

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Lumberg is World Market Leader**

**Award from the “SIHK zu Hagen” presented by Mona Neubaur**

**Schalksmühle, 18.03.2024.** South Westphalia is the fourth strongest industrial region in Germany and the clear number one in North Rhine-Westphalia. Small and medium-sized family businesses ensure the economic strength of the region with their inventions and patents, especially in the commercial sector. Every other employee works in the industry here. The often largely unknown companies gladly occupy market niches where they are world leaders – the so-called "Hidden Champions". South Westphalia has over 160 world market leaders.

Yesterday afternoon, Mona Neubaur, Minister for Economy, Industry, Climate Protection, and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, together with the SIHK (Chamber of Industry and Commerce) in Hagen and their campaign "World Leaders from South Westphalia," awarded 15 more companies. One of the winners is the internationally active Lumberg Group, which received the award as world market leader for RAST connectors.

The acronym stands for "Raster-Anschluss-Steck-Technik" (Raster Connection Plug Technology). In close coordination between the most important German household appliance manufacturers Bosch and Siemens Home Appliances (BSH), Miele, AEG (now Electrolux), Bauknecht (now Whirlpool), and the connector manufacturers, a standard that is still in use today was established in the early 1980s. The aim was to standardize the components, ensure the interchangeability of connectors from different manufacturers, and eliminate errors in the production process due to incorrectly connected connectors, or to simplify assembly in the assembly of end devices and minimize wiring errors. The RAST technology allows the grouping of connections, thereby avoiding the use of individual wires – and unlike other systems, harnessing with cables can be fully automated. From the multitude of consumer goods – starting with washing machines and dryers, refrigerators and freezers, dishwashers, stoves, or microwaves, as well as

household small appliances, including coffee machines, toasters, mixers, vacuum cleaners, and shavers – the RAST connector has spread to other business fields due to its economical processing. Today, it can be found, for example, in the heating and building industry as well as in medical technology or in many well-known vehicles – and continues to spread there steadily.

"We are pleased with today's visibility as world leaders – as our products are always invisible to the end consumer," emphasized Meike Schmidt, Managing Partner of the Lumberg Group. "I also congratulate the other world leaders from South Westphalia. None of them are at the top by chance; they have all earned this position with innovations, determination, and their strong team," she emphasized.

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**As media material to this press release attached you will find:**

**Photo 1 (© Lumberg):** LUMBERG\_Weltmarktführer 2024.jpg



f.l.: Meike Schmidt, Managing Partner of Lumberg-Group with Mona Neubaur, Minister for Economy, Industry, Climate Protection, and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

**Photo 2 (© Lumberg):** LUMBERG\_RAST-Steckverbinder für 1 mm Leiterplatten.jpg



**Photo 3 (© Lumberg):** LUMBERG\_Siegel Weltmarktführer.jpg



**About Lumberg Group:**

The Lumberg Group, headquartered in Schalksmühle, Germany, ranks among the leading providers of connector and interconnect systems. Core areas of expertise include R&D, manufacturing and the world-wide sales of electromechanical and mechatronic components. For 90 years now, the Group's skills have broadened from manufacturing connectors and challenging micro-contact elements, to developing complex mechatronic assemblies, to customer-specific engineering and technical design services for all industries. In-depth application expertise led to strong partnerships in the automotive, home appliance, building technology and communications industries. Family-run in the third generation, the company has a global workforce of around 1,250. Subsidiaries in Europe, America and Asia form a dense sales network. In 2022, the Group's turnover totaled some Euro 167 m. Over 20,000 catalog and customized products are proof of the company's efficiency.

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