarily active in the Central Hesse region, home to both the Friedhelm Loh Group

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and Rittal, with headquarters in Haiger and Herborn. Through the realignment, projects close to the Eplan, Cideon, Stahlo, LKH and German Edge Cloud company locations will be a more precise focus of funding activities. The Foundation is therefore increasing its commitments in the regions around Monheim am Rhein, Gräfelting, Gera, Heiligenroth and Eschborn, among others. In choosing recipients for donations, it continues to focus on supporting organisations in education, welfare and social issues, culture and science.

The Rittal Foundation's work underlines the Group's close ties with the people in the region and its social responsibility for its own surroundings, which is actively lived by the owner and the Group's employees. Professor Friedhelm Loh established the Rittal Foundation in 2011 to mark Rittal's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. So far, three million euros have been donated for good causes from the Foundation's capital income.

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### **Caption(s)**

Image 1 (fri211967900): "It's a gift to be able to do good for people and the region," said Rainer Reissner at his introduction as the new Managing Director of the Rittal Foundation Board.

Image 2 (fri211962700): "Without cohesion and mutual trust, we would not have been able to perform our sustainable support activities true to the motto 'Help for Self-Help'," Friedemann Hensgen emphasised on his departure.

Image 3 (fri21207300): In line with the change of name to "Rittal Foundation, charitable foundation of the Friedhelm Loh Group", the logo of the foundation was also modified.

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The not-for-profit Rittal Foundation was established in 2011 by Friedhelm Loh, owner and CEO of Rittal, to mark the company's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The organisation began with a start capital of 40 million euros. The income from the foundation's capital fund will be distributed annually and donated to social and cultural charities local to the various Rittal sites, including international locations. The Foundation's efforts are mainly focussed on the Central Hesse region of Germany, where Rittal is based.

For more information, visit [www.rittal-foundation.de](http://www.rittal-foundation.de).

## **Friedhelm Loh Group**

A global player, the Friedhelm Loh Group (F.L.G.) invents, develops, and makes made-to-measure products and integrated solutions for manufacturers, distributors, and other businesses. The Friedhelm Loh Group's companies belong to the top addresses in their respective industries – as inventors and competent producers. They include the world's leading provider of modular platforms for enclosures, power distribution, climate control and IT infrastructure (Rittal); Europe's number one supplier of software solutions for plant engineering, general engineering, and manufacturing; and a specialist in integrated manufacturing with state-of-the-art materials – steel, aluminium, and plastics (Stahlo und LKH). German Edge Cloud, a start-up company specialises in edge and cloud systems for data-sensitive companies. As a founder member of GAIA-X, it also supports the establishment of a competitive and sovereign data infrastructure in Europe.

The family business is active world-wide with 12 production sites and 94 international subsidiaries. The owner-operated Friedhelm Loh Group employs 11,600 people and generated revenues of approximately €2.6 billion in 2019. For the thirteenth time in succession, the group has won the accolade "Top German Employer" in 2021. Within the scope of a Germany-wide survey, Focus Money magazine identified the Friedhelm Loh Group as one of the nation's best providers of vocational training for the fifth time in 2021.

Further information at [www.friedhelm-loh-group.com](http://www.friedhelm-loh-group.com).