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## PRESSE-INFORMATION PRESS RELEASE

### **Foundation Stone Ceremony on VÖGELE's New Site: Building the Industry's Most Modern Plant**

On Friday, 06 March 2009, VÖGELE AG based in Mannheim, Germany, celebrated the foundation stone ceremony for their new plant in Ludwigshafen-Rheingönheim.

Guest speakers included Dr Eva Lohse, the Lady Mayoress of Ludwigshafen and Hendrik Hering, Minister for Economic Affairs, Traffic and Agriculture of Rhineland-Palatinate. The numerous guests from the world of politics, the economy and various associations were welcomed by Dr Christian Pawlik, Member of the VÖGELE Board of Directors and Stefan Wirtgen, Chairman of the Supervisory Board.

The official foundation stone ceremony followed after the speeches. A team of VÖGELE trainees had manufactured four time capsules in the company's in-house training centre. Insignia were placed into the capsules for future generations to commemorate the day and the beginning of construction work on the new plant. Among these insignia were a steel tablet showing the timeline of the company's history, a document with the official signatures witnessing the foundation stone ceremony, a paver model and the day's issues of "Rheinpfalz" and "Mannheimer Morgen" newspapers. When the insignia had been placed into the foundation stone, the stone was sealed, which marked the end of the festive event.

## **Construction of the world's most modern production plant for road pavers underway in Rheingönheim**

The new site in Ludwigshafen-Rheingönheim covers an area of 370,000m<sup>2</sup>, four times the size of the present factory grounds in Mannheim. Production is not the only area to benefit from more space. The spacious new training centre also provides all conveniences needed for in-house training of apprentices and customer training alike. So far, some 3,000 staff from customers attended the VÖGELE training programmes every year. In the medium term, their number is expected to rise to an estimated 6,000. In the future too, this training will focus on machine technology as well as applications technology. Once moved to the new location, the company will have three large training halls available for this purpose. With the new training centre, VÖGELE will offer ideal conditions and an optimal environment for learning and training to both their own trainees and their clients' staff from around the world.

According to the project's schedule, the first part of the move will take place in the summer of 2010. Finally, by the end of 2010, the world's most modern production facility for road paving equipment will be fully operational.

### **Current situation on the building site**

Civil engineering works for the new VÖGELE plant in Ludwigshafen-Rheingönheim are almost completed. At the moment, 4.5km of drainage pipe are being laid and building of an access road leading to the site is underway. After that, construction work on the factory will be kicked off.

**\*\* End of Press Release \*\***

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**Photos:**



VOE\_Bild 1.jpg

The Mannheim-based company's traditional location has reached its limits for growth and does not allow further expansion.



VOE\_Bild 2.jpg

The industry's most modern plant is being built in Ludwigshafen-Rheingönheim, in close vicinity to Mannheim, on an area of 370,000m<sup>2</sup>. This is four times the size of the present location.



VOE\_Bild 3.jpg

"We are not just building a new factory. This project will open up to the company a new dimension ! Building a new plant from scratch offers the unique opportunity to be creative and organize each workplace and each production process without external constraints. This will lead to quantum leaps in all areas," said Stefan Wirtgen, Chairman of the VÖGELE Supervisory Board.



VOE\_Bild 4.jpg

VÖGELE AG attributes great importance to the training of young people. Therefore, no standard commercial time capsules were used for the foundation stone ceremony. The company's trainees had manufactured their own capsules in the in-house training centre.



VOE\_Bild 5.jpg

The “actors” at the official foundation stone ceremony (from left to right):

Bernhard Düser and Dr Christian Pawlik, Members of the VÖGELE Board of Directors.

Hendrik Hering, Minister for Economic Affairs, Traffic and Agriculture of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Dr Eva Lohse, Lady Mayoress of the city of Ludwigshafen.

Stefan Wirtgen, Chairman of the VÖGELE Supervisory Board.



VOE\_Bild 6.jpg

The words of Dr Christian Pawlik, member of the Board, are clear:

"We say “Yes” to Germany as an industrial location. With a planned investment of 100 million euros, the WIRTGEN Group demonstrates its responsibility as an enterprise and makes a contribution to sustainably strengthen the Rhine-Neckar conurbation."



VOE\_Bild 7.jpg

March 2009: Live images taken by a Webcam looking over the new VÖGELE site.

Keep track of the progress construction work makes on our new site and visit us on the Web at [www.voegele.info](http://www.voegele.info). "About us" leads you to the VÖGELE Webcam.