

Press Release

4 July 2008

Soehnle Professional is among the 100 most innovative companies in the medium-sized business

Lothar Spät awards Top 100 seal of quality to manufacturer of industrial and medical scales from Backnang, Germany

Backnang – The Soehnle Professional GmbH & Co. KG is one of the 100 most innovative companies in Germany's medium-sized business. At the 16th edition of the well-known benchmarking competition, the company's systematic, well-thought and therefore, successful innovation management is outstanding. Lothar Spät, the former minister-president of Baden-Württemberg, Germany honours Soehnle Professional with the Top 100 seal of quality at an official ceremony in Dusseldorf, Germany on 4 July 2008.

The mentor of the project acknowledges the performance of Soehnle Professional in five central categories: "Innovative Processes and Organisation", "Innovation Marketing", "Successful Innovations", "Innovation-friendly Senior Management" and "Innovation Climate". The medium-sized company has already achieved the membership of the Top 100 for the second time in a row.

The company is specialised on industrial and medical scales as well as measuring technology. In 2007, an important topic was the trend towards a continuing development of networks and global usage of information in the area of special solutions in the weighing technology field. Soehnle Professional reacted to this trend quickly with the development of an electronic platform, which can be connected customer-oriented with Bluetooth or WLAN radio contact. The data cannot only be acquired precisely but also transferred fast and safe. Furthermore, the company has recently developed a new sensor system for early diagnosis of an osteoporosis risk and for measuring the muscular status of athletes and patients. Therefore, the device can be used in hospitals and surgeries but evenly in sport centres and fitness studios.

In particular, the seal of quality was awarded due to the company's continuous research and development (R&D) inhouse and cooperates with national and international universities, institutes and professionals. The innovation management is directly linked to the Senior Management that is informed by trend scouts regarding market and technology developments. Furthermore, it is informed about the status of all projects in regular R&D meetings.

After being examined in a two-step process, 49 national and 17 international market leaders have been selected among the Top 100. The owner, Stephan Gerster, is especially proud to be among them: "We belong to the 100 most innovative companies in Germany's medium-sized business. This shows us that we are on the right path."

All 100 companies will be presented in the book "Top 100 – The 100 most innovative companies in the medium-sized business" published by Mr. Späth and on the website www.top100.de. The initiative is organised by compamedia GmbH. In this year, 342 companies have applied for the "Top 100". The next round for this prestigious competition for medium-sized businesses starts in September 2008.