

Press Release

Grand Prix of the Medium-sized Company Segment – the Oscar goes to RUTHMANN

Nationwide, almost 4,800 companies were nominated for the ‘Grand Prix of the Medium-sized Company Segment’. Ultimately RUTHMANN reached the top position on the podium.

On September 12, the well-known working platform and special transporter manufacturer **RUTHMANN** was nominated for the ‘Grand Prix of the Medium-sized Company Segment 2016’ in the Maritim Hotel in Düsseldorf as part of a ceremonial gala evening.

Thus, **RUTHMANN** is one of four winners of the competition region North Rhine-Westphalia.



**Großer Preis des
MITTELSTANDES**

Oskar-Patzelt-Stiftung

For the judges of the Oskar-Patzelt-foundation the excellent overall development of the company in Gescher, creating and securing jobs and training opportunities as well as the exemplary performance in the areas of ‘innovation/ modernization’, ‘commitment to the region’ and ‘service / customer/ marketing’ were decisive.

RUTHMANN's Managing Director Rolf Kulawik is very proud and happy and comments on the very significant award as follows:

“It was a very moving moment when **RUTHMANN** was called the winner. I can only describe this feeling with pride and gratitude.

I am proud and thankful to each single team player of our **RUTHMANN** family-owned company. Here I include as well - in addition to all employees in Gescher and the local service stations in Germany - of course, the team of our sister company **RUTHMANN FINANCE** and the team of our **RUTHMANN** subsidiary in Austria and the new team of **RUTHMANN** Italia. We have achieved this all together. A special thank-you goes to our shareholders Heinrich Winkelmann and Heinz Jürgen Buss. Without their 100 % support this great success would not have been possible.

Winning this award shows us that we are still on the right track and this has rewarded our dedication of the past years. Commitment in all possible business fields, externally and internally! Commitment which is shown, for

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example, also in the context of the path which we started with the team of the latest member of the **RUTHMANN** family, **RUTHMANN** Italia.

We – the **RUTHMANN** team – are highly motivated and the prize is our incentive to continue to work in the future with full speed on the optimization of our customer service, our products and our social commitment."



***RUTHMANN's** Managing Director Rolf Kulawik proudly shows the trophy of the 'Grand Prix of the Medium-sized Company Segment 2016'.*

RUTHMANN has been nominated for the 3rd time in a row for this coveted industry trophy. During 2014 **RUTHMANN** was already honored as a finalist and this year indeed as contest winner, in other words as the winner of the entire contest.

The Grand Prix of the Medium-sized Company Segment'

No other industry competition in Germany reaches such a striking and long-lasting resonance as the annual competition for the 'Grand Prix of the Medium-sized Company Segment' which is organized by the Oskar-Patzelt foundation in Leipzig since 1994.

For this award, no company can promote itself, it must be proposed by others. Just about every thousandth company in Germany is nominated then. Already

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with the nomination a company belongs to the entrepreneurial elite in Germany.

RUTHMANN was proposed by the Wirtschaftsförderungsgesellschaft für den Kreis Borken mbH (Economic Development Agency for the district of Borken), Mr. Dr. Kleinschneider, the former Mayor of the city of Gescher, Hubert Effkemann of the Münster District Administration and the delegate of the Bundestag (Lower House of German Parliament) Ingrid Arndt-Brauer for this 'Industry Oscar'. The evaluation of the proposed companies is done not only according to economic criteria, but due to its entirety and role in society. The aim of the Oskar-Patzelt foundation is to support and promote a medium-size business culture as the mainstay of the overall economic success of Germany.

Currently **RUTHMANN** looks excitedly forward to October 22nd, 2016 when in Berlin the three nationwide 'Premier' companies will be awarded with a badge of honor. Then companies will be recognized that have demonstrated the most impressive development under the best winners of previous years.

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