



February 16, 2018

PI 10035 RB DH

Bosch extends its Industry 4.0 portfolio New business unit pools software and service expertise

- ▶ Dr. Stefan Hartung: “We need to assemble the best possible team”
- ▶ Bosch supports customers in connecting the entire value chain
- ▶ Bosch is actively shaping change in the industry, and taking advantage of all available opportunities
- ▶ 500 associates in Germany, Hungary, and China

Stuttgart – Digitalization and connectivity are transforming manufacturing at breakneck speed. Connected production lines permanently monitor their own condition and warn experts before breakdowns. Robots are collaborating ever closer with workers in manufacturing and logistics, boosting productivity. In Germany alone, McKinsey forecasts a revenue potential of just under 9 billion euros in the digitalization of manufacturing by 2020. The greatest potential in the long term is not only in hardware or device connectivity, but also in smart software – the essential enabler of internet of things applications. Bosch has made structural changes in a bid to continue growing in the software business as well: at the beginning of January 2018, a new operating unit, Bosch Connected Industry, began operations with 500 associates in Germany, Hungary, and China. Bosch is pooling all its Industry 4.0 activities in this new unit, including the fields of software and services. “We want to make the most of the potential inherent in connected industry, which means we need to assemble the best possible team,” says Bosch board of management member Dr. Stefan Hartung, whose responsibilities include manufacturing coordinating and, in turn, Industry 4.0. By 2020, the Bosch Group aims to generate more than a billion euros with Industry 4.0.

Connectivity throughout the value chain

Bosch’s Connected Industry unit has a clear objective: to support customers in connecting the value chain from end to end. The portfolio of software allows companies an entry point into the connected factory that is tailored to their

needs, from starter kits and retrofit solutions to the complete package. That means that individual lines can be combined, and factories and plant networks, including their internal and external logistics, interconnected. A variety of apps and software solutions support workers in their daily tasks. Relevant manufacturing data are more quickly accessible using mobile devices, which ultimately leads to greater machine availability in production. Internal transport processes and flows of goods outside the company can be seamlessly monitored and traced back. Workers are kept permanently informed of the location, condition, and delivery time of goods. The result is increased productivity and agility, which boosts competitiveness.

Dr. Stefan Aßmann heads new unit

The Bosch engineer Dr. Stefan Aßmann is the head of the new operating unit. His previous positions at Bosch include plant manager both in Germany and abroad, and head of internal special-purpose machinery. Under his leadership, numerous Industry 4.0 solutions have already been commercialized, including the automated production assistant APAS, for example. This “robotic arm” is the first assistance system used in manufacturing that humans can work alongside without any additional protective equipment. Aßmann reports directly to Bosch management board member Hartung.

Advisors help businesses enter the Industry 4.0 age

As they seek to transition to connected manufacturing, many companies are faced with the question of which solution is best suited for their specific needs. For instance, how can machines be interconnected in a manufacturing environment that has grown organically over decades? The newly established Bosch Industry Consulting unit provides the answers. The aim is to assist businesses and their employees along the path to a transparent, efficient, and connected factory. In this context, Bosch can draw on its extensive experience as leading user and leading supplier of Industry 4.0 solutions.

Bosch ConnectedWorld on February 21–22, 2018, at “Station” Berlin

The fully connected factory is also a theme at Bosch ConnectedWorld in Berlin. For the fifth time, the company is staging one of the biggest international IoT conferences, which is geared toward developers, representatives of the business community, and journalists. Further information: <http://bit.ly/2EHclAg>

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The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. It employs roughly 400,500 associates worldwide (as of December 31, 2017). According to preliminary figures, the company generated sales of 78 billion euros in 2017. Its operations are divided into four business sectors: Mobility Solutions, Industrial Technology, Consumer Goods, and Energy and Building Technology. As a leading IoT company, Bosch offers innovative solutions for smart homes, smart cities, connected mobility, and connected industry. It uses its expertise in sensor technology, software, and services, as well as its own IoT cloud, to offer its customers connected, cross-domain solutions from a single source. The Bosch Group's strategic objective is to create solutions for a connected life, and to improve quality of life worldwide with products and services that are innovative and spark enthusiasm. In short, Bosch creates technology that is "Invented for life." The Bosch Group comprises Robert Bosch GmbH and its roughly 440 subsidiaries and regional companies in 60 countries. Including sales and service partners, Bosch's global manufacturing, engineering, and sales network covers nearly every country in the world. The basis for the company's future growth is its innovative strength. At 125 locations across the globe, Bosch employs 62,500 associates in research and development.

The company was set up in Stuttgart in 1886 by Robert Bosch (1861-1942) as "Workshop for Precision Mechanics and Electrical Engineering." The special ownership structure of Robert Bosch GmbH guarantees the entrepreneurial freedom of the Bosch Group, making it possible for the company to plan over the long term and to undertake significant up-front investments in the safeguarding of its future. Ninety-two percent of the share capital of Robert Bosch GmbH is held by Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH, a charitable foundation. The majority of voting rights are held by Robert Bosch Industrietreuhand KG, an industrial trust. The entrepreneurial ownership functions are carried out by the trust. The remaining shares are held by the Bosch family and by Robert Bosch GmbH.

Additional information is available online at www.bosch.com, iot.bosch.com, www.bosch-press.com, twitter.com/BoschPresse.