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Award-winning innovation: kumkeo

kumkeo is one of Germany's most innovative mid-sized companies/Award given by Ranga Yogeshwar

Hamburg – A strong entrepreneurial vision for success: kumkeo GmbH was recognized as one of Germany's most innovative mid-sized companies at the summit meeting of German mid-sized companies held in Essen on June 26. "Top 100" mentor Ranga Yogeshwar honored the Hamburg-based company with the "Top 100" seal, which has been awarded for the past 20 years. kumkeo underwent a thorough two-tier scientific analysis prior to the event.

"To be innovative, you need sustainable solutions" – this is the motto of Hamburg's kumkeo GmbH. Awarded the "Top 100" seal, the IT engineering firm works with prominent clients from all future-oriented industries – including the aviation, automotive, defense and semiconductor industries, as well as the fields of medical technology and renewable energies. kumkeo realizes sensitive hardware and software development projects, including sophisticated software and system testing in line with all applicable standards and norms.

The ingenuity of the Hamburg-based firm is even reflected in its number of employees. The number of employees has grown by over 10 times since the company's establishment in 2009. Today, 59 people work for kumkeo at two offices in Hamburg and one in Nuremberg – and the company aims to add another 25 employees in the next three years. The top management team behind this success encourages and promotes innovative thinking: "Our team is involved in projects from very early on," explains Senior Account Manager Sven Tannenberger, "and our employees have the opportunity to turn their ideas into reality during the implementation phase."

Managing Director Bernd Sager adds: "We listen to our employees, and greatly value their work. In addition to our technological expertise, we rely on clear, efficient communication as a major strength in developing our solutions." Customers especially appreciate the wide range of industry experience and expertise in various methods that this top innovator has to offer. kumkeo made major investments to make one of its Hamburg locations completely secure from unauthorized third-party access. The company aims to have the location certified by the BSI (Federal Office for Information Security) in 2017.

"Our great ideas and quick implementation are decisive competitive factors for us," explains the Managing Director. "This is why we invest so much time

Contact kumkeo GmbH

Sven Tannenberger Deichstrasse 48/50 20459 Hamburg, Germany Phone: 040 2846761-0 E-mail: info@kumkeo.de

www.kumkeo.de

Contact compamedia GmbH

Sven Kamerar Nußdorfer Strasse 4 88662 Überlingen, Germany Phone: 07551 94986-33 Fax: 07551 94986-49

E-mail:

presse@compamedia.de www.top100.de



and effort in our innovation management. We rely on the strong creativity and ideas of our employees. I would like to thank them for this 'Top 100' award."

The basis for receiving the "Top 100" seal is a two-tier analysis developed by Dr. Nikolaus Franke, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, and his team. The scientists researched the innovations management approaches and success of mid-sized companies based on over 100 parameters in five categories. A distinguished panel of judges decides who will receive the "Top 100" seal in the end.

This year, Franke and his team received more submissions than ever before: Of 302 qualifying companies, 234 managed to reach the final stage. Of these, 178 received the award in three size categories (max. 100 companies per size category). The awards are given at the summit meeting for German mid-sized companies (Deutsche Mittelstands-Summit) in Essen.

The "Top 100" are truly outstanding in every respect – they include 71 national market leaders, and even 31 global market leaders. Together, the top innovators registered 3,405 national and international patents in the past three years. They generated nearly 41 percent of their sales with industry innovations and improvements that they brought to market before the competition (average of all SME in Germany: 6.6 percent). Their success is no coincidence: The top innovators invested an average of 10.5 percent of their sales in research and development (average of all SME in Germany: 1.5 percent). Two-thirds of the "Top 100" are family-run businesses.

"Top 100": The competition

Since 1993, compamedia has awarded the "Top 100" seal to mid-sized companies for their special innovative capabilities and extraordinary success in innovation. Dr. Nikolaus Franke, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, has coordinated and supervised the competition since 2002. He is one of the world's leading experts for user innovation. Science journalist and TV host Ranga Yogeshwar is a mentor to the "Top 100". Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft for Applied Research is a partner to the project, and manager magazine provides support as media partner. For more information, go to www.top100.de.

compamedia, mentor of the best mid-sized companies

Founded in 1993, compamedia GmbH and its 15 employees organize the nationwide company comparisons "Top 100" (since 1993) and "Top Consultant" (since 2010). The company collaborates with prominent universities to organize these events.

Contact kumkeo GmbH

Sven Tannenberger Deichstrasse 48/50 20459 Hamburg, Germany Phone: 040 2846761-0

E-mail: info@kumkeo.de www.kumkeo.de

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