

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Sustainability Meets Future: by People for People**

**The *Green Innovation Park* will be the location for innovation and sustainability in the south-west of Germany**

**Sulz/Vöhringen, Germany, October 21, 2021 – An extraordinary construction project underway to the south of Stuttgart, on the Stuttgart-Zurich innovation axis, has met with great interest from all over Germany. Named *Green Innovation Park*, the new innovation campus will be a center for German and international traditional companies, and startup and scaleup enterprises. With its integrated sustainability strategy, the campus will foster innovation and contribute to a better future. The first details and plans for the construction project were presented by the strategic partners of the family-run enterprise SÜLZLE at a hybrid media conference today.**

### **Joint innovation project of SÜLZLE, a family-run group of companies, with leading partners of the sector**

Green Innovation Park is the name of the innovative center, which is currently being built on the A81 highway on the initiative of the family-run enterprise SÜLZLE following many years of preparations. The construction project is being carried out in close collaboration with strategic partners, such as consulting and planning company Drees & Sommer, which specializes in construction and real estate; architects kadawittfeldarchitektur; energy company E.ON and its subsidiary Bayernwerk Natur; and PHOENIX CONTACT, a provider of system solutions for digital infrastructure. They introduced the Green Innovation Park (GIP) to the media jointly today for the first time. Forward-looking companies from the energy, construction, environmental and digital sectors will find a perfect home in the Green Innovation Park and benefit from an environmentally-friendly, networked and modular environment. The aim is to use the collaborative setting to create solutions for a sustainable future and a resource-conserving way of coexisting. *'The Green Innovation Park is remarkable not only for its aim of integrated sustainability, but also for its focus on co-creation when working on innovations,'* explained Heinrich Sülzle, Managing Partner of SÜLZLE Group at today's hybrid format media conference. Andreas Sülzle, also Managing Partner at SÜLZLE Group added: *'The next phase in the development of our family enterprise will take place here in the Green Innovation Park. We are already planning to locate innovative SÜLZLE group startup companies in this state-of-the-art commercial district.'*

### **A Sustainable Construction Concept from Alpha to Omega**

After the media representatives attending in person and the online participants had been welcomed on behalf of the SÜLZLE Group and the GIP had been introduced briefly, the strategic partners gave more detailed insights into the plans for the construction project. Designed for German and international companies according to green building principles and the Cradle to Cradle concept, the innovation campus is being built on a brownfield site, which was carefully restored for further use in line with environmental standards. *'With this sustainable approach and a modular construction method, the Green Innovation Park is a showcase project for future-oriented construction,'* commented Steffen Szeidl, Executive Board Member of Drees & Sommer SE. *'This approach has long been a recipe for success in the automotive industry, but is catching on rather more slowly in the construction industry. Indeed, modular construction promises not only efficiency and savings, but also simplifies climate change mitigation and building recyclability.'*

*The Green Innovation Park demonstrates how forward-looking collaboration by all the players involved in the construction project should work: project management, design services, modularization of design, and selection of later construction partners are all integrated. The objective is to save time, reduce costs and eliminate unnecessary interaction and involvement. We want the Green Innovation Park to establish a new, sustainable, digital industry standard for the construction sector to simplify planning, design, engineering, manufacturing and assembly of individual buildings.'*

Care has been taken from the start to ensure that the Green Innovation Park has an integrated and sustainable energy supply. Patrick Schneckeburger, Member of the Management at E.ON Energy Solutions, commented: *'The Green Innovation Park has a forward-looking, innovative and integrated energy system. The optimal use of local energy sources combines warmth, cooling and electricity as well as mobility concepts, and makes a carbon-neutral energy supply possible. The consistent focus on sustainability by all the partners involved in this project shows that collaboration and joint investments are worthwhile to achieve climate protection targets.'* Equipped with battery storage capacity along with roof, façade and open-space photovoltaic systems, and combined heat and power plants, the pioneering commercial park will provide regional and, most importantly, sustainable energy for the new companies. Franco Gola, Managing Director at Bayernwerk Natur, also stressed the aim of integrated sustainability for the energy supply of the new innovation campus: *'I am delighted that we have been able to team up with the family-run SÜLZLE Group to shape a really futuristic space. With our expertise and our many years of experience of decentralized and renewable energy generation, we have developed a balanced and, most importantly, sustainable design that is perfectly in tune with the needs of future businesses.'*

An intelligent building automation system links the people in the GIP to each other. Stefan Volgmann, General Manager at PHOENIX CONTACT explained: *'With an integrated smart building design, we are seeing the Green Innovation Park from a 360-degree perspective. Our focus is on working with our project partners to develop the Green Innovation Park into a living environment that adapts to the needs of the individual, and can be both adjusted and extended.'* He believes that *we have to rethink buildings and quarters for our society and our economy.*

The architectural design of the GIP is also integrated and environmentally-friendly. From green construction materials to open spaces that promote interaction, the focus is always on sustainability, innovation and collaboration *'With a modular construction method based on recyclability, and a unifying green façade, the architecture expresses through design the project's aim of sustainability. Healthy, recyclable materials, green roofs, a wide mix of uses, and varied design of open spaces will equip the Green Innovation Park for the future,'* said Gerhard Wittfeld, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of kadawittfeldarchitektur. When considering potential projects to participate in, SÜLZLE also attaches particular importance to its own core values, which serve as a standard for the harmonization of working and living.

### **Investment and Creation of Jobs in the Region**

The new innovation campus on the A81 highway, on the Stuttgart-Zurich innovation axis, will also benefit the region, as up to 600 new jobs are expected to be created in the first construction phase alone, when traditional companies and startup enterprises begin to move in. The family-run SÜLZLE Group has already invested an eight-figure sum. More than EUR 100 million is budgeted for the planning and construction of Campus 1 and Campus 2, the energy center and the data center in the Green Innovation Park. Planning permission will be applied for in the spring of 2022, and construction is expected to begin in the same year.

The first users should be able to move in from 2024. The business park of the future is already open for any further suitable companies that are interested.

The SÜLZLE Group has more than 1,000 employees and operates in the steel, energy and environmental sectors in Germany and France. With the new construction project, the Group is steadily working towards its Vision 2030: *In partnership with extraordinary people, SÜLZLE is creating sustainable solutions for the world of the future.* In this way, the family-run company wants to pass on its values to future generations of entrepreneurs and transform the SÜLZLE Group for a digital, sustainable future.

### **About the Green Innovation Park**

The Green Innovation Park is an innovation campus for German and international traditional companies, as well as startup and scaleup enterprises, with an integrated sustainability strategy in the areas of energy, construction, environment, and digital processes and services. A new collaborative approach to working and living will accelerate innovations and technologies for development and manufacturing that will ensure a sustainable future for us.

A key partner and the initiator and driving force behind the Green Innovation Park, the SÜLZLE Group is an international company run by the fourth generation of the same family. With more than 140 years of experience and tradition, SÜLZLE combines steel, energy and the environment in one group of companies. The corporation's main focus is on the sustainable and integrated development of the site in Sulz/Vöhringen, combined with the transformation of the SÜLZLE Group for the digital future.

For additional information about the Green Innovation Park, please visit: [www.greeninnovationpark.de](http://www.greeninnovationpark.de)

### **Pictures and picture captions**

Picture 1: Green Innovation Park – media picture – media conference



Caption for picture 1 – The initiators of the Green Innovation Park, the family-run company SÜLZLE, and its strategic partners have for the first time given an insight into the flagship project for sustainable and energy self-sufficient construction and networked working in Germany. (from left to right) Heinrich and Andreas Sülzle (SÜLZLE Group), Steffen Szeidl (Drees & Sommer), Patrick Schneckenburger (E.ON Energy Solutions), Franco Gola (Bayernwerk Natur), and Stephan Volgmann (PHOENIX CONTACT).

Picture 2: Green Innovation Park – aerial view



Caption of picture 2: visualization:  
aerial view of the Green Innovation Parks

Picture 3: Green Innovation Park – front view



Caption of picture 3: visualization:  
front view of the Green Innovation Parks

Picture 4: Green Innovation Park – inner court



Caption for picture 4: visualization:  
inner court and green façade of the Green Innovation Park

Picture 5: Green Innovation Park – actual situation



Caption for picture 5: developed land of the Green  
Innovation Park building site in Sulz/Vöhringen.

Picture credit: SÜLZLE

**High resolution pictures for downloading can be found: [here](#).**

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**About the SÜLZLE Group:**

The SÜLZLE Group is an international company run by the fourth generation of the same family and has more than 140 years of experience and tradition. It comprises seven divisions: SOTRALENTZ CONSTRUCTION; SÜLZLE Stahlpartner; SÜLZLE Nutzeisen; SÜLZLE Hagemeyer; SÜLZLE STAHL Ehrenfriedersdorf; SÜLZLE KOPF; and SÜLZLE KLEIN. The strong group of companies is dedicated to the steel, energy and environmental sectors and stands for sustainable entrepreneurship as well as expertise and innovation.

With 18 locations, SÜLZLE Stahlpartner is one of the largest reinforced steel trading and bending companies in Germany, with direct contacts to a large number of international steelworks. The company is not only a provider of customized reinforcing cages, bolted joints and all types of reinforced steel, but also supplies steel profiles, pipes and sheet metal. The company has been carbon-neutral since 2020 and also offers its clients the option of buying carbon-neutral steel.

SÜLZLE Nutzeisen specializes in the sale, rental and repurchase of new and used steel for specialized underground civil engineering and bridge building. The certified steelwork supplies pre-finished steel materials quickly and reliably. With the sustainable business model, steel can be recycled as a resource and reused, thus contributing to the circular economy.

In addition to its wide range of products, the strengths of SÜLZLE Hagemeyer in the German city of Geislingen include its extensive range of processing options and state-of-the-art machinery. The clients of this long-established company include a large number of industrial and craft businesses from the entire region.

SÜLZLE STAHL Ehrenfriedersdorf has been an expert partner for steel trading, steel construction and assembly in the Ore Mountains of south-eastern Germany for around 60 years.

In addition to a large stock, the plant has a fast, reliable and flexible delivery service with its own vehicle fleet, as well as extensive prefabrication capacity. One of the company's specialisms is supplying transmission network operators, by which it contributes to the energy transition.

The activities of SÜLZLE KOPF revolve around environmental and energy technology. Its plant engineering and construction; building services engineering; and syngas divisions work together to develop environmentally friendly yet economically sound concepts. The plant engineering and construction division specializes in the planning and design, manufacture, assembly, and commissioning of equipment for drinking water, industrial water and sewage treatment technology, and for industrial exhaust air and waste gas purification. The company works with its own welding production and in-house tank construction facilities, which also take on contract work. The building services engineering division implements sustainable energy designs for buildings of all types. This includes energy and heat generation and distribution systems, such as combined heat and power plants, cooling and air conditioning systems, ventilation systems, and heating and plumbing systems. SÜLZLE KOPF syngas is the expert in energy recovery from sludge.

SÜLZLE KLEIN specializes in the development and implementation of thickening, dewatering and drying plants for the treatment of sludge and other suspensions.

SOTRALENTZ CONSTRUCTION, based in Drulingen in the Alsace region in north-eastern France, has decades of experience in the manufacture and construction of individual reinforcements for reinforced concrete construction, with particular expertise in reinforced meshes and segmental linings for tunnel construction. Its high-quality products and its flexibility have earned the French company an outstanding reputation in this market. It supplies clients across Europe, especially in Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, and France. The company has been carbon neutral since 2021 and offers its clients the option of buying carbon-neutral steel.

The SÜLZLE Group invests in other emerging markets through its interests in the startups Amodes and ARCUS.

Amodes GmbH with headquarters in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, specializes in the desludging of rivers, lakes and industrial water. With the combined expertise of the SÜLZLE Group and Blasius Schuster KG, it offers its clients mobile, sustainable and technologically innovative solutions for removing sludge from water bodies effectively and in an environmentally-friendly way.

ARCUS Greencycling Technologies GmbH has the potential to revolutionize the raw material recovery markets. Using technology, it is possible to recycle, on an industrial scale and with very little pretreatment, mixed plastic waste and plastics that are currently not recyclable, along with the carbon they contain. The partnership combines many different types of expertise and also benefits from the synergy effects of the SÜLZLE Group. For instance, in the area of plant engineering and construction, SÜLZLE KOPF is responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of ARCUS equipment.

SÜLZLE Group employs around 1000 staff at 25 sites across Germany and France. All operating divisions have been carbon neutral since 2021. For more information please visit: [www.suelzle-gruppe.de](http://www.suelzle-gruppe.de)

### **About Drees & Sommer**

Innovative partner for consulting, planning, construction and operation.

As the leading European Consulting, Planning and Project Management enterprise, Drees & Sommer has worked with private and public clients from construction bodies to investors on all types of real estate and infrastructure projects – both analog and digital – for more than 50 years. With its pioneering and future-shaping consulting, the company offers solutions for successful buildings, high-return portfolios, powerful infrastructure and livable cities. 4,000 employees in interdisciplinary teams based at 46 locations worldwide support clients across a wide spectrum of sectors. All the services provided by the partner-run company take into consideration both economic and ecological concerns. Drees & Sommer calls this holistic approach *the blue way*. For more information please visit: [www.dreso.com](http://www.dreso.com)

### **About kadawittfeldarchitektur**

Founded in 1999 in the German city of Aachen, with its team of more than 160 employees, kadawittfeldarchitektur now stands for far more than just architectural design. Combining architecture and interior architecture with urban planning and urban projects reflects the interdisciplinary approach and the breadth of creative activity.

Every project the architects engage in is based on the conviction that it is not possible to separate a house from its surroundings, and thus every construction project carries social responsibilities. Kadawittfeldarchitektur's attitude to design is guided by the view that architecture has the capacity and the duty to create added value that goes beyond the functional requirements, for the benefit of the users and the public.

kadawittfeldarchitektur has been awarded several prizes and commendations for its work. Its best-known projects include the renovation and refurbishment of Salzburg railroad station in Austria; the *adidas Laces* building in Herzogenaurach, Germany; the brothers Grimm museum *Grimmwelt* in the German city of Kassel; the *RAG Kreislaufhaus* (new building of the RAG Foundation) on the *Zollverein* coal mine World Cultural Heritage site; and the new building of the German Football Association (DFB) and its academy currently being built in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. For more information please visit: [www.kadawittfeldarchitektur.de](http://www.kadawittfeldarchitektur.de)

### **About E.ON**

E.ON is a private international energy company with headquarters in the German city of Essen. The corporation concentrates on the energy networks and client solutions segments. One of the largest energy companies in Europe, E.ON has a leading role in the design of a green, decentralized digital energy world. Around 78,000 employees develop and sell products and solutions for private, commercial and industrial clients. More than 50 million clients purchase electricity, gas, digital products or solutions for electric vehicles, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation from E.ON. For more information please visit: [www.eon.com](http://www.eon.com)

### **About Bayernwerk Natur:**

Bayernwerk Natur GmbH develops decentralized, customized energy solutions and operates more than 200 energy-efficient and renewable power plants such as biomass heating plants, biogas and renewable natural gas-fired power plants, combined heat and power plants, heat pump systems, geothermal systems, wood pellet heating systems, gas and steam turbine cogeneration systems, and wind and small-scale hydropower plants. Bayernwerk Natur also offers customized heat-supply solutions.

Bayernwerk Natur GmbH is based in the Unterschleißheim district of Munich in Germany. The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bayernwerk AG. For more information please visit: [www.bayernwerk-natur.de](http://www.bayernwerk-natur.de)



### **About Phoenix Contact**

Phoenix Contact is a global leader in the market for electronic, electrical and automation components, systems and solutions. The family-run company now employs around 17,100 people globally and generated sales revenues of EUR 2.4 billion in 2020. The head office is in Blomberg in the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia. There are 15 German and four international companies in the Phoenix Contact Group, in addition to 55 distribution companies all over the world. Internationally, Phoenix Contact has a presence in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit: [www.phoenixcontact.com](http://www.phoenixcontact.com)