



# Press Release

## **A.T.U Auto-Teile-Unger appoints Hans-Norbert Topp as new Chief Executive Officer**

**Weiden in der Oberpfalz, 27 June 2013. A.T.U-Group decided to appoint Hans-Norbert Topp (51) to serve on the management board. Topp takes over effective immediately as CEO from Manfred Ries, who leaves the company by mutual consent. Mr Ries thereby clears the way for the next step of the company's development. Mr Topp will seamlessly transition into all functions and responsibilities.**

"Hans-Norbert Topp will be tasked with strengthening the core business and intensifying and accelerating the strategic focus on the core growth areas e-commerce and fleet management. Mr Topp is a seasoned leader with extensive experience across general management, distribution, finance and controlling. We are very pleased that we were able to bring him on board at A.T.U and that he will lead the company through the upcoming refinancing," said Dr. Steffen Pauls, chairman of the supervisory board.

Mr Topp will be supported by Detlef Specovius, a reorganization specialist, who was also appointed to the management board. The hitherto members of the management board Christian Sailer and Christian Schmitz will maintain their current areas of responsibility, respectively finance and sales/procurement. Henceforward, they will serve as corporate officers and they will concentrate exclusively on the operational business of A.T.U.

Hans-Norbert Topp has over 20 years of management experience. Most recently, he built his own business consultancy and successfully served as manager in various companies and growth projects. In a previous role, he oversaw distribution Sixt AG as a member of the management board. In this function, he was instrumental in realigning and successfully implementing distribution activities in car rental and leasing across Europe. He also played a key role particularly in the expansion of the online business. As a former board member of Europe's fourth largest car rental company and a leading leasing firm, Mr Topp has first-hand insight into the requirements of modern fleet management – expertise he can now perfectly bring to bear in the expansion of A.T.U's strategy. Before joining Sixt, Mr Topp oversaw in the Asia-Pacific business of the Hamburg-based environmental technology company Sulo as its CFO and regional CEO.

"At the moment, A.T.U is undergoing the biggest structural change of its corporate history. The objective is now to strengthen the company by broadening its business base and making it more impervious to seasonal effects. Our nearly 12,000 employees have

already mastered many difficulties in the past. We will again join forces to address the current challenge", the new CEO Hans-Norbert Topp said.

"A.T.U has growth potential not only in its core business but also particularly in e-commerce and fleet management. In fact, A.T.U's broad footprint and its competent employees present what can be rightly called ideal conditions to service corporate fleets of any size and age both inexpensively and expertly. Another top priority is the development and implementation of a lastingly stable financing structure for A.T.U together with the owner. I look very much forward to the collaboration with all the employees, the management and the shareholder," Topp added.

Manfred Ries has served for more than 10 years at A.T.U and was appointed CEO of the A.T.U Auto-Teile Unger Group on 1 July 2011. The supervisory board thanked Mr Ries for his commitment over the past years.

### **About A.T.U Auto-Teile-Unger**

A.T.U is the German market leader in vehicle servicing and vehicle spares retailing. The company has developed dynamically since its foundation in 1985. From its head office in Weiden, A.T.U today operates about 650 branches in Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Italy and Switzerland. Its about 12,000 employees generated EUR 590 million in revenues in the shortened financial year 2012 (1 January to 30 June 2012).

A.T.U's business model is based on a combination of master-managed servicing workshops combined with integrated specialist retailers for car drivers. A.T.U offers a broad range of vehicle accessories and spare parts in OEM quality in all its locations. A.T.U's state-of-the-art, master-managed workshops offer the entire range of servicing and repairs for vehicles, which also includes its innovative Smart Repair method to repair paint damages and the car glass service for all vehicles. For products and services alike, A.T.U operates under the motto "quality at uncompromisingly good value". Regular trainings in the A.T.U Academy and independent third party audits ensure consistently high service quality.

A.T.U has also actively engaged in environmental protection for years. This environmental awareness is an integral part of the corporate strategy. With a capacity of 14 million tyres annually, A.T.U is operating one of Europe's largest tyre recycling plants. Similarly, the company also recycles and competently disposes of all other reusable materials from its German branches in the recycling centers in Weiden and Werl.

### **Company Contacts:**

A.T.U Auto-Teile-Unger  
Dr.-Kilian-Str. 11  
92637 Weiden i.d.Opf.

Markus Meißner  
Press relations officer  
Telephone: +49-961-306-5480  
Facsimile: +49-961-306-934 5480  
E-Mail: markus.meissner@de.atu.eu