

## **Press release**

Friedhelm Loh Group

FRIEDHELM  
**LOH**  
GROUP

*Friedhelm Loh Group: trainees take action for the region*

### **Trainees working towards a better tomorrow for their local community**

**Every year, Friedhelm Loh Group sends its second-year trainees to a monastery, where they form teams tasked with developing, planning and executing their own projects. This year's theme was "Working together for the future of our region". It challenged the young people to improve conditions in their own back yard. The founder and senior executives of the family-owned company have now awarded prizes for the best projects.**

Herborn, 16 November 2015 – How long does it take for a tin can to be completely eradicated by corrosion? What can be done to make a through-road less of a hazard to residents? What is the impact of immigration on the Lahn-Dill region? And how would the extinction of our native bees affect us? The trainees participating in this year's projects displayed a great deal of hard work, commitment and enthusiasm. Their challenge was to make a real difference in their local community. They took the first steps at the traditional workshop held at Kloster Gnadenthal, a local monastery, in the summer. Three months later, the results are truly impressive. A panel of judges comprising senior Friedhelm Loh executives awarded prizes for the best projects: a bee hotel featured on Facebook, a campaign to remove refuse from a stream, and a pedestrian crossing designed to stop speeding received prizes from the founder and chairman Friedhelm Loh. "Towns and villages feel like home when local people get involved. A local community is like the house you grew up in, the place you feel most comfortable and secure. But to make sure we feel just as comfortable and secure there tomorrow, we need to take action today," declared Friedhelm Loh Group chairman, praising the trainees' efforts.

#### **Corporate Communications**

Regina Wiechens-Schwake  
Phone: +49 2772 505-2527  
E-mail: ginsberg.k@rittal.de

Dr. Carola Hilbrand  
Tel.: +49 2772 505-2680  
E-mail: hilbrand.c@rittal.de

Rittal GmbH & Co. KG  
Auf dem Stützelberg  
35745 Herborn, Germany  
[www.rittal.com](http://www.rittal.com)

# ***Press release***

Friedhelm Loh Group

## **'Eco-trainees' and unsung heroes**

The trainees took action on issues relating to urbanisation, the environment, transport policy and immigration. While one team provided refugees with job-application coaching, another undertook to integrate asylum-seekers into local clubs and groups. Others gave careers talks in schools, or took children on fun outings to local sights and attractions. The 'eco-trainees' among them introduced children to native woodlands and lobbied for greater emphasis on green issues in the classroom. The judges were particularly impressed by three of the teams:

The team comprising Mathis Lang, Robin Reichmann and Luisa Pfeiffer counted traffic and collected signatures in favour of a pedestrian crossing in Haigerseelbach, which earned them third prize. Second prize was awarded to Christian Jeuck, Marie-Kristin Georg and Niclas Losch for an environmental awareness campaign at a primary school in Haiger. They fished five sackfuls of refuse out of a 50-metre stretch of Haigerbach stream, and raised children's awareness of the environment and the benefits of sorting waste with the help of imaginative teaching materials.

First prize went to the team comprising Franziska Herrmann, Alexander Syrjanow and Andreas Scharnagl. They not only built insect hotels with pupils from a primary school in Niederweidbach, but also placed a QR code on the accompanying information board, linking to a very professional-looking Facebook page. In future, visitors to the page will find a video on bees, the unsung heroes, produced by the team. The page also provides construction plans for insect hotels, and advice on protecting endangered species. "We have seen some really outstanding work, and are very proud of our trainees," said Tina Pfeiffer-Busch, "As judges, our task was extremely difficult," she added. The winning teams will be visiting the European Space Operations Centre in

# ***Press release***

Friedhelm Loh Group

Darmstadt, BMW World in Munich, or Porsche in Leipzig, to discover the wonders of high-tech at first hand.

## **Making sure the region remains a great place to live**

In all, 55 trainees worked on projects to make a difference in their local community this year. Friedhelm Loh Group has been sending its second-year trainees to spend time in a monastery since 2003. At the workshop, they form teams for projects of their own choosing, and are introduced to the basics of project management. In the following months, they put their ideas into practice. The workshop theme is always closely linked to the company that employs them, and is frequently associated with the region in which it is headquartered. As its largest employer, the company bears a responsibility towards its local community, believes Friedhelm Loh. And that applies equally to junior members of the workforce: "This region is not built on egotism, but on community spirit." Central Hesse boasts a flourishing manufacturing sector, diverse employment opportunities, forward-looking education and training programmes, and vibrant communities: "My wish for you is that you come to identify positively with the region where you live and work. We are in a region rich in resources. And it's our job to decide what we do with them."

(5,021 characters)



### **Captions**

fri1517564.jpg: "Towns and villages feel like home when local people get involved," said company chairman Friedhelm Loh, praising the winning team. The team had built two insect hotels with primary-school children and designed a Facebook page offering information, construction plans, and a video about the project.

# ***Press release***

Friedhelm Loh Group

fri1517519.jpg: In all, 55 trainees worked towards a better tomorrow for their local community, carrying out exciting projects to make a real difference in their region. Founder and chairman Friedhelm Loh awarded prizes for the best projects.

May be reproduced free of charge. Please name Rittal GmbH & Co. KG as the source.

## **Friedhelm Loh Group**

The globally active Friedhelm Loh Group (FLG) invents, develops and produces customised products and system solutions for industry, commerce and trade. The Friedhelm Loh Group's companies belong to the top addresses in their respective industries – as inventors and competent producers. They include Rittal, the world's leading system provider for industrial enclosures, power distribution, climate control and IT infrastructure; Europe's number one supplier of software solutions for mechanical and plant engineering and industry, as well as integrated manufacturing expertise with state-of-the-art materials – steel, aluminium, and plastics.

The family-owned company is now active worldwide with 18 production sites and 78 international subsidiaries. The proprietor-run Friedhelm Loh Group employs 11,500 people and generated revenues of around €2.2 billion in 2014. For the seventh time in succession, the Group won the accolade “Top German Employer” in 2015. For more information, visit [www.friedhelm-loh-group.com](http://www.friedhelm-loh-group.com).