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Press

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Flender in dialogue with NRW State Secretary Paul Höller: Prospects for mechanical and plant engineering in the defence industry

- **Exchange on growth opportunities for mechanical engineering in North Rhine-Westphalia due to rising defence spendings**
- **Flender CEO Andreas Evertz, newly elected chairman, presents the VDMA Forum Security & Defence Industry**
- **Factory tour of parts production and hardening shop in Bocholt**

Today, Flender welcomed Paul Höller, State Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, to its headquarters in Bocholt. The discussion with Flender CEO Andreas Evertz focused on how mechanical and plant engineering companies in North Rhine-Westphalia can benefit from the growing defence sector and what support the state government is providing in this regard. The exchange underscores the strategic importance of cooperation between business and politics in strengthening the regional security industry.

Building a stronger security and defence architecture

The security situation in Europe requires a significant ramp-up of defence and security capabilities. According to the European Defence Agency, EU defence spending grew from €251 billion (2021) to an estimated €381 billion (2025). For Germany, the budget for the Bundeswehr (including special funds) for 2025 provides for total expenditure of around €86.4 billion. And the trend is rising. As an indispensable supplier, the mechanical and plant engineering industry bears an important responsibility in building up the production capacities necessary for the security and defence industry. This challenge must be tackled together.

Andreas Evertz, CEO of the Flender Group, was recently elected chairman of the newly founded VDMA Forum Security & Defence Industry (SDI). In this role, he presented State Secretary Höller with the initiative, which aims to represent the interests of mechanical and plant engineering companies and contribute to the development of a stronger security and defence architecture. "The VDMA supports its member companies with its network and cross-sector production knowledge in maximizing these opportunities – combined with the responsibility to contribute to the development of a stronger security and defence architecture," emphasized Evertz after the election.

Flender strengthens its focus on the security industry

Flender itself has been increasingly focusing on solutions for the security industry for some time now. The company, which has been recognized for decades for its gear and coupling technology and complete drive systems, is specifically expanding its expertise for the security industry. The focus is on four areas: marine propulsion systems for the navy, gearboxes for military land vehicles, couplings for safety-related applications, and component manufacturing as an additional capacity for certified manufacturers.

"We see considerable growth potential in the defence sector and want to become more visible in this sector," explained Andreas Evertz. "Our many years of experience in the manufacture of high-precision mechanical components and our manufacturing expertise are exactly what the security industry needs. We aim to significantly expand our activities in this area."

State Secretary for Economic Affairs Paul Höller emphasized the importance of cooperation between the state government and industry: "North Rhine-Westphalia is an important industrial location and has a broad base of innovative companies in mechanical and plant engineering. The state government supports the expansion of the security and defense industry in North Rhine-Westphalia in this strategically important field of the future. With the defence.nrw platform, flanked by the Defence Round Table, we are bundling our activities and networking companies, science, and politics."

State-of-the-art production facilities for defence applications

Following the meeting, State Secretary Höller visited Flender's parts production facility in Bocholt, including the hardening shop. This gave him an impression of the

state-of-the-art production facilities and the quality standards that Flender meets for security-related applications.

The aim of the meeting was to strengthen networking and cooperation between VDMA companies such as Flender and the state government, thereby promoting regional growth in the defence sector. The state of North Rhine-Westphalia is pooling its activities in and for the security and defence industry on the platform https://defence.nrw/.

Flender CEO Andreas Evertz (left) and Flender Executive Vice President Parts Production Christian Weck (right) showed NRW State Secretary Paul Höller the parts production facility in Bocholt.

Guests from the North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Economic Affairs: in addition to State Secretary Höller (center), Danny Radosavljevic (left) and Petra Trosien (second from right) visited Flender. They were welcomed by Doris Bush (second from left), Andreas Evertz (third from left), Christian Weck (third from right), and Dieter Janecek (right).

This press release and press pictures are available at
www.flender.com/company/press.

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Flender is a leading, tech-enabled provider for mechanical and electrical drive solutions, supplying highest quality, performance, and innovation for 125 years. The two product brands "Flender" and "Winergy" offer a wide range of gear units, couplings, generators, and associated services, focusing on key industries such as wind energy, cement, raw material processing, gas, power generation, water and wastewater, marine, cranes, and conveyor technology. With efficient drive solutions and a strong CSR focus, Flender is the partner of choice for a sustainable future. The renowned sustainability rating by EcoVadis ranks Flender among the top 1 percent of the most sustainable companies worldwide. Flender employs approximately 8,500 people globally. The company is headquartered in Bocholt, Germany. For more information, visit www.flender.com.