Statement Conflict Minerals

You asked us to issue a statement on the use of certain minerals (tantalum, tin, gold or tungsten) acquired in the conflict region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) or its neighbouring countries.

Festo supplies around 30,000 catalogue products in several hundred thousand variants and develops some 10,000 tailor-made customer solutions each year. In doing so, it works with a variety of suppliers from many procurement countries.

Against this background, we would ask for your understanding that conclusive proof across the entire supply chain, which consists of a number of supply stages between the raw material and the end product, is impossible at this time. Nor can we issue any binding declarations or guarantees that the raw materials used in our own products are conflict-free. The sustainable safeguarding of raw materials is of fundamental importance for all companies. The responsibility to act with integrity at home and abroad is something that Festo both recognises and is committed to - insofar as this lies within the scope of our action and decision-making capabilities. We are aware of our responsibility for the manufacture of our products and our goal is to ensure social standards and sustainability across the supply chain.

We have already reviewed our portfolio with respect to the use of so-called conflict raw materials - to the extent that this can be traced - and we will continue to do so in the future. We receive these raw materials in a form that has already been processed, i.e. components of supplied production parts and assemblies. Due to the complexity of the supply chains, which involve a number of production steps until a product is processed by the original manufacturer, re-tracing the individual components of a finished product until it reaches the end manufacturer is currently impossible.

It goes without saying that our goal is transparency in our supply chain with respect to the use of so-called conflict raw materials. We are therefore working on introducing contractual obligations for our suppliers to ensure that only conflict-free minerals are used. However, we recognise that there are limits to the enforceability of such obligations in those parts of the supply chain where our company has no influence or where low market power makes it difficult to receive meaningful or truthful answers.
To the best of our knowledge, there are currently no indications that the minerals used in our products originate in conflict regions.

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