

Press release Festo\_Company\_2019\_EN

Date  
April 1st, 2019

## The Festo Group

A responsible family-owned company and a global player in digitalisation

**Festo, the world's leading supplier of automation technology and technical education, is deploying its products and services to meet the challenge of smart production for the future in the course of digitalisation. The company also relies on artificial intelligence and machine learning. Established in 1925, the independent family-owned company based in Esslingen a.N., Germany, has been a driving force in automation for over 60 years and with its unique range of offers has become the world market leader in technical education. 300,000 customers worldwide in factory and process automation put their trust in the company's pneumatic and electric drive solutions. In addition, Festo Didactic provides state-of-the-art training solutions for 56,000 industrial companies and educational institutions throughout the world. The Festo Group registered sales of around €3.2 billion in the 2018 financial year and is represented at 250 locations throughout the world with a total of 21,200 employees. 8% of its annual turnover are invested in research and development.**

Our reference  
CC/DRHF

Legal form:  
Limited partnership  
Registered office: Esslingen a. N.  
Registry court Stuttgart  
HRA 211583  
Value added tax id. number:  
DE 145 339 206  
General partner:  
Festo Management  
Aktiengesellschaft  
Registered office: Vienna/Austria  
Commercial registry court:  
Commercial court Vienna  
Register no. FN 303027 d  
Management Board:  
Dipl.-Ing. Gerhard Borho  
Dipl.-Ing. Dr. h.c. Oliver D. Jung  
(Chairman)  
Dr. Ansgar Kriwet  
Dr. Dirk Erik Loebermann  
Dr. Frank Melzer  
Dipl.-Ing. (FH) Frank Notz  
Chairman of the Supervisory Board:  
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Wucherer

As a family-owned company, Festo thinks and acts responsibly and with a long-term perspective. Festo stands for clear values, utmost quality and customer-oriented innovation. It has set standards in industrial automation technology and technical education ever since its establishment, thereby making a contribution to sustainable development in the economy and society.

Festo is advancing digitalisation in all its corporate divisions. Many aspects of Industry 4.0 are already reality today in the Festo Group. Festo is leading its customers and employees into the digital future. To this end, the company is developing new future-oriented concepts founded on the triad of innovative and energy-efficient technologies, intuitive human-machine collaboration, and education and further training.

### Productivity – Festo's core competency

Innovation for the best possible productivity, a global presence and close, long-term partnerships with its customers are the hallmarks of Festo. In the 1950s, Festo became the first company in Europe to use compressed air as a drive medium in automation. The company now offers over 30,000 products and system solutions for pneumatic and electrical automation technology which, thanks to a large variety of modular systems, can be tailored to specific customer applications in many different factory and process automation industry segments.

These include pneumatic and electric drives, valves, servo controllers, motion control,

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valve terminals, installation-saving connection technology, handling and assembly technology, air preparation equipment, fittings, vacuum technology, position and quality inspection, sensors and control technology.

The core product range comprises components from every phase of the pneumatic and electrical control chain, with which around 80% of all applications can be accomplished effortlessly and quickly. Festo also offers a wide range of modular systems solutions and standard handling systems.

Important industry segments are the automotive sector, the food and packing industries, electronics and assembly, biotech, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, medical engineering and laboratory automation, the chemical industry and water treatment.

### **Added value through digitalisation**

Smart products, connectivity, the mining and interpretation of data, including via the cloud, and dashboards for visualisation, already offer added value for customers. Products like the energy efficiency module E2M, IO-Link-capable components, the CPX-IOT gateway or interfaces like OPC-UA contribute to this process. Another basic requirement for successful and consistent digitalisation is mechanical, electrical and intelligent connectivity through software solutions, enabling all customers to find their bearings quickly and intuitively.

Festo is promoting this with an open automation architecture and a large product portfolio made up of axes, motors and controllers. Standardised software tools are also being developed: configurators for smart engineering, the Festo Automation Suite for easy commissioning and the digital maintenance manager Smartenance for reliable operation.

In addition, data analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence are shaping the agile product development of the future. With the takeover of Resolto Informatik GmbH in 2018, the competence in the field of AI has been further expanded.

### **Qualification for Industry 4.0**

As a leading provider in the field of technical training and further education Festo Didactic is a trendsetter. This involves the digitalisation of learning methods as well as the provision of forward-looking learning content for self-organising production and industry 4.0. Central topics such as artificial intelligence and machine learning are increasingly finding their way into learning environments and training courses.

The practical training in the use of new technologies is conducted using the cyber-physical learning and research platform “CP Factory”. This platform replicates the workstations of a real production facility and makes it possible to learn how to program facilities, set up networks and optimise many other aspects such as energy efficiency, data management, Big data, artificial intelligence, administrative shell or digital twins.

Please refer to:

Festo Press Image Head\_Office.jpg



Caption:

Head Office of Festo in Esslingen a.N., Germany  
(Photo: Festo AG & Co. KG)

Please refer to:

Festo Press Image CPX-IOT-Gateway.jpg



Caption:

Dynamic automation solutions from Festo:  
from the mechanical system to the cloud.

Festo will be introducing a cloud that will allow all suitable Festo devices to be connected via the CPX-IOT gateway, with data visualisation and rapid data analysis via apps in the cloud and the dashboard. (Photo: Festo AG & Co. KG)

Please refer to: Festo Press Image CP\_Factory.jpg



Caption: Qualification of technical specialists with solutions from Festo Didactic: Qualification for Industry 4.0 with the cyber-physical learning factory (Photo: Festo Didactic SE)

**Further information:**

Press text and photos are also available online at [www.festo.com/press](http://www.festo.com/press).  
Or mobile at <http://m.festo.com/press>.

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