

Change in Management Leadership at ROSSKOPF + PARTNER AG

Company founder Helmut Rosskopf hands his responsibilities to the next generation

It became known at the end of February 2021 that the company's founder, Helmut Rosskopf, would be changing his role to serve on the company's supervisory board. Christin Bergmann and the previous sales manager, Oliver Schleich, will continue to work together on the company's executive board of directors beginning in March. The Hoffnungsträger Stiftung (tr. hope-bearer foundation) acquired ownership by purchasing stock from the current owner. This transition turns the medium-sized company over to the next generation.

At Christmastime in 2017, Helmut Rosskopf decided that it was time to arrange for a successor for his company, not because he is not feeling well, but rather because he is concerned about safeguarding the employment of his colleagues and personnel as well as the preservation of the company itself. The realignment of the organizational structure began in 2018 with the search for another board member who, alongside Christin Bergmann, would continue the commercial operations of Rosskopf + Partner AG. The choice fell on Oliver Schleich, who initially took on the role of Sales Manager in the company.

“During the coming years, I envision that Rosskopf + Partner will continue with stable manufacturing processes. We are increasingly moving toward developing from a classic handcraft business into a contemporary, architecture-influenced industrial enterprise. This means that we can continue to offer our partners and customers outstanding solutions and develop them further at the same time.” Schleich added optimistically “Everything we need for this we already have in-house.”

In addition to the internal changes, there were considerations about a future-oriented change of ownership. As the result of an intensive exchange with Marcus Witzke,

Managing Director of the Hoffnungsträger Stiftung, an agreement was reached to hand over ownership of the company by selling shares of Helmut Rosskopf's stock. This step enables the company to continue to fulfil the needs of its customers, to safeguard jobs and to continue to achieve high added value.

Change to the Supervisory Board

The outgoing board member, Helmut Rosskopf, will move to the supervisory board and act there in a consultative capacity. "It must be ensured that the managers on the executive board can carry out their work. At the same time, I would like to stand at the company's side," said Helmut Rosskopf. "In addition, the newly established cooperation with the Hoffnungsträger Stiftung is an important step towards a promising future. The Foundation is not only an economically strong partner, but it is also deeply committed to involvement in humanitarian causes. The understanding of Christian values is very important to me."

Christin Bergmann and Oliver Schleich, two experienced company employees, will hold the leading positions on the Executive Board of Directors. With this arrangement, the company can continue with current ongoing activities and tackle planned projects. "The change within the executive board and also the corporate succession are proceeding according to the previously-defined plan. We had already agreed upon this time window in 2018 and we would not decide something as important as this on an ad hoc basis, because of the Corona crisis, or any other circumstance," explains Christin Bergmann.

New Avenues in View and the Courage to Follow Them

When Master Joiner, Helmut Rosskopf, founded the "Helmut Rosskopf Construction and Furniture Joinery" in 1984 in the greater Frankfurt am Main area, he worked with borrowed machines in an old barn. Today the company employs 200 people at locations in Obermehler (Unstrut-Hainich-District / Thuringia) and Augustusburg-Hennersdorf (Middle Saxony / Saxony). Since its expansion to Thuringia and Saxony, the joinery has changed considerably, not only in its location, but also in terms of its projects. In addition to wood, the technical specialists now also process solid surface

materials, stone and ceramics, among other materials, into high-quality kitchen worktops and custom-made products for architecture and handicraft. The customer base extends from Germany throughout Europe to Jordan and the USA.

On the one hand, Rosskopf remains loyal to the craft; on the other hand, he will devote himself more to life in the Volkenroda monastery. "I have been living in the monastery community for many years now and will continue to develop activities in the monastery together with all of its members." "Now and then I feel like a wanderer between worlds." Brother Helmut interjected with a benign smile. "Indeed the combination of both worlds is particularly important to me. Entrepreneurship and a Christian community of values go hand in hand. That is what has always motivated me – and thanks to the new collaborative interests, this is exactly what will be preserved."

You can request photos from ROSSKOPF + PARTNER AG.

All photos: Marlen Mieth / ROSSKOPF + PARTNER AG



Helmut Rosskopf (right), founder and outgoing board member of ROSSKOPF + PARTNER AG, hands the baton to Oliver Schleich (left).



Generation Change: Helmut Roszkopf (right), founder of ROSSKOPF + PARTNER AG, withdraws from active company management. In the background is the new management team: Christin Bergmann and Oliver Schleich.



The new management team in conversation with a production employee (left: Christin Bergmann, right: Oliver Schleich).



Helmut Rosskopf (right) in production with the new owner, Marcus Witzke (2nd from right), Managing Director of the Hoffnungsträger Stiftung, and the new Executive Board of Directors at ROSSKOPF + PARTNER AG (left).

About ROSSKOPF + PARTNER AG

Rosskopf + Partner is the inspiration and implementation partner for projects using innovative surface materials. Architects, planners, interior designers, kitchen and bathroom studios as well as carpentry workshops all benefit from the company's decades of experience and competence – from consultation to engineering, through production and on to final assembly. With over 200 employees at two production sites in Hennersdorf / Saxony and Obermehler / Thuringia, Rosskopf + Partner transforms ideas into exquisite architectural objects; engineers, processing and assembly experts develop tailor-made surface solutions from solid surface materials, quartz and natural stone, porcelain and glass ceramics. Whether serial production or the fabrication of single objects, the medium-sized company specialises in the realisation of individual customer requests.

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Press contact and specimen copy:

ROSSKOPF + PARTNER AG
Marketing
Bahnhofstraße 16
09573 Augustusburg OT Hennersdorf
Germany

+49 37291 25-0

presse@rosskopf-partner.com