

## Press Release

# Off to a flying career start: Waggonbau Graaff opens new training center

**Hamburg, October 13, 2021.** Practical work, insights into the factory routine, familiarization with operating processes: Since October 13, all this and more has been accessible to apprentices at the newly opened trainee workshop on the premises of Waggonbau Graaff in Elze, near Hanover. The plant, where VTG builds new freight wagons, trains young people to be construction mechanics, industrial administrators and IT administrators. Right from the start of their apprenticeship, each career beginner gains experience at a variety of departments. The 14 youngsters currently enrolled at the new training center will spend four years learning the trade, acquiring practical skills and adding value for the company.

### **Broad-based knowledge lays a firm foundation for a good career**

Lars Magerhans heads the new training center with the support of instructor Micha Vogel. At the modern trainee workshop, they lay the basis on which the youngsters can widen their vocational scope. “Apprentices and skilled workers are introduced to and actively involved in operating processes,” Magerhans says. “That gives us all kinds of ways to proactively develop our people and teach apprentices the skills they will need in the future. Newcomers thus get to see potential career trajectories across the company.”

### **Close collaboration with VTG RailTrain**

The new training center in Elze also opens up more opportunities for collaboration within the VTG Group. For example, the center is stepping up its collaboration and dialogue with the Hamburg-based VTG RailTrain training program for young people with special educational needs. Practical work experience in Elze complements the instruction provided by the VTG RailTrainers. But it also provides a valuable insight into future career opportunities and has therefore been established as a regular component of apprenticeships starting in year two. “Deployments at Waggonbau Graaff and in the new apprenticeship workshop help the VTG RailTrain apprentices to sample the variety of activities in metalworking vocations,” says Thomas Mombrei, the man in charge of the VTG RailTrain program. “Thanks to this close cooperation, we are now able to pass on technical skills, which is a tremendous addition to the training program.”

### **About VTG:**

Headquartered in Hamburg, VTG Aktiengesellschaft is a global asset owner and logistics company with a strong focus on rail. Besides hiring out rail freight wagons and tank containers, it also provides multimodal logistical services and integrated digital solutions. The company's fleet includes around 94,000 rail freight wagons – mostly tank wagons, intermodal wagons, standard freight wagons and sliding-wall wagons – as well as about 9,000 tank containers.

This diversified service portfolio gives VTG's customers a robust platform for international freight transportation, based on which the company develops made-to-measure logistical solutions for any and every industry. Over many years, VTG has accumulated granular expertise across the entire transport chain – expertise that is now flanked by smart technology. The Group likewise combines a wealth of experience with a specialized knowledge of the transportation of liquid and sensitive goods in particular. Its customers include a plethora of leading companies

representing the chemicals, petroleum, automotive and paper industries, agriculture and virtually every other sector besides.

VTG posted revenue of EUR 1,218 million and an operating profit (EBITDA) of EUR 492 million in the 2020 financial year. The Hamburg-based company's subsidiaries and affiliates give it a sizable footprint in Europe, North America, Russia and Asia. Effective December 31, 2020, VTG employed around 2,100 people worldwide.

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