

Press release

Friedhelm Loh Group

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Fifty-five trainees create projects on curiosity, focus and the digital transformation

Using curiosity to stay on the ball

“Be curious – stay on the ball” was the motto of this year’s “Trainee Days” event for Friedhelm Loh Group apprentices, held at the Gnadenthal Monastery near the town of Bad Camberg. The trainees covered the topic of curiosity and distraction in the age of digital transformation. The projects were presented to a jury of top management members. Professor Friedhelm Loh awarded the prizes to the winners.

Herborn, 28. November 2018 – The Friedhelm Loh Group has been inviting second year trainees to the former Gnadenthal monastery near Bad Camberg every year since 2003. “This project is about bringing young people into contact with issues that will enrich their lives,” said Professor Loh, explaining the idea behind it. “As the region’s largest employer, we view it as our responsibility not only to provide young people with professional training, but also to give them ideas on how they can discover their own personal role in the quest for a fulfilled and successful life.”

Besides the discussion about values and how to communicate them, the focus was also on the tools of the trade for team and project work, as well as on moderation and presentation. The 55 trainees interpreted the workshop topic during the two-day workshop in June and in regular project work over the months that followed. They showed why, from their point of view, it was important to remain curious and – at the same time – discover their own personal focus. Now the results have been presented to a jury of top management, representing a chance for the trainees to apply the moderation and presentation techniques they had learned immediately.

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“Stay curious. And ask precise questions!”

Professor Loh opened his speech with a passionate plea on behalf of curiosity. However, it also called for focus and stamina so that an interest in new things could promote personal and professional development: “Don't be satisfied with mere slogans, ask yourself what is behind them.” Only in this way could an idea become a usable innovation. “Time and again in the history of our company, our employees' inventiveness, expertise and perseverance during continued development have proven to be decisive factors for our success.”

Information overload through smartphones

The digital transformation has long since taken hold in every area of life, especially in the generation of the trainees. It is opening up completely new possibilities for curiosity and knowledge, but also amplifies the effects of distraction and diversion. The key question for the award-winning projects was consequently: How do young, digitally networked people find the right balance between a healthy curiosity about information and their peace of mind, so that they can concentrate on their personal goals?

Three days in Leipzig as top prize

The jury was particularly impressed by Niklas Edelmann, Fnan Kahsay Nuguse, Dennis Niklas Petzold, Jessica Schweizer and Hüseyin Tekin. They showed how childlike curiosity and discipline can lead to tangible benefits in a humorous way. They won the first prize, a three-day stay in Leipzig, including a visit to the Porsche plant and a visit to the Zeiss Planetarium for their film on “Curiosity and the Digital Transformation”.

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Runners up were Tom Niklas Becker, Olivia Bräutigam, Felix Halfmann, Lukas Klonk and Max Stiel. They will be travelling to Munich for two days to visit the BMW factory and the Bavaria film studios. Third spot went to Lorenz Janke, Michael Leischner, Hanna Meier, Raphael Schirmuli and Nils Vreemann. Their price is a day trip with a tour of the Opel factory.

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Caption(s)

Image (fri182069400.jpg): Humour, curiosity and discipline: The winning team (left to right: Dennis Niklas Petzold, Collin Prange, Hüseyin Tekin, Jessica Schweizer, Fnan Kahsay Nuguse, Niklas Edelmann) at the Trainee Days event convinced Professor Friedhelm Loh with a video project dealing with “Curiosity and the Digital Transformation”.

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Friedhelm Loh Group

A global player, the Friedhelm Loh Group (FLG) invents, develops, and makes made-to-measure products and integrated solutions for manufacturers, distributors, and other businesses. Member companies of the Group lead their respective industries in innovation and quality. They include the world’s leading provider of modular platforms for enclosures, power distribution, climate control and IT infrastructure (Rittal); Europe’s number one supplier of software solutions for mechanical and industrial plant engineering (Eplan, Cideon); and a specialist in integrated manufacturing with state-of-the-art materials – steel, aluminium, and plastics – (Stahlo, LKH).

The family-owned enterprise maintains a worldwide presence, with 18 production sites and 80 subsidiaries. Managed by founder Friedhelm Loh himself, the Group employs 11,500 people and generated revenues of approximately Euro 2.5 billion in 2017. In 2018, it was named one of Germany’s leading employers by the Top Employers Institute, for the tenth year running. Within the scope of a Germany-wide survey, Focus Money magazine identified the Friedhelm Loh

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Group as one of the nation's best providers of vocational training for the third time in a row in 2018.

For more information, visit www.friedhelm-loh-group.com.