

## **HANDTMANN GROUP OF COMPANIES PRESS RELEASE**

### **HANDTMANN CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY: GENERATION CHANGE IN THE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**Biberach an der Riß, 19th April 2023. Generation change in the management team of the Handtmann Group of Companies: On the occasion of the company's 150th anniversary, Thomas Handtmann passes on the management after 25 years to his nephew Valentin Ulrich and his son Markus Handtmann. With the new management duo, the fifth generation takes the helm of the family-owned company with headquarters in Biberach an der Riß. As of the end of June 2023, the current Managing Director of Handtmann Holding, Thomas Handtmann, will move to the Advisory Board of the family-owned company. Established in 1873 as a small, artisan brass foundry in Biberach an der Riß, the company has developed to become the globally operating technology corporation with 4,300 employees working in six business divisions that it is today.**

"I very much look forward to passing on the responsibilities to the fifth generation. Valentin and Markus are open to new ideas, have a broadened horizon and have an instinct for the business, but also for people," comments Thomas Handtmann on the generation change. Markus Handtmann and Valentin Ulrich have gained management experience in various positions within and outside the company. Having been appointed as additional managing directors of Handtmann Holding GmbH & Co. KG as of 1st April 2023, they will assume sole responsibility for the group of companies at the end of June. A symbolic passing of the baton will take place on the occasion of the company's 150th anniversary in September. Markus Handtmann and Valentin Ulrich assume responsibility for a modern technology company well positioned for the future with its six divisions Light Metal Casting, Systems Engineering, Filling and Portioning Systems, Process Technology, Plastics Engineering and e-solutions.

#### **Markus Handtmann**

Markus Handtmann studied mechanical engineering with a focus on production planning and optimisation at the University of Karlsruhe. He gained professional experience initially at WIKA Alexander Wiegand SE & Co. KG, an internationally operating family business with numerous production facilities and sales offices around the world, similar to Handtmann. As an internal lean consultant, he was responsible for optimising the corporate processes of the manufacturer of temperature and measurement technology located in Klingenberg in Franconia. Eager to expand his field of vision as an engineer to include the management tasks of an executive, he completed, while working, the Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) course at the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

In 2017, Markus Handtmann joined the Handtmann Group of Companies as Managing Director of the Handtmann Light Metal Foundry (Tianjin) Co., Ltd., in Tianjin, China. Positions as Managing Director of Handtmann Service GmbH & Co. KG and Albert Handtmann Armaturenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG should follow, before he was appointed a member of group management of Albert Handtmann Holding GmbH & Co. KG in April 2023.

He identifies sustainability, continued internationalisation and optimisation of structures and processes within the group of companies as focal points that will define the future at Handtmann. Openness to change and

advancement of the management culture are also important additional factors. “We will certainly continue to uphold the strengths of our family business in the future. In spite of an ever faster changing environment to which we have to adapt to a certain extent, we, as an employee-oriented company, intend to keep our motivated staff at Handtmann and attract new, committed people to ‘Team Handtmann’,” explains Markus Handtmann.

### **Valentin Ulrich**

Valentin Ulrich has also become acquainted with the Handtmann Group of Companies from various perspectives. Prior to this, however, he studied mechanical engineering with a focus on production technology and machine tools at the University of Stuttgart. He then joined the Stuttgart-based mechanical and plant engineering company Dürr AG as a consultant. Just like his cousin Markus Handtmann, Valentin Ulrich also completed, while working, an EMBA course at the University of St Gall in Switzerland, to prepare himself for his future role as managing director.

The first position at Handtmann was that of Assistant to the Management Human Resources, followed by heading the die casting department at the Handtmann Metallgusswerk in Biberach an der Riß. Here, Valentin Ulrich learned what “working and leading in shifts” really meant. He also gained experience working abroad at the Handtmann subsidiary in Waterloo, Canada. Further positions included Managing Director of Handtmann Service GmbH & Co. KG and of the Handtmann Filling and Portioning Systems division. Since April 2023, he has been a member of group management of Albert Handtmann Holding GmbH & Co. KG.

The topics of innovation, digitalisation and internationalisation are of particular importance to Valentin Ulrich. “We can benefit from the diversification at Handtmann in all three of these fields. I see it as an important task for us to maintain this diversity and use it in the right way,” explains Valentin Ulrich and continues that the integration of the companies Inotec and Verbufo in the Filling and Portioning Systems division or the new foundry facilities in Kechnec, Slovakia, had given the Handtmann Group of Companies an even greater international orientation. “We will see this development intensify in the future. It is therefore all the more important to keep the group of companies together and to promote close exchange between the divisions,” continues Valentin Ulrich.

### **“Handtmann NextGen”: constructive dialogue with the workforce at all locations**

On the occasion of the generation change in corporate management, Valentin Ulrich and Markus Handtmann will enter into constructive dialogue with the workforce at all locations, will listen and elaborate on the shared Handtmann values from their perspective under the motto “Handtmann NextGen”. In the process, room will be deliberately given to the staff for new ideas and input, in order to tread the path forward together right from the beginning. The goal of the new management duo is to continue moving Handtmann forward on the path to success. Topics such as internationalisation, innovation, digitalisation and openness to new ways of working will be crucial to this end.

### **A special anniversary year**

Under the motto “Ideas for the future. Since 1873.”, the Handtmann Group of Companies makes deliberate use of the 150th anniversary to foster a sense of togetherness, a pioneering spirit and positivity within the Handtmann community worldwide.

Three consecutive events at the company headquarters in Biberach an der Riß form the centrepiece of the celebrations: a colourful Open Day for employees and their families as well as former colleagues on the company premises on 1st July; a festive gala evening with around 300 invited guests, including friends, associates and celebrities from the world of politics and business on 15th September; and a staff celebration to express gratitude to the many employees and their companions on 16th September. The five national and 18 international locations will also be fully involved and hold local anniversary events. Moreover, employees from different locations and continents will be appointed “Handtmann Ambassadors” and be out and about at various locations throughout the anniversary year, posting stories and impressions on the corporate channels.

In order to give the milestone anniversary a visually appealing framework, Handtmann had a look & feel developed especially for the occasion that will run like a leitmotif through all media and measures. At the heart of the look & feel is the “150 years” logo, that will be used in the anniversary year as a supplement to the corporate logo.

#### **About the Handtmann Group of Companies**

The Handtmann Group of Companies is a globally active technology company operating in the processing industry with 4,300 employees, 2,700 of whom work at the headquarters in Biberach an der Riß. Cutting-edge technology, innovation and a strong focus on the individual are at the core of the business run by the founding Handtmann family from Biberach. Handtmann is decentrally organised in six divisions with autonomous management structures: Light Metal Casting and Systems Engineering for the automotive industry, Filling and Portioning Systems and Process Technology for the food industry, Plastics Engineering and e-solutions. At the head of the group of companies is a holding, which acts as the management, financing and holding company. In 2022, Handtmann generated sales of 1.1 billion euros. A high degree of investment in research and development and production facilities is facilitated by a strict reinvestment policy on the part of the owners of the company to be able to sustainably support qualitative growth. The Group of Companies is currently represented in over 100 countries with its own production sites, subsidiaries and agents. Established in 1873 as an artisan brass foundry, Handtmann will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2023.

Press contact:

Albert Handtmann Holding

GmbH & Co. KG

Dr. Robert Omagbemi

Arthur-Handtmann-Straße 23

88400 Biberach

Tel. +49 7351 342-2336

[robert.omagbemi@handtmann.de](mailto:robert.omagbemi@handtmann.de)