

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Innovations for the production of tomorrow – Würth Industrie Service is one of Germany’s most innovative companies**

*Bad Mergentheim/Main-Tauber-Kreis.* As a comprehensive C-Parts partner, Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG reinvents its supply of production and operating materials for around 20,000 customers every day. The company has always focused on innovative solutions in the fields of automation, digitalisation and Industry 4.0. For its innovation commitment, Focus and Focus Money awarded the C-Parts partner the DEUTSCHLAND TEST seal of “Germany’s most innovative company in 2022”, making it one of Germany’s innovation elite. With the 1st place in the category of “building materials and building accessories (wholesalers)”, the company emerges as a clear industry winner.

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The IMWF Institute for Management and Economic Research conducted a study on “Germany’s most innovative company in 2022” on behalf of Focus Money and DEUTSCHLAND TEST. In the defined period from 1st March 2021 to 28th February 2022, around 12,400 companies were analysed from various online sources and statements on five topics relevant to innovation, including innovation activities, investments, research and development, product innovations and technology. In the category “building materials and building accessories (wholesalers)”, Würth Industrie Service emerged as the industry winner, thus setting the benchmark for all other companies in the industry surveyed.

### **True innovators are constantly in change**

Sometimes, there are ground-breaking innovations, often there are small advances: Real innovators are constantly changing and reinventing themselves every day. Increasing customer expectations, a high innovation speed, short product life cycles and a constantly changing market and competitive environment are key drivers of the development processes. According to the guiding principle “always ahead - but true to the roots”, Würth Industrie Service helps to drive digital change with all its strength while preserving the company’s values at the same time. “Everyone is asked to contribute, to feel like an innovator, to develop new ideas together and ultimately to implement them.”, explains Stefan Reuss, General Manager, IT and Digital Solutions of Würth Industrie Service. In order to control and coordinate innovation projects, a dedicated department of Digital Business Development & Innovations

handles forward-looking trends and provides agile working methods to facilitate daily work through intelligent solutions. The experts at Würth Industrie Service consider it essential to also deal with important developments such as Virtual Reality. "By advancing the technological evolution of Virtual reality in-house, we enable interactive networking with customers, employees, universities and other business partners.", says Mr. Reuss.

### **Innovations hand-in-hand**

Reinventing oneself every day goes far beyond company boundaries. Practical technologies in line with modern C-Parts management can only be achieved by learning from and with customers and working hand in hand with partners from science, trade and industry. The innovation strength of Würth Industrie Service is visible in its supply systems, which engage in high level of automation. With one of the innovative new developments - the battery-operated iPLACER® - the RFID technology is used not only for the ordering process, but also for inventory management. Equipped with a reader and transmitter, this iPLACER® can be placed anywhere - whether in production, at the workplace, in assembly, logistics or intralogistics. As a result, the customers can benefit from an automated replenishment at any place, and from a complete transparency of their consumptions. The intelligent ORSY®mat vending machines for all production-related MRO materials also impressed in the context of the study on "Germany's most innovative company". With the vending machines, the C-Parts partner takes care of everything from delivery, storage and stocking to fully automatic replenishment of auxiliary and operating materials. Thanks to intelligent supply solutions, the items can be made available on demand and around the clock. This results in forward-looking solutions that make existing processes in the industry even better, even more efficient and working even easier. Currently, more than 20,000 customers are already using over 1,500 vending machines, more than 10,000 RFID Kanban systems and more than 1.9 million Kanban bins. Innovation and progress are also at the heart of the Würth Industrial Park, one of the most modern logistics centres for industrial supply throughout Europe. Modern, fully automated high-bay and shuttle warehouses with a capacity of more than 650,000 storage spaces, 34 kilometres of conveyor technology, driverless transport systems and various robots are used for maximum supply security.

Convinced by the innovation strategy of Würth Industrie Service, Focus Money

and DEUTSCHLAND TEST awarded the company as “Germany’s most innovative company in 2022”.

## Photo material

### Captions:



Figure 1: iPLACER for replenishment.jpg

Caption: 1: The iPLACER as a system for replenishment at the assembly workstation of the future  
Photo source 1: Archives of Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG



Picture 2: ORSYmat vending machines.jpg

Caption: 2: The Würth vending machine ORSY®mat – time-saving system in the purchasing, production and materials management of indirect materials  
Photo source 2: Archives of Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG

#### Brief profile of Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG

Within the Würth Group, Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG is responsible for the supply of the industrial sector. Since its foundation in 1999, Würth Industrie Service is located at the Industriepark Würth in Bad Mergentheim, Germany with over 1.700 employees. As a complete C-Parts provider, the company offers its customers a specialised product range of over 1,100,000 items: from screws, connection and fastening technology, tools to chemical-technical products and occupational safety. In addition to the extensive standard range, the strength of the company lies in its customer-specific, logistical and dispositive supply and service concepts as well as in special parts. Under the service brand "CPS® - C-Product Service", the company offers modular solutions, which are customised as per customer-specific requirements. Thereby, the consumption-based and demand-based systems significantly rationalise the processes for purchase, logistics and quality assurance and enable the procurement of small parts in a cost-optimised manner. Logistic and dispositive services such as shelving systems with scanners or a just-in-time supply using Kanban bin systems contribute significantly to increasing the productivity.