

Press release

Mannheim, 12 November 2021

Südzucker executive board member Dr Thomas Kirchberg retires as of September 2022

Succession process initiated by the supervisory board

At the Südzucker supervisory board meeting on 11 November 2021, Dr Thomas Kirchberg has informed the board that he will not renew his executive board contract, which expires on 31 August 2022.

„After 33 years with Südzucker, including almost 15 years as a member of the executive board, we respect Dr Kirchberg’s decision with great regret. We are grateful for his many years of service, characterised by mutual trust, for his dedicated commitment to the company and for his numerous achievements”, states Dr Hans-Jörg Gebhard, chairman of the supervisory board of Südzucker AG. “We will use the remaining months to arrange the succession.” “In the executive board team, we value Dr Kirchberg not only for his experience and his tremendous expertise, but also as a person whose collegial nature makes him a great team player”, adds Dr Niels Pörksen, CEO of Südzucker AG.

In a message to the employees, Dr Kirchberg says: „I have been and am still working for our Südzucker Group with great pleasure and passion. My job has always involved a great geographical distance between my home and my place of work. I am very grateful that my family has always accepted the resulting restrictions. Now the moment has come to spend more time together and to realign priorities.”

After holding various functions in the Südzucker Group, Dr Kirchberg has been a member of the executive board of Südzucker AG since September 2007. Today he is responsible for industrial markets (CropEnergies, sugar), agriculture, human resources, new business development, research, development & services and sustainability.

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About the Südzucker Group

Südzucker is a major player in the food industry with its sugar, special products, starch and fruit segments, and Europe's leading ethanol producer with its CropEnergies segment.

In the traditional sugar business, the group is Europe's number one supplier of sugar products, with 23 sugar factories and two refineries, extending from France in the west via Belgium, Germany and Austria, through to Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bosnia, and Moldova in the east. The special products segment, with its consumer-oriented functional ingredients for food and animal feed (BENEÓ), chilled/frozen products (Freiberger) and portion packs (PortionPack Europe), operates in dynamic growth markets. Südzucker's CropEnergies segment is Europe's leading producer of renewable ethanol, with production sites in Germany, Belgium, France and Great Britain. Other products in this segment are protein food and animal feed products as well as biogenic carbon dioxide. The new starch segment comprises AGRANA's starch and ethanol activities. The group's fruit segment operates globally, is the world market leader for fruit preparations and is a leading supplier of fruit juice concentrates in Europe.

In 2020/21, the group employed about 17,900 persons and generated revenues of EUR 6.7 billion.