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Ludger Wälken to head Koelnmesse 3.0

New divisional head for the Koelnmesse investment project

As of September 1, 2017, Ludger Wälken (52) will lead the newly created central division Koelnmesse 3.0, taking over responsibility for the biggest investment project in the history of the company.

"Koelnmesse 3.0 still requires the full attention of the entire team for many years. That's why we have created a separate central division for this task," says Gerald Böse, Chairman of the Management Board. Koelnmesse 3.0 and a volume of more than 600 million euros will see the creation of the world's most attractive inner-city trade fair grounds in Cologne by 2030. As well as extensive modernization measures, core projects include the construction of two new halls, including a Confex® Centrum (Conferences and Exhibitions), a new entrance with adjoining distributor terminal and a new parking garage with over 3,000 parking spaces.

After completing his degree in Engineering at RWTH Aachen, Wälken worked on different projects in Germany and Austria in the role of project leader for various major construction and real estate companies. The projects included several hotels and office buildings as well as constructions in Hamburg such as the state archives and the conversion of the Speicherstadt. His most recent role was in Vienna as Head of Construction at Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF, where he was responsible for project budgets in the hundreds of millions.

Wälken will report directly to Koelnmesse Managing Director Herbert Marner. He takes over responsibility for Koelnmesse 3.0 from central divisional manager for infrastructure Dr. Georg Klumpe, who successfully got the project up and running in the past three years and will retain responsibility for the project until Wälken takes up his new post. The Koelnmesse Management Board would like to express its thanks to Dr. Klumpe. He will continue to be responsible for the management of the entire infrastructure of the trade fair grounds, including security, logistics and traffic management, which will be subject to significantly increased requirements.

Note for the editorial team:

You can find a photo of Ludger Wälken online at: <http://bit.ly/2qjkwgk>

Specimen copy requested upon reprint.

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