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DORUCON and Vindsubsidies join forces: synergies for future growth and success

St. Ingbert, 31.5.2023 - The subsidy consultancy DORUCON - DR. RUPP CONSULTING GmbH will act in close partnership with the international Vindsubsidies group from the Netherlands in the future.

Saarland company on growth course in new international partnership in consolidating market

The subsidy consultancy DORUCON has grown very strongly in recent years and has most recently moved into a new company building in 2022. Due to the new subsidy program "Forschungszulage" the market of subsidy consulting continues to grow strongly and at the same time is subject to consolidation. Many international companies are pushing into the German market. In order to be solidly prepared for further growth and to meet the increasing demand of our clients for international support, we have been on the lookout for international partners since last year. After an intensive selection and familiarization process, the cooperation with the Vindsubsidies Group from the Netherlands was notarized on May 26, 2023. Vindsubsidies now holds 100% of the shares in DORUCON via SilverTree. The previous managing partner Dr. Jörg Rupp will remain associated with the company in the long term through his advisory role and financial ties.

New Management Board: Dr. Benjamin Hötzer (CEO) and Dr. Marc Schaber (COO)

As part of the change, long-time consultants Dr. Benjamin Hötzer and Dr. Marc Schaber will jointly take over operational management. Dr. Hötzer, previously responsible for building up the business with international development programs, will focus on business development. Dr. Schaber, previously responsible for the operational implementation of national funding programs, will in future be responsible for the operational implementation of the growth strategy.

Dr. Jörg Rupp, Managing Director of DORUCON: *"After more than a decade and recently exponential growth, I am glad to have Vindsubsidies as a strong partner at my side. The decade more of international experience, the tools and the financial background is exactly what we need now to*

become the market leader in Germany and a major player in Europe. By naming Benjamin and Marc as managing directors, Vindsubsidies sends a clear signal and expresses high confidence in the team."

Henk Heerink, GF of Vindsubsidies, on the new partnership: *"In the coming years, Vindsubsidies will focus on further growth with the support of private equity investor SilverTree. The agency wants to gain market share by relying on experienced partners like DORUCON, who offer direct added value through their expertise."*

John Messamore (Managing Partner SilverTree) commented, *"We are delighted to welcome DORUCON to the Vindsubsidies family, marking the company's first expansion outside the Netherlands."* Nicholas Theuerkauf (Managing Partner SilverTree) added: *"The innovation consulting market in Germany is on the cusp of a rapid growth phase and we are excited to support DORUCON in becoming a market leader in the coming years."*

Dr Benjamin Hötzer, CEO on his new role and future plans: *"Since joining DORUCON more than eight years ago, I have been inspired by the team that is continuously growing and together achieving the highest quality every day. The cooperation with Vindsubsidies as an experienced partner means the logical step to be successful in the increasingly European funding landscape also in perspective and to expand further. I thank Vindsubsidies for the trust in my person and I am looking forward to new challenges to continue the strong growth of the company in the future and to internationalize it."*

Dr Marc Schaber, COO on his new role and future plans: *"Together with the team at DORUCON, I am delighted to be able to continue shaping the successful history of the company in the future with a new partner at my side. The new partnership will create numerous opportunities and exciting possibilities for the future."*

About DORUCON - DR. RUPP CONSULTING GmbH

DORUCON - DR. RUPP CONSULTING GmbH advises companies throughout Germany and Europe, from start-ups and SMEs to large corporations, on the realization of their innovation projects and offers support in the promotion and financing of growth. The support includes a full service, and includes the planning, application and processing of grants and financing. In addition

to applying for innovation funding, the offer also includes investment funding (equipment, buildings, energy efficiency) and structuring and monitoring of financing. DORUCON has more than 10 years of experience in technology and innovation funding at state, federal and EU level. Supported funding programs include the Central Innovation Program for SMEs (ZIM), KMU-innovativ, the research allowance (tax-based research funding), the EIC Accelerator, GRW funding and go-innovativ (go-inno). DORUCON is authorized by the Federal Ministry of Economics to issue consulting vouchers of up to 27,500 euros for the go-inno funding program. In addition, DORUCON is certified by TÜV Süd according to ISO 9001:2015 and is a member of the Offensive Mittelstand and the Bundesverband mittelständische Wirtschaft (BVMW).

About Vindsubsidies

Founded in 1997, Vindsubsidies is the only agency in the Netherlands that offers comprehensive advice on grants and subsidies, as well as a range of online products, including the most comprehensive subsidy database in the Netherlands. Vindsubsidies contributes daily to innovation, progress and sustainability in all sectors in the Netherlands through its services and data offerings.

Vindsubsidies employs highly qualified and specialized consultants with extensive experience in initiating and managing funding projects at regional, national and European level. Vindsubsidies has been continuously awarded the FD Gazellen Award as one of the fastest growing companies in the Netherlands for the last 5 years.

Vindsubsidies employs 140 consultants and has 8 offices in the Netherlands. In addition, Vindsubsidies is also ISO 9001:2015 certified.

For more information: www.vindsubsidies.nl.

Contact details and press information

Contact person DORUCON:

Dr. Benjamin Hötzer



Dr. Benjamin Hötzer holds a PhD in physics and is a certified project manager and has been part of the DORUCON team since 2015. In his previous professional positions, he worked for the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, the Steinbeis Foundation, as well as the University of Paris South and the University Hospital Homburg, among others. Thanks to his many years of experience, most recently as an authorized signatory and associate partner, he has a high level of expertise and helped build up the international division. In his new role as CEO, he is responsible for business development and sales as well as controlling.

Dr. Marc Schaber



Dr. Marc Schaber has been working at DORUCON since 2016. He studied physics at Saarland University, where he received his PhD in experimental physics. During his PhD, he experimented in the context of X-ray tomography during several stays at the European Synchrotron (ESRF) in Grenoble. In the company, he has successfully led numerous applications in all major German funding programs at state and federal level, especially in complex IT topics. In addition, he led and moderated ZIM innovation networks and innovation forums consisting of companies and research institutions and currently coordinates the National funding area as an authorized signatory. Dr. Schaber has also been active for over 10 years in an honorary capacity at the Saarland Football Association (SFV) and for 20 years in a management capacity in club youth soccer at SC Blieskastel-Lautzkirchen e.V. and has received several awards for his honorary commitment.

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