

NEWS RELEASE

WESTFALIA-Automotive expands its management

■ Ralf von Hörsten is the new director of the Product Development division.

Rheda-Wiedenbrück, 02.07.2007. The Westphalian producer of trailer hitches supplements its management staff. With Ralf von Hörsten (40), a top manager with many years of experience in the automobile industry joins WESTFALIA-Automotive. Ralf von Hörsten comes from Faurecia Autositze GmbH, where he was director for the Volkswagen section. As the new director of product development, Ralf von Hörsten will in future be responsible for creating new products at WESTFALIA-Automotive -from the initial product idea until the product is ready for series production.

"Innovativeness and quality are the success factors with which WESTFALIA-Automotive reached its current strength. Furthering these two factors and (thus) opening up new areas of activity and securing profitable growth is where we need to invest our efforts," says Ralf von Hörsten.

WESTFALIA-Automotive develops and produces 1000 types of trailer hitches for nearly all automobile makes and is market leader in Germany. With a production capacity of over 800,000 trailer hitches per year, the company supplies all the leading automobile manufacturers in Europe. Since November of last year the French SIARR company belongs to the WESTFALIA-Automotive group. The Group currently employs 700 employees and had a total turnover of more than 123 million euro in the 2005/2006 fiscal year.

In Germany alone, WESTFALIA-Automotive added seventy new employees to the staff within the current fiscal year.

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