



Margrit Harting turns 75

She is not thinking of stopping any time soon

Back in the 1960s, she only knew HARTING as a manufacturer of cigarette vending machines. And young Margrit was a little wary of Espelkamp. She was always happy once she was past the nascent town as she travelled with her father from Herford to Rahden, where his schools were located. But both the company and the place went on to fit together for Margrit Harting, who turns 75 on 3 February in a very special and delightful way.



Born in Lippe and a qualified teacher of commercial subjects, she married the businessman Dietmar Harting in 1971, joined the Technology Group (founded in 1945) in 1987 and, ever since that day, has been shaping the style and image of the family owned and managed company in her roles as Manager, Senior Vice President and creative and inspiring Senior Director.

When the US President Barack Obama admired the HARTING team's sneakers at HANNOVER MESSE; whenever heads of state and ministers, VIPs from the worlds of sport, culture and the economy have come to Espelkamp, whenever anniversaries, successes and inaugurations have been celebrated in a big way, and whenever impressive architecture has been created, this superwoman has conducted proceedings with great confidence, cutting an impressive profile. Initially, on joining the company, Margrit Harting took responsibility for personnel, quality, plant facilities, advertising and PR and decided that the SME, with around 1,300 employees and sales of nearly 150 million Marks as of 1987, should have a modern and friendly image.

Initiating safety, cleanliness and sustainability competitions, the Night of Innovations, the KiTec research award for primary children, the leading-edge NAZHA training centre, as well as promoting and supporting sports, culture and education

– her influence extends well beyond the company and the region itself.

Meanwhile, her once sceptical attitude to Espelkamp has reversed and reflects passionate commitment. 'The town would definitely be poorer without her', as Espelkamp's Mayor Heinrich Vieker underlined her huge commitment back in 2009 when Dietmar and Margrit Harting were awarded honorary citizenship.

Notable in this context is the modernisation and renovation of the New Theatre, which would not have been possible without a donation of a million euros committed by the couple. In 22 years as a member of the General Assembly of the Ostwestfalen zu Bielefeld Chamber of Industry and Commerce and twelve years as its Vice President, Margrit Harting worked tirelessly in the interests of the region's economy. In 1998 she succeeded in commissioning the Swiss star architect Mario Botta to design the new sales headquarters building for HARTING Deutschland in Minden. In addition to many distinctions as Honorary President, Margrit Harting 2008 was awarded the Federal Order of Merit First Class in 2008, and an honorary fellowship of Leibniz University, Hanover in 2018.

Perfectionism and professionalism, ever new and fresh ideas, powerful motivation, enthusiasm and persuasive power distinguish the 75-year-old birthday girl. There is no question of resting on her laurels, as she has no lack of plans for the future. Especially this year, when the company, meanwhile run with great success by son Philip and daughter Maresa together with their parents, reaches the same age as the 'foreign minister' of the international Technology Group. And Margrit Harting, with her enthusiasm for performance and quality, is on hand to ensure that the event will be staged appropriately.

The HARTING Technology Group is one of the world's leading providers of industrial connection technology for the three lifelines of Data, Signal and Power and has 15 production plants and 44 sales companies. Moreover, the company also produces retail checkout systems, electromagnetic actuators for automotive and industrial series use, charging equipment for electric vehicles, as well as hardware and software for customers and applications in automation technology, mechanical and plant engineering, robotics and transportation engineering. In the 2018/19 business year, some 5,300 employees generated sales of EUR 750 million. Founded on September 1, 1945, the company celebrates its 75th anniversary at many trade fairs and events this year.

Security at the ILA 2020

Focus on hi-tech, operational capability and recruitment

How can Europe successfully deal with future threat scenarios? These and other vital issues affecting security and defense will again have an important part to play at the ILA Berlin from 13 to 17 May 2020. In addition to the German armed forces, the Bundeswehr, which is the largest exhibitor at this event, the military forces of many other countries will also be represented, with the latest aircraft and most up-to-date technology. Delegations and visitors from over one hundred countries are expected to attend the ILA. More than 200 aircraft can be seen in the air and on the display areas.

BDLI President Dirk Hoke says: 'Military aviation again plays a decisive role at the ILA. We are the driving force for innovations, in our efforts to meet the increasing contribution by the German armed forces to safeguarding democracy, security and prosperity in Europe. Our entire industry, comprising systems houses and the supply sector, a large proportion of which consists of small and medium-



sized businesses (SMEs), has at its disposal some outstanding technical skills in Germany and in Europe. These can be experienced at close quarters at the ILA – from the Eurofighter to the A400M, helicopters such as the H145, and the products and digital services of our national support industry, which makes a large and indispensable contribution to the added value of airborne platforms.'

MSC displays innovations and joint ventures

At the Military Support Center (MSC) in Hall 3 the German air force and industry are showing how they are working together to ensure that aircraft and equipment are in a constant state of readiness. The displays by systems houses show how, working in close collaboration with the air force,

they are making new technologies in the areas of digitalisation, connectivity and cyber-security available for use by the Bundeswehr. Small and medium-sized companies have a special part to play in ensuring that the armed forces are ready for action and are able to deploy the latest technological developments. As part of a complex supply chain they make a significant contribution to the efficiency of the systems, and their displays at the MSC feature their extensive ranges of products and services.

Forward-looking employers

The Bundeswehr is exhibiting at the ILA to show that it is an attractive and forward-looking employer. It offers some unique careers which are impressive for the outstanding quality of the training offered. Its remit – to protect citizens and our democracy – demands the utmost reliability and responsibility from each individual, along with teamwork and professionalism. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Lieutenant General Ingo Gergartz, is very impressed: 'Come to the ILA. This is where you can experience at close quarters our aircraft and the hi-tech in service with the Bundeswehr. But most importantly of all, you can get

to know the people behind it all, and the services that they provide. All of them, from our A400M pilots to our civilian staff, are part of our strong air force team. Together with the BDLI we can provide a modern air force that is always ready for action. We hope to see you at the ExpoCenter Airport, where we can promise you a varied program including flying displays, in accordance with the slogan: 'Luftwaffe feels good.'

Europe is a powerful partner of the ILA

With the European Commission the ILA 2020 has the support of an important partner. Collaboration between research and industry is closer in the aviation and space sector than it is anywhere else. In the years to come, under its new leadership the European Commission is planning to take the next steps towards a European defense union. This will enable Europe to assume greater responsibility as a global player in the international security architecture. The aim is also to achieve greater European coordination in the procurement of materials in order to create synergies and to retain and expand skill levels in key technologies in Europe. Discussions about these topics will be taking place at the highest international level at the ILA.



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INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP IN AEROSPACE

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