



# Press Release

## **Personnel management is becoming more oriented towards employees**

### **Martin Allerchen will become the new Senior Vice President of HR and Change Management at the Berner Group**

***Cologne, November 29, 2016. The Berner Group is continuing to invest in the qualitative development and expansion of its around 9,000 employees in sales and internal services. The basis for this is the strategic personnel concept adopted this year. Amongst other things, it aims to make the Berner Group even more attractive to employees. In order to implement the programme, the company has now secured an internationally experienced expert in the area of Human Resources and Change Management in Martin Allerchen (49). He will become Senior Vice President from 1 March 2017 and assume responsibility for these two key departments.***

The Berner Group is currently evolving together with its subsidiaries into a customer-oriented company and undergoing a multi-level change process across all areas of the business. HR and Change Management are important factors for the success of this transformation because they have the task of sensitively preparing employees for the changes in structures, processes and orientation.

In the future, personnel management at Berner will be significantly more oriented towards employees than previously. In order to achieve

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this objective, one of the main tasks for HR will be change management.

Mr. Allerchen (photo) has accompanied major change and transformation projects with his former employer. He will therefore participate in the management of the Berner Group in the implementation of corporate transformation. In HR, the already successfully started HR strategy will be further developed and, together with the international HR team, the transformation will be implemented into an even more employee-oriented company.

"Our employees are the most important and largest capital for the future. We need to become more attractive to employees and to train them even better. In particular, we must be regarded as the best employer from the point of view of our employees," says Christian Berner, CEO of the Berner Group and responsible for the Human Resources department on the Executive Board.

Martin Allerchen comes from the SIG Group, a system supplier for aseptic beverage cartons (5,000 employees, € 1.78 billion turnover). At SIG he is currently Head of HR, Global Markets & Technology, IT and Group Functions Germany, North America. Before moving to SIG, he worked for several HR consultancies more than seven years.

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## **The Berner Group**

The Berner Group is a family-run European trading company. Our vision: "We keep the world together and moving". That means we aim to be the main B2B trading partner for all materials in the fields of maintenance, repair and production for our customers in the construction, automotive and industrial sectors. With over four different channels, we provide an integrated, omni-channel shopping experience for our customers. In the fields of steel and C-parts as well as in the field of chemicals, we are also an innovative manufacturer. With more than 230,000 products and 9,000 employees, we support our customers in over 25 countries.