

Press release

Rittal GmbH & Co. KG



Top 100: Rittal ranks among the most innovative companies

Rittal honoured as a driver of innovations among medium-sized companies

In an independent selection process, Rittal has secured a place among Germany's hundred most innovative companies. The world's leading provider of industrial enclosures, power distribution, climate control and IT infrastructure has been honoured by leading innovation researchers for developing ground-breaking technologies. German TV host Ranga Yogeshwar acknowledged the innovative power of the family business and awarded it the prestigious "Top 100" medal.

Herborn, 13 July 2017 – Rittal has now been honoured for innovation in enclosure manufacturing. The Top 100 medal went to the family business from the Central Hesse region, now recognised as one of Germany's 100 most innovative companies. In a multi-stage application process, TOP 100, together with Nikolaus Franke, Director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, determined the most innovative companies among German SMEs. Remarkably, Rittal achieved its entire turnover with newly marketed innovations, which it had launched on the market before the competition. This was the jury's reason for presenting the award to the global player. Rittal products are used in over 90 percent of all industries worldwide and it is one of Germany's 26 most innovative leading companies on the global market.

In the one-year auditing process, Rittal was a winner from the roughly 400 applicants, impressing with its well organised innovation processes and above-average innovation successes: "We have already achieved

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several quantum leaps in the trade with our products and so managed to surprise the industry,” said Dr Thomas Steffen, Managing Director Research and Development at Rittal. For both management and employees, it is clear that development and progress never cease. The best proof of this are the TS 8 and Blue e+ innovations from the world’s leading enclosure and system provider, which have set new standards in their respective markets. The TS 8 large enclosure is the best-selling enclosure in the world, with over ten million sold. It is used in mechanical and plant engineering, as well as the automotive industry, IT and the telecommunications industry and food and beverage production. It is also found in football stadiums and universities, in the desert or on Antarctic icebreakers.

The Blue e+ generation of cooling units has been redefining standards in the field of energy-efficient manufacturing since 2015. Rittal’s developers have used hybrid technology to equip these clever cooling units for enclosures that protect sensitive controls from overheating. The result was seventy-five percent lower energy consumption, energy costs and carbon dioxide emissions on average. This all made its impression on the Top 100 jury.

Well prepared for the future

Rittal was honoured by Dr Nikolaus Franke, founder and board member of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, and visiting professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He thinks companies like Rittal are well prepared for the future: “I am thrilled again every year to see just what innovative power there is out there”, said Dr Franke: “At TOP 100, it is seen as an example of how the companies are achieving competitive

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advantages through innovations – not only for today, but also with a view to their future market position.”

Ranga Yogeshwar, TV host and mentor of the Top 100 competition handed the award to Dr Thomas Steffen: “Successful innovators often experience a headwind,” said Mr Yogeshwar: “They change processes, break rules in their own industries, experience setbacks and yet they still dare to create something new. They keep on at it, backed by the conviction to make it better. That is what makes them different.”

For the past 24 years, compamedia has been awarding the Top 100 medal to medium-sized companies for special innovative power and above-average innovation success. Its partners include the German “Manager” magazine and the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft.

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Caption(s)



Fri172010700.jpg: Ranga Yogeshwar, TV host and mentor of the Top 100 competition handed the award to Dr Thomas Steffen: Rittal did well in the competition with its well organised innovation processes and above-average innovation successes.

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About Rittal

Rittal, headquartered in Herborn, Germany, is a leading global provider of solutions for industrial enclosures, power distribution, climate control and IT infrastructure, as well as software and services. Systems made by Rittal can be found in more than 90 percent of all global branches of industry, including mechanical and plant engineering, food and beverage production and in IT and telecommunications.

The wide range of products from the global market leader includes configurable enclosures, whose data is available throughout the entire production process. Intelligent Rittal cooling solutions with up to 75 percent lower energy and CO2 consumption can communicate with the production environment and enable predictive maintenance and service concepts. Innovative IT solutions ranging from IT racks, modular data centres through to edge and hyperscale computing solutions also form part of the company's portfolio.

Leading software providers Eplan and Cideon complement the value chain, providing interdisciplinary engineering solutions, while Rittal Automation Systems offer automation systems for switchgear construction. Rittal delivers within 24 hours in Germany – precisely as needed, flexibly and efficiently.

Founded in Herborn in 1961 and still run by its owner, Rittal is the largest company in the Friedhelm Loh Group. The Friedhelm Loh Group operates worldwide with 18 production sites and 80 international subsidiaries. The entire group employs more than 11,300 people and generated revenues of around €2.2 billion in 2016. In 2017, it was named one of Germany's leading employers by the Top Employers Institute, for the ninth year running. Within the scope of a Germany-wide survey, Focus Money magazine identified the Friedhelm Loh Group as one of the nation's best providers of vocational training for the second year in succession in 2017.

For more information, visit www.rittal.com and www.friedhelm-loh-group.com.