

## **TEKFOR Group appoints Johann Ecker as CEO**

- **Experienced automotive executive Johann Ecker will take over as permanent CEO from interim CEO Jan Kantowsky effective 1 January 2018**
- **Continuity assured by well-coordinated Tekfor management team**
- **Manfred Vogel continues as managing director of TEKFOR group companies in Germany and as a board member of TEKFOR Global Holdings Ltd.**
- **Growth and performance enhancement plan on track and driven forward**

**Hausach, 9 January 2018.** The TEKFOR Group, a leader in the manufacture of highly differentiated products for the global automotive markets, announces the appointment of experienced automotive executive Johann Ecker as CEO. An experienced automotive executive, who previously held a number of senior roles in the automotive supply industry, Ecker is taking over from interim CEO Jan Kantowsky from global consulting firm AlixPartners effective as early as 1 January 2018. The continuity at TEKFOR management level and in the implementation of the growth and performance enhancement program “Fit for Future” continues to be assured by the existing experienced TEKFOR management team. Thus in particular, Manfred Vogel will continue to serve as managing director of the TEKFOR group companies in Germany and as a board member of TEKFOR Global Holdings Ltd.

Johann Ecker, who holds a masters degree in mechanical engineering, started his career in 1990 with Bayern Chemie Airbag GmbH (which later became Temic), where he held various positions in Quality, Engineering and Sales. When this company was acquired by TRW in 1997, Johann Ecker took over responsibility for Sales, Marketing and Customer Applications, initially for airbags and, a year later, for safety belts and steering wheels.

In early 2000 Ecker joined Magna International at its European headquarters, where he was in charge of Marketing and Planning for Magna Europe, before being appointed executive board member of Magna Powertrain in 2001, responsible for global sales. In 2008 he was elected to the board of Magna Steyr. After three years as sales executive of Vehicle Contract Manufacturing and Engineering Services, he became head of the Engineering division and as President Car Top Systems was later also responsible for CTS. From 2013 he served as Senior Vice President of Magna’s Fluid Pressure & Controls Group, a global division with ca. 4800 employees and 13 sites.

Johann Ecker will work closely with interim CEO Dr. Jan Kantowsky for a transition period and will also collaborate intensively with the existing experienced TEKFOR management team including the plant managers in Germany, Italy, the USA, Mexico and Brazil. He will be supported by Manfred Vogel, who will continue to serve as managing director of the

TEKFOR group companies in Germany and as a board member of TEKFOR Global Holdings Ltd., while Peter Neubacher, also from AlixPartners, remains the acting interim Group Finance Director.

Johann Ecker says: “I am excited to join TEKFOR at this important pivotal point of its development and I look forward to drive the implementation of TEKFOR’s growth and performance plan to bring the group to its full potential.”

The management team fully supports the growth and performance enhancement program “Fit for Future” which was launched in July 2017 and is now being implemented in all TEKFOR group companies.

Today, the TEKFOR Gruppe has repositioned itself as a financially sound and strategically independent “global player” in the automotive market. The group’s strong growth primarily resulted from expansion of the value chain: forming, machining, heat and surface treatment, manufacture of individual ready-to-install components and the construction of complete assemblies. Today, TEKFOR is a leader in the manufacture of weight-reduced, high-performance components.

The TEKFOR Group generates ca. EUR 500m of annual revenues and counts ca. 3,300 employees worldwide. TEKFOR precision parts and applications can be found in cars and trucks nearly everywhere today, especially in areas where safety and reliability are critical factors. TEKFOR’s vision, meanwhile, remains unchanged – to be the trusted partner of choice for the global automotive industry, with highly differentiated products.