Drees & Sommer and Prof. Dr. Michael Braungart Advancing Application of Cradle to Cradle®

Drees & Sommer and the former EPEA Internationale Umweltforschung GmbH joined forces on January 1, 2019. After five years of close partnership advising clients and investors, Drees & Sommer and Professor Dr. Michael Braungart have formally teamed up to create a new company under the name of EPEA GmbH – Part of Drees & Sommer. The objective of the combination is to establish Cradle to Cradle® design principles for the circular economy in all sectors of industry.

Since its foundation in 1987 by Professor Dr. Michael Braungart, the environmental protection encouragement agency EPEA Internationale Umweltforschung GmbH has developed into a global research and consultancy institution promoting environmentally-friendly products, processes and buildings. The activities are focused on the Cradle to Cradle® principle. Applied to the construction industry, this means designing all structures, plant and equipment, and construction products in such a way that the quality of their components is retained. Buildings therefore become repositories of raw materials, which they release at the end of their useful life for continued use. Cradle to Cradle® projects running in other sectors, such as textile, packaging, paper and printing, and cosmetics and cleaning products industries, will be continued as scheduled by EPEA GmbH – Part of Drees & Sommer.

Peter Mösle, Partner at Drees & Sommer SE and newly appointed EPEA Managing Director, explained: 'The business combination is the logical culmination of our work together up to now and underlines our holistic approach, which we call *the blue way*: always combining economic and environmental objectives. Thanks to the support and the extensive materials knowledge of our EPEA colleagues, we can give our clients, especially in Europe, comprehensive advice – not only on real estate projects but also on recyclable products. We are thus underpinning our role as pioneers for sustainability issues, reinforcing the Cradle to Cradle® concept and creating the basis for new business models in the circular economy segment.'

EPEA Nederland B.V. will in future also be responsible for Belgium and Luxembourg. The successful cooperation with the licensee EPEA Switzerland GmbH will be continued with the newly founded EPEA GmbH – Part of Drees & Sommer.

EPEA: Cradle to Cradle, the Engine of the Circular Economy

EPEA GmbH – Part of Drees & Sommer is an international research and consultancy institute for environmentally-friendly products, processes and buildings. Its 35 employees work with experts and legal

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entities in industry, science and the public sector to advise on solutions for the circular economy. They apply knowledge from the fields of chemistry, biology and environmental science to develop or optimize products of all kinds with a view to materials healthiness and recyclability. They also develop concepts as to how material cycles in production processes, buildings or cities can be closed.

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Drees & Sommer: Your Innovative Partner for Consulting, Planning, Construction and Operation

Drees & Sommer is your innovative partner for consulting, planning, construction and operation. The leading European consulting, planning and project management enterprise, Drees & Sommer has supported private and public clients and investors for almost 50 years in all aspects of real estate and infrastructure – both analog and digital. The result is cost-effective and sustainable buildings, profitable real estate portfolios, people-oriented working environments, and visionary mobility concepts. The company's 3,200 employees in 40 locations around the world work in interdisciplinary teams to provide support for clients from a wide variety of sectors. All the services provided by the partner-run company take into consideration both economic and ecological concerns. Drees & Sommer calls this holistic and sustainable approach 'the blue way'.

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