

Waiblingen, December 15, 2017

Dr. Peter Pretzsch new STIHL Executive Board Member, Research and Development

The STIHL AG supervisory board has appointed Dr. Peter Pretzsch the new executive board member responsible for research and development as from July 1, 2018. Dr. Pretzsch succeeds Wolfgang Zahn, the former STIHL development chief, who has occupied the position since July 1999.

Under the leadership of Wolfgang Zahn, several billion euros were invested in the development of STIHL products. For example, a new engineering center was built in 2004 and a competence center for environment-friendly electric and cordless battery products was set up at the founding company in Waiblingen in 2016. During his term of office, not only the STIHL battery technology was developed, but world firsts and many technical innovations were also launched on the market. This made STIHL products both more powerful and convenient to use, but also improved their ergonomics and reduced their emissions. This includes, for instance, the STIHL TS 500i, the world's first cut-off machine with electronically controlled fuel injection, and product features like the Ergostart, STIHL 4Mix engine and STIHL M-Tronic engine management. Since 1999 the turnover of the STIHL Group has tripled from 1.14 billion euros to 3.46 billion euros (fiscal year 2016).

Dr. Peter Pretzsch has been general manager of VIKING, the Austrian garden equipment manufacturer, since 2011. Under his leadership, the STIHL subsidiary was substantially extended and experienced considerable growth. Previously, he worked for more than 20 years in executive positions at the STIHL founding company in Waiblingen. Among other positions, he was head of "Research and Development Services" for two years and then head of the "Group Technology and Buildings" department for more than five years". Prior to that he spent time in a number of positions in product development, e.g. in engine development and pre-development. In addition, Dr. Pretzsch was a member of the STIHL AG supervisory board from 2003 to 2011.

Dr. Clemens Schaller takes over as VIKING General Manager

When Dr. Pretzsch joins the STIHL executive board, Dr. Clemens Schaller will take over as General Manager of VIKING on June 1, 2018. Dr. Schaller is currently at STIHL and responsible for coordination with Globe Tools, a Chinese manufacturer of

corded and cordless electric power tools. The STIHL Group acquired a 35% stake in Globe Tools in May 2016. Dr. Schaller studied mechanical engineering at RWTH Aachen and received his PhD at Dortmund University. Dr. Schaller is an experienced leader with an international background. Since 1988 he was in responsible positions in production at a number of Robert Bosch GmbH and BSH Hausgeräte GmbH plants at home and abroad. In his most recent function Dr. Schaller was responsible for worldwide production of BSH dishwashers.

Company Portrait

The STIHL Group develops, manufactures and distributes power tools for professional forestry and agriculture as well as for garden and landscape maintenance, the construction sector and the demanding private user. The range of garden power tools from VIKING complements the product line. Products are distributed exclusively through authorized dealers, including 37 sales and marketing subsidiaries, about 120 importers and more than 45,000 servicing dealers in over 160 countries. STIHL has production plants in seven countries: Germany, USA, Brazil, Switzerland, Austria, China and in the Philippines. Since 1971 STIHL has been the world's top-selling chain saw brand. The company was founded in 1926 and is based in Waiblingen near Stuttgart. In 2016, STIHL achieved a worldwide sales volume of 3.46 billion euros with a workforce of 14,920.

This press release and pictures are available for downloading from the STIHL website at <http://www.stihl.com/daily-pressbusiness-press.aspx>

Your contact for daily and business press:

ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG
Dr. Stefan Caspari
Head of Corporate Communications and Public Relations
Badstrasse 115 / 71336 Waiblingen
Phone: +49 - (0) 7151/26-1402
Fax: +49 - (0) 7151/26-81402
Email: stefan.caspari@stihl.de