



Continental's two business units are under new leadership

At the international technology company Continental, two Business Units in the Powertrain Division are under new leadership.

The Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) Business Unit, which supplies the main components for drive electrification in hybrid and electric vehicles, will be headed up by Rudolph Stark with immediate effect. The 50-year-old manager comes from within the company.

As Head of the Transmission Business Unit since 2009, Stark was responsible for the development and production of transmission control units. His successor is Stephan Rebhan (50), who starts as Head of Transmission also with immediate effect.

As the former Head of Development,



Rebhan is already familiar with the Business Unit. Both Business Units are based in Nuremberg.

Rudolf Stark, who has worked for the automotive supplier for 15 years, began his professional career in 1993 as Head of Project Management at a medium-sized plant engineering company.

In 1996, he moved to DaimlerChrysler Rail Systems, where he worked in project management for ICE and regional trains. In 2001, Stark moved to Continental's predecessor Temic, where after holding various management positions in the Powertrain and Chassis Divisions he became Head of the Liquid Sensors Segment at Continental's Sensors & Actuators Business Unit in 2005.

Initially responsible for the European business of Transmission from 2007, he was appointed Head of the worldwide Business Unit in 2009. Stark has led the Business Unit very successfully since 2009 and prepared it well for the future. Rudolf Stark is qualified as a state-certified engineer, holds a degree in Business Administration, and has also completed management training at the Management School St. Gallen.

Stephan Rebhan came to Continental from Knorr-Bremse in 2015. From 1994, after completing his degree in Mechanical Engineering and Business Administration at the Technical University of Munich, the qualified engineer worked for Fichtel & Sachs. He then went on to work in various roles for Mannesmann Sachs in the Clutch Systems Business Unit, including the role of Group Leader of Sales and Development for GM and Asian customers. From 2000, he headed up the Product Center for Active Chassis Systems at ThyssenKrupp Bilstein. This included positions as international Head of Production and Head of Program Management for Air Spring Systems and Electronic Dampers.

In 2006, Rebhan moved to Knorr-Bremse, where he was responsible for the strategic growth of Powertrain activities, with the key areas of Transmission Automation and Engine Air Management. Since 2011, he was Head of the Competence Center Engine Air and Transmission Unit.

This section is a compilation from various company press releases, business dailies & trade publications

China's Midea set to buy Robotics Maker Kuka



it around 18 months ago in December 2014.

"I am convinced that Voith is one of the winners of this takeover offer," Voith, CEO Hubert Lienhard said.

The company said it would use the proceeds from the sale to invest in digital technologies, such as automatization, IT security, sensors and robotics.

Loh said that he has decided to sell his stake of 10 percent for nearly 500 million euros.

Combined with its existing holding of 13.5 percent in Kuka, the two purchases mean Midea now holds 48.5 percent in the robot builder.

Loh, who sits on Kuka's supervisory board, insisted that he had not consulted Voith about his decision beforehand.

"Every shareholder must decide for themselves based on their own interests," he said. Initially, Midea's offer which values Kuka at more than 4 billion euros will run out soon. But Kuka's management is recommending shareholders accept it and has signed a long-term investor contract with the Chinese firm until 2023. Kuka, based in the German city of Augsburg, describes itself as one of the world's leading manufacturers of industrial robots and also offers automated systems for manufacturing.

Chinese appliances giant Midea moved a step closer to fulfilling its target to acquire German industrial robotics firm Kuka with two deals raising its stake to nearly a majority.

Two of Kuka's biggest German shareholders technology company Voith and entrepreneur Friedhelm Loh said they had decided to take up Midea's offer of 115 euros (US\$128) per share and sell their stakes.

Voith said that it has agreed to sell its stake of 25.1 percent for 1.2 billion euros.

The sale smooths the path for Midea's takeover of Kuka, which initially upset German politicians who feared a loss of important technology. The two companies have since addressed those concerns by agreeing a deal to keep its existing headquarters, factories and jobs.

Voith said it viewed its investment in Kuka as a success because the value of its stake had more than doubled since it acquired