

Empowerment Summit: Witzenmann sets an example for career advancement of women and equal opportunities

On 21 March 2025, the family-owned company Witzenmann from Pforzheim made a strong statement for women's career advancement and equal opportunities with the "Empowerment Summit." Around one-third of the participants were men, an essential factor in driving change towards greater equality. The company firmly believes that real change is only possible when all genders actively contribute. Additionally, companies such as SEW Eurodrive, Dürr AG and VfB Stuttgart provided hands-on insights through breakout sessions, following the motto "learning from and with each other."



Christine Wüst (left), CHRO of the Witzenmann Group, welcomed Helene Banner and Martin Speer, two knowledgeable and inspiring keynote speakers. Cliff Lehnen, also an expert on empowerment, team building and gender equality, moderated the event. (Photo source: Witzenmann)

Last Friday, Witzenmann opened its doors in Pforzheim for the "Empowerment Summit," warmly welcoming over 160 guests. The event started with a get-together and a light lunch, followed by the official welcome from Christine Wüst, CHRO of Witzenmann GmbH. Christine Wüst shared personal insights into her career and highlighted that promoting women's careers cannot succeed without men's involvement: "With a 50 per cent female representation at the executive level, Witzenmann is already in a strong position. However, at lower leadership levels, the proportion of women is significantly lower. Therefore, transformation can only succeed if men actively support it." She outlined the measures Witzenmann has already implemented in this area, including an in-house daycare centre, a cross-company mentoring programme for young female talent, flexible working hours without mandatory presence requirements (even allowing work from other EU countries), a culture of trust, baby-sleep coaching for parents and much more. Wüst emphasised: "Promoting women's careers is very important to us because we believe that diversity in teams improves corporate culture and, in turn, enhances individual performance."

Exchange across company boundaries

"Encouraging collaboration with other companies to learn from one another and make joint progress in advancing women's careers – this was the ideal setting provided by the 'Empowerment Summit'," said

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Wüst. After the welcome speech, ten renowned companies – Araymond, Deutsche Bahn, Deutsche Bank, Dürr, IBM, MANN+HUMMEL, MVV Energie, Netze BW, SEW-Eurodrive and VfB Stuttgart – shared their knowledge and hands-on experience in breakout sessions. Topics ranged from work-life balance and shared leadership concepts to gender bias in AI systems and promoting diversity in football.

Additionally, two keynote speakers enriched the day's agenda: former speechwriter and spokesperson for the European Commission, Helene Banner, discussed misconceptions surrounding women's empowerment, while bestselling author and HeForShe ambassador for UN Women Germany, Martin Speer, offered insights on how men can become true allies in the transformation process. An open panel discussion following these inspiring talks rounded off the programme before the evening concluded with networking and a shared buffet. The entire event was moderated by Cliff Lehnen, a journalist, podcaster, moderator and consultant focusing on innovation in the workplace, leadership and recruitment.

Witzenmann as an attractive employer – for all genders

With the "Empowerment Summit," Witzenmann reaffirms its commitment to an equitable and diverse corporate culture. "We are dedicated to ensuring that all employees have the same opportunities. Our goal is to empower women to reach their full potential and to turn men into true allies in this field," said Wüst, adding: "With a company-wide female representation of just under 30 per cent, we still have a long way to go. However, we are confident that, with our values-driven corporate culture and strong sense of family cohesion, we will achieve our long-term goals. This event serves as a catalyst for Witzenmann's ongoing commitment to this cause."

The Witzenmann Group

The Witzenmann Group is the world's leading expert in the safe and efficient transmission of media and energy for mobility and industry. Its headquarters are in Pforzheim. With a total of 22 companies in 16 countries worldwide, the family-owned company employs around 4,500 people.

Innovation, technology and digital pioneering work characterise Witzenmann: The company is the development partner with the world's broadest product range of metal hoses, expansion joints, metal bellows, pipe supports, piping systems and vehicle parts and offers its customers from a wide range of industries intelligent product solutions and services.

Further information is available at:



Witzenmann: <https://www.witzenmann.de/de/>
Innovation: <https://www.witzenmann.co.uk/en/innovation/>
New Mobility: <https://www.witzenmann.co.uk/en/solutions/automotive-engineering/new-mobility/>



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Philip Paschen: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/philip-alexander-paschen-b31264/>



Witzenmann: https://www.instagram.com/witzenmann_group/



Witzenmann: <https://www.facebook.com/WitzenmannGroup>



Witzenmann: <https://www.youtube.com/user/witzenmann1>

Press contact:

Witzenmann GmbH
Jochen Geiger
Oestliche Karl-Friedrich-Str. 134
75175 Pforzheim
Germany
Phone: +49 (0) 72 31-581-745
Email: jochen.geiger@witzenmann.com

c/o follow red GmbH
Natalie Krauter
Waldburgstraße 17/19
70563 Stuttgart
Germany
Phone: +49 (0) 711 90-140-743
Email: natalie.krauter@followred.com

Images and captions



Caption: Christine Wüst (from left), CHRO of the Witzenmann Group, Helene Banner, Martin Speer and Cliff Lehnen.

Photo source: Witzenmann GmbH



Caption: Helene Banner dispels misconceptions about women's empowerment.

Photo source: Witzenmann GmbH



Caption: Martin Speer explains how men can become true allies for gender equality.

Photo source: Witzenmann GmbH



Caption: IBM, among others, held a breakout session on gender bias in AI systems.

Photo source: Witzenmann GmbH



Caption: Deutsche Bank shared insights on the topic
"Visibility counts: For more role models at all levels."

Photo source: Witzenmann GmbH



Caption: Witzenmann thanked all contributors of the day
with a special gift.

Photo source: Witzenmann GmbH

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