

News Release

P.O. Box 4100
Harrisburg, PA 17111-0100
Phone: (717) 944-1300, ext. 3721
Fax: (717) 944-1625
E-Mail: mmcgowan@phoenixcontact.com

Molly McGowan, APR
Media Services Specialist

For release: August 2020

Phoenix Contact expands Executive Board New leadership positions company for future growth

Middletown, Pa. – Effective August 1, Phoenix Contact has expanded its Executive Board with four new members. The change is part of the company's succession plan due to the July retirement of CHRO Prof. Gunther Olesch (Human Resources) and the planned retirement of CTO Roland Bent (Technology) in February 2021.

Three of the new board members are the three Business Areas' Presidents: Dirk Görlitzer (Industrial Components and Electronics), Torsten Janwlecke (Device Connectors), and Ulrich Leidecker (Industry Management and Automation). As Chief Operating Officers (COOs), they will be responsible for central areas of the company, while also continuing to manage their respective Business Areas. Dr. Frank Possel-Dölken has been appointed as the fourth new member and Chief Digital Officer (CDO) to the Executive Board. Possel-Dölken served as Director of Corporate Technology & Value Chain. Additionally, his future responsibilities will include managing the IT department and all topics concerning the digital transformation. This will enable a strong focus on the company's technological and process development.

All newly appointed members of the Executive Board have been working successfully in the management of Phoenix Contact for many years already. "The expansion provides our corporate group with a setting in which the management and our structure can be developed holistically," said CEO Frank Stührenberg. "This goal was assigned to us by our Advisory Board, so as to make the Phoenix Contact Group fit for the future. Newly appointing a CDO is of particular importance for the digital transformation. A company's capacity for innovation, innovation strategies, and IT capability are determining factors for its success in the new decade."

"Our industry is changing faster than ever before, and our new executive leadership team will undoubtedly position Phoenix Contact for growth in an uncertain, yet very exciting, world ahead," said Jack Nehlig, President of Phoenix Contact USA. "Our employees are excited to support these new board members and do our part to grow Phoenix Contact in the U.S."

In addition to the four newly appointed members, CEO Stührenberg (Chairman) and CFO Axel Wachholz (Finances) will continue as members of the Executive Board.

In July, Professor Olesch turned 65 and retired from the Executive Board. He will continue representing Phoenix Contact until spring of 2021, doing voluntary and association work. As of August 2020, the HR department will fall under the responsibility of the CEO. “Maintaining the corporate culture and developing and recruiting talents are top priorities,” said CEO Stührenberg.

Mr. Bent will continue as a member of the Executive Board until his 63rd birthday and planned retirement in February 2021. He will remain Phoenix Contact’s Chief Representative for international standardization, and continue working voluntarily in the field of national and international standardization.

About Phoenix Contact

Phoenix Contact develops and manufactures industrial electrical and electronic technology products that power, protect, connect, and automate systems and equipment for a wide range of industries. Phoenix Contact GmbH & Co. KG, Blomberg, Germany, operates more than 50 international subsidiaries, including Phoenix Contact USA in Middletown, Pa.

For more information about Phoenix Contact or its products, visit www.phoenixcontact.com, call technical service at 800-322-3225, or e-mail info@phoenixcontact.com.

###