Klasmann-Deilmann: a change at the helm

Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH has a new managing director. Moritz Böcking is taking over the responsibilities of Dr Hans-Georg Belka, who is retiring at the end of 2011. Mr. Böcking will act as joint managing director of the company together with Dr. Norbert Siebels, who has been managing director of Klasmann-Deilmann since 1990.

Mr Moritz Böcking joined Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH’s directorial team with effect from 1 October 2011. He is taking on the remit for which Dr Belka was previously responsible, which includes business administration, raw-materials production and human resources. Mr Böcking will also be in charge of the Renewable Energies and Resources business unit. The 41-year-old has wide-ranging experience in the field of alternative energy and of a family-owned, internationally minded enterprise.

Mr Böcking, who is from Hamburg, graduated in business administration from the University of Bamberg and then worked for a total of eleven years in an international petroleum company. After lengthy spells abroad in South America and in the USA, he gained experience in corporate financial control before being appointed commercial manager of a Europe-wide filling-station network. Here, among other achievements, he expedited the introduction of bioethanol at German petrol stations. In 2006, Moritz Böcking moved to a listed company in the renewable-energy sector, heading up the development of the ‘Bioenergy’ project with international teams in South America, Asia and Europe. In collaboration with partners from the fields of agriculture, energy and finance, he was in charge of various projects involving biomass-fueled power plants in Thailand, Brazil and Germany and acquired experience of wind and hydroelectric projects in India.

Carl-Gerrit Deilmann, chair of the company’s administrative board, commented: “In obtaining Mr Böcking’s services, we have gained an individual who fits right in at Klasmann-Deilmann. He is well acquainted with the particular structures that shape family-owned companies, he is familiar with the challenges faced by medium-sized enterprises on the international stage, and he is an astute businessman who is very much at home in the area of renewable energy. Klasmann-Deilmann is very much looking forward to working with him.”

“I see this as a challenge in the best possible sense of the word,” said Moritz Böcking. “As the managing directors of Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH, Dr Norbert Siebels and I are working to ensure the continuity of a globally leading brand. At the same time, we will be actively committed to new ideas and areas of business that will move the company forward as we look to the future.”

Dr Hans-Georg Belka will be leaving the company to take up retirement at the end of the year. Since the merger that created Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH in 1990, he has held the post as one of the Group’s managing directors and been instrumental in its success. The key achievements of his tenure were the integration of the activities of Klasmann Werke and C. Deilmann AG in the area of peat production and usage, the further
internationalisation of its operations including the broadening of its foreign supply base for raw materials, and the maintenance of an ecologically and economically sound balance between raw-materials extraction and nature conservation. Managing director Dr Norbert Siebels expressed his appreciation on behalf of the company and its shareholders: “We are very grateful to Dr Belka for his valuable contribution and for his far-sighted commitment which has earned him a very high standing both among our employees and among our business partners at home and abroad. We wish him all the very best for his future and hope that he remains associated with Klasmann-Deilmann.”

Klasmann-Deilmann is the most successful corporate group in the international substrate industry. With production and sales companies at home and abroad, and commercial partners in more than 70 countries, we are the global market leaders in the field. For professional horticulturalists all over the world, our substrates form the basis for growing success. In the 2011 financial year we will generate a turnover of 150 million euros. Our European sites produced 3.3 million m³ of growing media, potting soils and quality composts from green waste. The Klasmann-Deilmann Group employs almost 900 staff worldwide.

Since 2009, we have also been active in the field of renewable energy and resources. We bring to bear almost 100 years of experience with natural resources and biomass in cultivating fast-growing, short-rotation tree species, which we use to make woodchips for our own wood fibre facility and to produce and sell renewable fuels. We are also pursuing further projects within the broad spectrum of biomass and wind power technologies.

Our corporate guidelines on the basis of ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certification challenge us, on a daily basis, to take responsibility for people, the environment and subsequent generations. That’s why Klasmann-Deilmann has been facing up to the demands of environmental protection from an early stage. For example, we have extensive know-how in the re-waterlogging of former peat extraction sites. In the longer term, this will transform around 4,000 ha of used peat fields into a typical bog landscape. The company makes a further important contribution to environmental protection in that it produces high-quality green-waste composts and increasingly uses these in organic substrates for commercial horticultural applications.