

PRESS RELEASE

DEUTZ hosts ceremony to mark its 160th anniversary

- DEUTZ CEO Dr. Sebastian C. Schulte looks back with pride and gratitude on 160 years of history and calls for the internal combustion engine to be made more climate-friendly: “The internal combustion engine is at the heart of German industry.”
- Hendrik Wüst, Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia, emphasizes the importance of DEUTZ for the country’s economic potential: “Germany needs more DEUTZ.”
- Cologne’s mayor highlights how important the Company is to Cologne: “DEUTZ has been creating high-quality jobs for 160 years now, making a vital contribution to progress and prosperity.”
- DEUTZ presents Bonn-based professor Denise Fischer-Kreer with the Nicolaus August Otto Award for entrepreneurship

Cologne, May 3, 2024 – Today, DEUTZ AG hosted a ceremony in Cologne to celebrate its 160th anniversary. Guests from the business community, the political arena, and society gathered together at the former site of the world’s oldest engine manufacturer. Hendrik Wüst, Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia, and Henriette Reker, Mayor of Cologne, joined DEUTZ CEO Dr. Sebastian C. Schulte in paying tribute to the Company. This year’s Nicolaus August Otto Award was also presented at the ceremony.

“Our 160-year history shows what can be achieved through the power of innovation and a belief in your own abilities. In some of the debates that we are having as a country right now, I see an absence of exactly this – a belief in our strengths and courage and optimism,” said Schulte in his speech. The DEUTZ CEO thanked current and former employees and called for the internal combustion engine to be made more climate-friendly: “The internal combustion engine is at the heart of German industry. More than 600,000 people work in the engine industry and their livelihoods depend directly or indirectly on its future. The example of Germany’s solar industry shows that once something is gone, it doesn’t come back. And for the foreseeable future, at least in the commercial vehicle sector, we won’t be able to do without combustion engine technology. We have to accept this for the good of our economy.”

The engine company.



In 1864, the entrepreneur and inventor Nicolaus August Otto and the engineer and industrialist Eugen Langen founded the company that would go on to become today's DEUTZ AG. Their invention of the atmospheric gas-powered engine set entire industries in motion. Today, DEUTZ supplies drives that move vehicles and machines around the world – on construction sites, on roads, and in agriculture – and is working to make its product ecosystem climate-neutral by offering intelligent maintenance, innovative solutions, and more sustainable engines.

Hendrik Wüst, Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia, emphasized this role in his speech: "DEUTZ AG has been a pioneer in engine development for 160 years and throughout that time has been an engine in its own right – driving innovation, progress and prosperity, and advances in automotive engineering. Today, DEUTZ is a global company that supplies state-of-the-art drive systems for vehicles and machines all over the world. It also exemplifies the huge entrepreneurial potential that still exists in our country. The state government of North Rhine-Westphalia is actively working to create an environment in which DEUTZ and companies like it can continue to thrive, innovate, and invest and thus enhance our standing as a region of commerce and industry."

Henriette Reker, Mayor of Cologne, used her speech to highlight the Company's ability to innovate and underlined its importance for the city: "Cologne is proud to have DEUTZ AG as its engine of innovation. The Company has been creating high-quality jobs for 160 years now, making a vital contribution to progress and prosperity in the city. I am confident that this will carry on in the future and that DEUTZ will play its part in the shift to a climate-neutral economy by offering increasingly low-emission and alternative drive systems."

The Company also used the ceremony to present its Nicolaus August Otto Award. This award, now in its sixth year, is endowed with prize money of €30,000 and recognizes achievements that are helping to shape the world of tomorrow. The 2024 winner is Professor Denise Fischer-Kreer from the University of Bonn, who researches and lectures on entrepreneurial behavior in the faculty of agriculture. She was presented with the award by Jan-Hendrik Mohr, CEO of farm equipment manufacturer Claas, whose commendation speech emphasized the "need for innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture". Further information on the Nicolaus August Otto Award can be found at www.ottoaward.com.

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“It is a great honor for me personally and for our work in the department to receive this award,” said Professor Fischer-Kreer in her acceptance speech. “We need more people who are able to put their ideas and visions into practice. And set up companies. Nicolaus August Otto showed how that can be done and what can be achieved if you believe in your own ideas and abilities and are prepared to constantly reinvent yourself. We try to instill this mindset in our students and equip them with the skills and tools they will need to help ensure food security while making agriculture sustainable around the world.”

In its anniversary year, DEUTZ AG is celebrating its employees – both current and former. It is celebrating their pioneering spirit and courage, their perseverance and optimism, their vision and their commitment to keeping the world moving. Today’s grand ceremony gets the party under way and will be followed by a festival for the entire workforce on the former DEUTZ site in Cologne-Mülheim.

Further information on the past and present of DEUTZ can be found on the redesigned website at www.deutz.com.



Caption: Hendrik Wüst, Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia, and DEUTZ CEO Dr. Sebastian C. Schulte at ceremony to mark DEUTZ 160th anniversary.
Credit: Marius Becker



Caption (f.l.t.r.): Dr. Sebastian C. Schulte, Hendrik Wüst, Prof. Dr. Denise Fischer-Kreer, Jan-Hendrik Mohr at the ceremony for the Nicolaus August Otto Award.
Credit: Marius Becker

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About DEUTZ AG

DEUTZ AG, a publicly traded company headquartered in Cologne, Germany, is one of the world's leading manufacturers of innovative drive systems. Its core competencies are the development, production, distribution, and servicing of drive solutions in the power range up to 620 kW for off-highway applications. The current portfolio extends from diesel, gas, and hydrogen engines to all-electric drives. DEUTZ drives are used in a wide range of applications including construction equipment, agricultural machinery, material handling equipment such as forklift trucks and lifting platforms as well as commercial and rail vehicles. With over 5,000 employees worldwide and around 1,000 sales and service partners in more than 120 countries, DEUTZ generated revenue of over €2.1 billion in the 2023 financial year. Further information is available at www.deutz.com.