

PRESS RELEASE

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Change at the top of ift Rosenheim

Prof. Ulrich Sieberath hands over management to Prof. Jörn P. Lass

Prof. Ulrich Sieberath will retire at the end of the year. Prof. Jörn P. Lass from TH Rosenheim will be the new Director of Institute. Professor Sieberath has achieved enormous things in 37 years at ift Rosenheim, especially in the last 16 years as Director of Institute. Through his great expertise, his enthusiasm for technology and research and his inventiveness, but also through his commitment to standardization and other committees, he has had a lasting influence on the Institute as well as on the entire window and façade industry - in Germany, Europe and worldwide. After a creative break, he will continue to be available to ift Rosenheim and the industry as an author and speaker. From January 2020, his successor will be Prof. Jörn P. Lass, who has been active in the window and façade industry for 36 years - 14 of these years in various management positions at ift Rosenheim and most recently 6 years at the Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences as head of the course of study "Building envelope".

Already at the Rosenheim Window and Façade Conference 2019, Prof. Ulrich Sieberath was honored by the participants with long applause for 37 successful years in the service of the industry. Astrid Wirges (CEO DIN) honored him with the DIN badge of honor as the "father" of the product standard for windows and doors as well as for his great services in standardization work. He received the Medal of Merit of the city of Rosenheim from the mayor of Rosenheim, Gabriele Bauer.



Fig. 1

The enthusiasm for research, testing and technology has accompanied Prof. Ulrich Sieberath for 37 years.

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Asked about the reasons for this remarkable career, Prof. Ulrich Sieberath says: "My career path began early, because I had already visited my father's window workshop as a child. I was enthusiastic about the technical equipment and how a window can be made from pieces of wood in a wonderful way. After the carpentry apprenticeship, my father advised me to study window construction with Professor Seifert in Rosenheim."

After an internship at the Institute for Window Technology, it was clear that he wanted to further develop window technology as an engineer. This motif then inspired him for the next 37 years. This was certainly also due to the fact that his role models Prof. Seifert and Prof. Schmid always knew exactly when to give "the Sieberath" new tasks. Right from the start, research projects such as "apartment entrance doors", "burglar-resistant doors or windows" or "ventilation in residential construction" were carried out.

Immediately after joining ift Rosenheim, he had to work on the standards for burglar resistance. The special feature was that a static mechanical test could not cover the inventiveness of the burglars. For this reason, the behaviour of the offender was analysed together with the Criminal Investigation Department. Based on this, the idea of the "standard burglar" and manual testing with the attack time as evaluation criterion was developed. The implementation of this unconventional concept was not easy, but it finally established itself and is still valid today. The experience gained during this time has shaped his entire work at ift Rosenheim, which is characterised by an optimal combination of pragmatism, creativity and sound engineering knowledge.

With this "experience", the great task of European standardization work began in 1989, with the development of harmonized product standards valid throughout the EU. The focus was on the work of DIN EN 14351-1 as the European product standard for windows and external pedestrian doorsets. This took more than 20 years, but set standards for the objective determination of product characteristics. As an engineer with practical background, he developed standards that are factually meaningful and easy to apply in practice.

Prof. Sieberath always had a lot of understanding when companies and craftsmen moan about too many rules in technology as well as the labour and tax law. But he always made it clear that standardization is the language of technology and that it greatly simplifies design, tendering and execution. Regulations have always led to new technologies that have given German companies a technical edge. An important example is energy-efficient construction, which was essentially pushed forward by the Thermal Insulation Ordinance. Prof. Sieberath has always invested a lot of time in ift services to simplify the handling of standards for practitioners, for example the ift-Normenportal (standards portal), the ift-Montageplaner (ift-installation tool) or the CE generator.

Almost incidentally, he learned "standardization diplomacy" from experienced colleagues, which also helped him very well in his later work as Director of Institute, where he often had

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to mediate between the interests of window manufacturers, accessory suppliers, licensors, associations and authorities.

In addition to standardisation work and as head of the door department, he was given new tasks, such as setting up the ift Certification body in 1994. Many years of experience in all areas of ift Rosenheim led to the appointment as Deputy Director of Institute in 2002. In 2001, the facade testing department in Deggendorf and the fire testing facilities in Nuremberg were set up and in 2003 the acoustic testing facilities of Prof. Fritz Holtz in Kragling were taken over.

As a logical step, the Institute's management and executive board began in 2004 together with Dr. Jochen Peichl. This "dual leadership" with the division of tasks between technology and finance has proven to be the optimal solution. Together, the two of them were able to develop the institute from a turnover of approx. 7 million Euro at that time to just under 23 million Euro today with 230 employees. The 2012 professorship was an award for his many years of teaching activities since 1984 and the innovative ED PRO further education program that he developed together with Prof. Heinrich Köster (President of Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences). Theory and practice were combined in an ideal way in the master course "Windows and Facade".

The obligatory question about his plans for active retirement is answered by Prof. Sieberath in his humorous way: "I'll be off, but not on the Way of St. James, but active. After 37 wonderful and fulfilling years at ift Rosenheim, I want to take advantage of this new freedom to spend time with my family and to travel to countries that I could previously only visit on business trips. After a creative break, I will be happy to pass on my experience and knowledge to the next generation of engineers, technicians and master craftsmen. This way I will still be able to stay in touch with ift Rosenheim and the industry."

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Prof. Jörn P. Lass

Prof. Jörn P. Lass has been working in the window and facade industry for over 36 years. It all started with an apprenticeship as a glazier and window manufacturer. After studying wood technology, he worked for a licenser in the international project business and as a project manager in window and facade construction. He then moved on to the technical management of a medium-sized window and facade manufacturer. This was followed by 14 years of management responsibilities at ift Rosenheim in the areas of research, testing, quality control, standardisation and certification. For the last six years, he was professor at Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences, where he gave the course "Building Envelope". In addition to the expansion of specialist knowledge through research and dissertations, important networks were maintained and expanded here.

Prof. Lass brings this extensive experience to the management of ift Rosenheim in order to continue the success story of ift Rosenheim together with Dr. Jochen Peichl. Prof. Lass sees a major focus on promoting the necessary change to climate-neutral and sustainable buildings with innovative and usable building elements and facades. To this end, contacts in the academic world will be used to create added value for the industry through joint research and development.




The aim is to further expand the institute as a leading national and international provider for the development, testing and certification of products for the entire building envelope. "As technologies and distribution channels continue to evolve, we must always be one step ahead of the market and our competitors and support our clients with appropriate services to ensure success. Therefore, I will also be involved in new designs and client projects. We will continue to support the industry with innovative and practical concepts and regulations in terms of quality, usability and fair competition. The first concrete step is the new building of an innovative laboratory for building acoustics and facades", says Prof. Jörn P. Lass.

(A detailed interview with Prof. Lass can be requested from the PR office of ift Rosenheim)

(Lead 1,015 characters, 7,756 total characters,
Press release total 8,704 characters (including spaces))

Keywords: Prof. Ulrich Sieberath, Prof. Jörn Lass, Dr. Jochen Peichl, ift Rosenheim

Pictures (available to download from the picture library at www.ift-rosenheim.de/bildarchiv)

N°	Image title and file name	Photo
1	<p>The enthusiasm for research, testing and technology has accompanied Prof. Ulrich Sieberath for 37 years.</p> <p>(Source: ift Rosenheim)</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI191272_Bild_01_Labor_2017.jpg</p>	
2	<p>Ulrich Sieberath as a young engineer during a demonstration of a burglary test (1984)</p> <p>(Source: ift Rosenheim)</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI191272_Bild_02_Einbruch_1985.jpg</p>	
3	<p>Ulrich Sieberath during his first lecture at the Rosenheim Window and Façade Conference 1984 on the subject of "Burglar resistance of windows and doors"</p> <p>(Source: ift Rosenheim)</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI191272_Bild_03.jpg</p>	

N°	Image title and file name	Photo
4	The new dual leadership of ift Rosenheim in its communication to employees (2004) (Source: ift Rosenheim) <i>File name:</i> PI191272_Bild_03_RFT_1984..jpg	
5	The Director of Institute of ift Rosenheim, Prof. Ulrich Sieberath, has travelled to many countries. (2007) (Source: ift Rosenheim) <i>File name:</i> PI191272_Bild_05_Pencere_2007.jpg	
6	Director of Institute Prof. Ulrich Sieberath at the beer tapping on the festive evening of the Rosenheim Window and Façade Conference 2019 (Source: ift Rosenheim) <i>File name:</i> PI191272_Bild_06_Bieranstich_RFT_2019.jpg	

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N°	Image title and file name	Photo
7	<p>Prof. Ulrich Sieberath is delighted with the innovative photovoltaic façade on the new office building of ift Rosenheim. (2013)</p> <p>(Source: ift Rosenheim)</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI191272_Bild_07_Nebau_2013.jpg</p>	
8	<p>Prof. Jörn P. Lass takes over as Director of Institute at ift Rosenheim from 1 January 2020</p> <p>(Source: ift Rosenheim)</p> <p><i>File name:</i> PI191272_Bild_08_Lass.jpg</p>	

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About ift Rosenheim (for trade press)

ift Rosenheim is an European notified research, testing, surveillance and certification body that is internationally accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025. Its focus is on the practice-oriented, holistic and rapid testing and classification of all characteristics of windows, facades, doors, gates, glass and building materials. It aims to bring about sustained improvements in product quality, design and technology, and in standardisation and research. Certification by ift Rosenheim ensures acceptance throughout Europe. ift Rosenheim also sees the dissemination of knowledge as an obligatory part of its work. As an independent institute, ift enjoys a special status among the media, and its publications document the current state of the art. (751 characters including spaces)

About ift Rosenheim (for general press)

Expertise, technique and experience is necessary for good building construction, which particularly applies for windows, facades, doors and gates. Since 1966, ift Rosenheim supports the industry as independent scientific institute with technical services with now 200 employees. This includes tests, research, certification and quality management as well as standardization, training and expert information. ift Rosenheim encourages the development of serviceable, environmentally compatible and economic quality products that make the life more convenient, saver and healthier. (648 characters including spaces)