Press Release

MEYLE

Better parts and solutions for the independent aftermarket – reliable as a friend

- **MEYLE AG manufactures top-grade automotive spare parts**
- **The family-owned company is a leading spare-parts manufacturer on the independent aftermarket**
- **Its in-house engineers have made quality their hallmark**

Hamburg, December 2017. MEYLE AG engineers, manufactures and markets premium-quality replacement parts for the independent aftermarket. The MEYLE brand's product lines are MEYLE-ORIGINAL, MEYLE-PD and MEYLE-HD. The product range, featuring some 24,000 items, is available to customers in 120 markets the world over. The company and its network of associated companies employ approx. 1,000 people at locations around the globe, 450 of which at the company's logistics centre and headquarters in Hamburg, Germany. The company's sustained success builds on its lasting commitment to excellence. Since the launch of the MEYLE-HD product line, the company's engineers have developed more than 1,000 parts technically superior to their OE equivalents and catering for thousands of different vehicle models. Designed to provide exceptional strength and durability, MEYLE-HD parts even outlive OE designs. Unrivalled in quality and durability, technically-refined MEYLE-HD parts come with a four-year guarantee.

Established in 2016, MEYLE AG took over operations from Wulf Gaertner Autoparts AG on 01 January 2017. The company history dates back to 11 July 1958, when Wulf Gaertner established his initial business Wulf Gaertner Autoparts GmbH, which in 1999 was transformed to Wulf Gaertner Autoparts AG. MEYLE AG and the Wulf Gaertner Autoparts AG holding company including all subsidiaries are fully family-owned businesses. A trained export merchant, company founder Wulf Gaertner spent several years living and working in South America in the early 1950s, where as

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an enthusiastic amateur racer, he experienced first-hand how difficult it can be to find top-grade automotive spare parts. Ultimately, this was what inspired him to found the export business which to the present day carries his name and meets the growing demand for premium-quality automotive spare parts made in Germany.

A company is founded out of passion

In its early years, the company constantly extended its distribution channels and in 1995 took over the spare-parts specialist MEYLE, beginning to develop and manufacture its own-brand products. That same year, Dr Karl J. Gaertner, nephew of the company's founder, was appointed managing director. Since then, the company has gone from strength to strength both in Hamburg and across the world, and now has local subsidiaries and international offices around the globe. Thus, the small exporting business has evolved into a globally renowned manufacturing company successfully marketing its own brand. The foundation of MEYLE AG in 2016 was nothing but the next logical step on the path towards strengthening the MEYLE brand.

The group of companies also includes several production sites, all of which are certified to DIN ISO 9001 standards and several also to DIN ISO/TS 16949 standards. Certification of the manufacturing processes to ISO/TS 16949 standards allows the company to provide original-equipment suppliers and/or vehicle manufacturers (OEM) with serial-production parts.

The key to this success has been their unerring commitment to quality. Their own team of engineers draw on extensive expert knowledge from both the independent aftermarket and original manufacturers.

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“Engineered and quality approved in Germany”

Today, MEYLE AG supplies over 24,000 automotive spare parts ranging from chassis and steering parts, drive components, brakes, suspension and damping parts, to filters, cooling components, rubber-to-metal parts, fluids, electronics and sensors and engine and transmission parts for passenger cars, vans and lorries. Product development is centralised at its Hamburg base. With its in-depth expert knowledge, its own engineers monitor manufacturing processes to comply with its specifications both at company-run production sites and trusted manufacturing partners. They ensure that the same stringent quality standards are met throughout the global network of production facilities by means of complex multistage testing procedures which are applied throughout the MEYLE parts production processes. These include analyses of materials, processing and correct product fit. Rigorous initial sample testing is followed by more analysis procedures both in production and in the Hamburg quality lab.

The company first introduced technically enhanced automotive parts in 2002 under the MEYLE-HD product line. MEYLE-HD parts are re-engineered to provide greater stability and durability than the parts developed by OEMs and vehicle manufacturers. There are now over 1,000 re-engineered and technically enhanced parts. MEYLE AG is the only independent aftermarket supplier to demonstrate its unyielding commitment to quality by giving a four-year guarantee on these products.

Motivation and growth inspired by the employees

Our founder Wulf Gaertner's credo "The friendship of those we serve is the foundation of our success" still describes how we work within MEYLE and with partners to support drivers around the world.

As a family enterprise, MEYLE AG takes pride in a corporate culture based on good internal communication. Flat hierarchies, systematic incentives to encourage initiative

and an entrepreneurial spirit are all part of its corporate strategy. The company gives its staff the space and independence to work on creative solutions and constantly refine its products. By enabling its staff to share in the company's success, they are rewarded by high levels of motivation and commitment. Employees are granted a share in the profit in the form of an annual bonus which is invested and paid out after ten years. Five times it were voted one of the best 100 SME employers in the Top Job company rating, most recently in 2016. In 2016, the company was also awarded a three-star ranking in the Hamburg's Top Employers list.

The way for further growth and expansion is prepared. To ensure continuous product-range development and to meet the requirements of new international markets, the company invested a total of 40 million euro between 2012 and 2017 to expand its headquarters in Hamburg-Rahlstedt: storage capacity was increased to a total of 29,000 square metres to accommodate 56,000 pallet slots. A new training workshop with an car lift and wheel-alignment equipment, a staff restaurant and new offices has been built. The company and its network of associated companies employ approx. 1,000 people at locations around the globe, 450 of which at the company's logistics centre and headquarters in Hamburg, Germany.

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