

No. 5 / Cologne, 26.03.2024

Koelnmesse appoints new Senior Vice President Finance and Controlling Silke de Witt

Silke de Witt is taking over the financial reins at Koelnmesse from 1 July 2024, and will also become a member of the Executive Board. She is joining the company on 1 April 2024 and will share the role with Volker Ahrberg, Member of the Executive Board and sole authorised signatory for Koelnmesse, on an interim basis. Volker Ahrberg will be retiring at the end of June in a planned departure.

“We are now paving the way for the future in our finance unit at Koelnmesse and are delighted to have a real expert with a wealth of international experience on board with Silke de Witt,” says Gerald Böse, President and Chief Executive Officer of Koelnmesse.

Silke de Witt brings with her over 20 years of experience in a variety of finance and marketing roles at Bayer AG and Covestro AG. In addition to various international leadership roles in the global organisation, she was also the CFO of a start-up of Bayer AG in Germany. De Witt also spent five years in Shanghai working for the Covestro Group, where her responsibilities as a member of the Business Unit Management Team included global controlling for one of the Group’s three divisions.

De Witt is taking over from Volker Ahrberg, who initially became Senior Vice President Finance and Controlling in 2002 and went on to join the Executive Board in 2012 and become the sole authorised signatory for Koelnmesse in 2022.

Images for journalists: [Portrait of Silke de Witt](#)

About Koelnmesse:

Koelnmesse employs around 1,000 people. The city-centre trade fair at the heart of Europe occupies the third largest trade fair grounds in Germany and, spanning almost 400,000 square metres of hall and outdoor space, it numbers among the top ten worldwide. Each year, Koelnmesse organises and manages around 80 trade fairs, guest events and corporate events in Cologne and in the most important markets around the world. Its portfolio attracts over 54,000 exhibiting companies from 122 countries and approximately three million visitors from more than 200 nations.

Photo material for media representatives:

[Image database | Koelnmesse](#)

Follow our English social media channel:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/koelnmesse-gmbh>

Your contact:

Dr. Jasmin Fischer

Tel.

+49 221 821-2494

e-mail

[jasmin.fischer@](mailto:jasmin.fischer@koelnmesse.de)

[koelnmesse.de](mailto:jasmin.fischer@koelnmesse.de)

Koelnmesse GmbH

Messeplatz 1

50679 Köln

P.O. Box 21 07 60

50532 Köln

Germany

Tel. +49 221 821-0

Fax +49 221 821-2574

www.koelnmesse.com

Executive Board:

Gerald Böse (President and Chief Executive Officer)

Oliver Frese

Chairwoman of the Supervisory Board:

Mayor of the City of Cologne
Henriette Reker

Headquarters and place of jurisdiction:

Cologne

District Court Cologne, HRB 952