

The NETZSCH Group mourns Thomas Netzsch

Thomas Netzsch, Managing Partner of the NETZSCH Group and a prominent business figure in Germany's Hochfranken Region in Bavaria, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on January 12, 2010 at the age of 63.

After receiving his degree in Industrial Engineering from the Technical University of Berlin, Thomas Netzsch began work at the Netzsch Group in 1973, holding various executive positions before assuming managerial responsibility for the entire NETZSCH Group upon the death of his father, Erich Netzsch, in 1990. Under his leadership, the NETZSCH Group succeeded in transforming itself from a basic manufacturer of quality porcelain machines into an accomplished, world-renowned producer of highly specialized machinery and instrumentation. NETZSCH is among the market leaders in the industries it serves. In its three Business Units, "Analyzing & Testing", "Grinding & Dispersing" and "Pumps", the NETZSCH Group today employs over 2,300 people across the globe and is currently generating an annual turnover of around EUR 300 M.

Most recently, Thomas Netzsch had been running the family enterprise in collaboration with Dr. Otto Max Schaefer and Dr. Hanns-Peter Ohl. Among his employees and business partners alike, Thomas Netzsch was highly esteemed and respected for his profound professional expertise, his focus on humanity, his equilibrating integrity and his winning character.

Born in Selb where the company is headquartered, Thomas Netzsch always felt a bond with the town and its people, and was dedicated to the continuous enhancement of the reputation, quality of life and self-image of the Hochfranken Region. He was very conscious of the responsibility he bore for the well-being of his hometown and the surrounding area.

Thomas Netzsch also found the time to take active part in many honorary positions; among others, he was on the Board of Directors of the Bavarian Business Association ("vbw"), on the Regional Advisory Council for the Commerzbank AG, a member of the Economic Advisory Council for the Bavarian Union ("Wirtschaftsbeirat der Union Bayern"), on the Board of Directors of the Bavarian Red Cross for the County of Wunsiedel, long-standing President of the Selb Tennis Club, and a founding member of the Fichtelgebirge Rotary Club.

The passing of Thomas Netzsch leaves a painful void, both in our business and in our hearts. We will miss him very much.

The Partners and Management of the NETZSCH Group

Selb, Germany; January 13, 2010