

**On top of his responsibility as head of Metabo: Horst W. Garbrecht becomes responsible for KOKI Holdings in Europe**

Horst W. Garbrecht made  
COOE of KOKI Holdings

**KOKI Holding's new European headquarters will be established in Nürtingen, Baden-Württemberg, making the city the European home to KOKI's two core brands HiKOKI and Metabo.**

**Tokyo and Nürtingen, September 2019:** Horst Garbrecht will become chief operating officer Europe (COOE) at KOKI Holdings, the Japanese parent of Metabo, on October 1<sup>st</sup>. He has taken on this role in parallel with his function as chief executive officer of the Nürtingen-based Metabo GmbH. HiKOKI power tools were known by the Hitachi brand name until October 2018. This change of name was a result of KOKI Holdings splitting off from the Japanese Hitachi Group. The European headquarters of KOKI Holdings will be established in Nürtingen making it a home in Europe to its two core brands: HiKOKI and Metabo. Key functions of HiKOKI Europe will be built up in Nürtingen. Synergy effects with Metabo's existing structure will also be exploited. All of the HiKOKI subsidiaries based in Europe will retain their independence.

**Young brand with a big history**

'HiKOKI may be a relatively young brand name, but behind it are the 70 years of experience of Hitachi Power Tools,' says Garbrecht. 'The Japanese, like us Germans, have for decades had an outstanding reputation when it comes to the technology of power tools. HiKOKI, while it was still called Hitachi, made a big name for itself in power tools for the construction industry. Tools like HiKOKI's heavy rotary hammers and nailers have since been considered the best the market has to offer in the field. That's why I'm looking forward not only to further advancing the Metabo brand, but also to do my best in harnessing the impressive history of Hitachi Power Tools to build a successful future for HiKOKI in Europe,' says the new COOE.

**Construction industry focus of HiKOKI**

'At Metabo, we focus on metalworking and the metal industry – as well as the building trade and renovation. For these core target groups, we offer, alongside our wide range of common power tools, specialised tools and solutions that are tailor made to the needs of these end-user groups. The same applies to HiKOKI, but its focus is more on the construction industry. In this respect, Metabo and

HiKOKI complement each other perfectly, despite having some overlaps in the field of common power tools,' says Garbrecht, who also envisages both brands working more closely together in Europe to strengthen the position of the Group as a whole. 'We are to a certain extent moving closer together geographically and organisationally,' explains Garbrecht. 'But it remains the case that both brands are acting independent on the market and they will continue to develop their own DNA. We believe that this will lead to greater benefits to our customers by offering two distinctive and strong brands delivering differentiated power tool solutions. We are very much looking forward to developing Nürtingen as a home for two brands in Europe being the European headquarters of the KOKI Holdings. It will also mean some upgrading of the Metabo head office, which will bring many opportunities to Nürtingen, including a series of new jobs and additional career possibilities for our common workforce.'

#### **Engineer and manager**

Garbrecht started his professional life at Mercedes and studied mechanical and energy engineering at Esslingen University, then began his career in the power-tool industry with manufacturer Festool in 1992. He later moved to the Swedish machine builder Atlas Copco and was Managing Director of AEG Milwaukee, a member of the TTI Group. He has been CEO of Metabo since 2009, where he initiated a change of strategy based on focusing on professional users in trade and industry in the development, production and distribution of Metabo's product and solution offers. Metabo has steadily developed under his direction and has moved to the technological forefront in the important growth field of battery-driven power tools. Garbrecht is also on the executive board of KOKI Holdings, from October onwards as COOE/Senior Vice President.

'We were looking for the best candidate for the role of COOE. Fortunately, we didn't have to go very far because we already had him at KOKI Holdings,' explains Atsushi Morisawa, CEO of KOKI Holdings. 'With his technical background as an engineer, his decades of experience inside and outside the industry and his exceptional management skills, Horst Garbrecht is a major player in the market. All of that makes him the perfect COOE for KOKI Holdings.'

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This press release, including its pictures, is available on the Internet at  
[www.metabo.com/de/de/info/aktuell/presse](http://www.metabo.com/de/de/info/aktuell/presse) and  
[www.cc-stuttgart.de/presseportal](http://www.cc-stuttgart.de/presseportal).



Horst W. Garbrecht will become chief operating officer Europe (COOE) of KOKI Holdings on October 1<sup>st</sup>. in addition to his role as CEO of Metabo GmbH. In this position, he will be responsible for continuing to grow the HiKOKI brand in Europe.

**Photo: Metabo**

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#### **About Metabo**

Metabowerke GmbH in Nürtingen is a traditional manufacturer of power tools for professional users from the core target groups of metal trade and industry as well as building trade and renovation. Metabo stands for very powerful cordless tools and is the leading supplier in the battery pack sector with its LiHD technology. In this way, Metabo has turned its vision of the cordless construction site into reality. The LiHD technology is also the base of CAS (Cordless Alliance System), a battery pack system that includes the machines and tools of different sectoral manufacturers. Metabo has realized the cordless construction site for all applications of their customers. Under the brand name Metabo, the full-range supplier provides machines and accessories for all standard applications, but also competence products and system solutions for special requirements. Founded in

1924 in the Swabian town of Nürtingen, Metabo today is a medium-sized company which also produces also in Shanghai, China, in addition to its headquarters in Nürtingen. 25 subsidiary sales companies and more than 100 importers ensure international presence. More than 2,000 people work for Metabo worldwide, and in 2018 (april 2018 to March 2019) they have generated a turnover of 493 million euros. More about the company Metabo and its products can be found at [www.metabo.com](http://www.metabo.com).

**About Koki Holdings Co., Ltd.**

Koki Holdings Co., Ltd. is one of world's leading manufacturers of power tools, pneumatic tools, household power tools and life sciences equipment. HiKOKI makes and sells a lineup of approximately 1,300 power tools, including drivers, drills, etc. pneumatic tools such as nailers gardening tools such as grass trimmers and hedge trimmers, household cleaners and high pressure washers and ultracentrifuges and other scientific equipment. Koki Holdings boasts the world's highest technological capabilities and a high level of customer trust backed by a history of 70 years. The company has sales bases in 95 countries worldwide, including not only Japan but also Europe, the Americas, Asia, Oceania, the Middle and Near East and Africa, and is continuing to expand its global presence.

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