

Press Release (Zurich, May 19, 2020, 10:00am CEST)

## **New R&D Lead Appointments at Loepfe**

**Loepfe announced today the appointment of Thomas Schlegel and Roger Hilzinger to jointly head the Loepfe R&D team with effect from May 18, 2020.**

To lead the Loepfe R&D team, the company has installed a double-lead consisting of Thomas Schlegel who has strong know-how in hardware, electronics, production quality and project leadership, together with Roger Hilzinger who has been leading the Loepfe software group over the past three years. The two appointments are made to replace Lorenzo Occhi who will leave Loepfe after thirteen years, eight of which were spent as Head of R&D.

Roger has been working for Loepfe for a total of nine years and is well acquainted with the applications for Loepfe products in the textile market. He is an engineer with a Diploma Degree in Information Technology from Zürich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Leading Engineers from Kaleidos University of Applied Sciences Switzerland.

Thomas has a strong track record in project management and development of state-of-the-art hardware and sensor technology, as he has also held deputy head of R&D and quality management roles in the past. He has a Diploma in Electrical Engineering from Hochschule für Technik Rapperswil, a Master of Advanced Studies in Business Engineering Management from Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, and various training certificates including the INSEAD Leadership certificate.

Roger Hilzinger said: *“I’m looking forward to work with Thomas. We get on really well and complement each other perfectly. We are lucky to work in Loepfe’s motivated and experienced R&D team. I am convinced that in future we will make our products even better so that our customers will benefit more, given the context of digitization and industry 4.0.”*

Thomas Schlegel added: *“When I was asked to take over the R&D lead at Loepfe together with Roger I was immediately enthusiastic as the two of us have worked very well together during the development project of the YarnMaster PRISMA clearer that has been launched recently. I look forward to developing even more revolutionary products with the team for our customers’ requirements and for a really bright future for Loepfe.”*

Loepfe CEO Dr. Ralph Mennicke commented: *“On behalf of Loepfe, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lorenzo for his valuable contributions to product development as well as company management. R&D is a key driver of product innovation and disruptive approaches in a product and solution company like Loepfe. It was a natural decision – and a great pleasure – to promote both Thomas and Roger to jointly succeed Lorenzo in heading the Loepfe R&D team. Roger and Thomas complement each other with their strong technical domain knowledge in hardware and software, respectively. Congratulations to both of them!”*

**Photos:**

Roger Hilzinger



Thomas Schlegel

**– ENDS –**

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## About Loepfe

Loepfe Brothers Ltd. has established itself in the field of optical yarn clearers with pioneering achievements. Today Loepfe is recognized worldwide as the specialist for integral quality control systems. Fifty percent of the worldwide yarn production is monitored by Loepfe yarn clearers.

The Loepfe headquarters are in Wetzikon / Switzerland where the company employs close to 150 people. The Swiss production location guarantees stability and reliability. All Loepfe products are developed and manufactured in Switzerland. Loepfe quality is based on the employees' unique know-how and many years of experience. Loepfe invests systematically in research and development of state-of-the-art technology, with its understanding of the complex requirements of the textile industry.

Loepfe lays the foundation for the international success of its textile quality assurance systems with sustainable products and highly personalized customer service. Loepfe is represented in all important textile markets via an international network of 90 agents and service representatives in 70 countries worldwide. Loepfe offers training and further education and ensures efficient local quality management at senior level.

<https://www.loepfe.com/>



## About Savio Group

Savio is the world leader in the yarn finishing sector, operating in the design, manufacturing and distribution of winding machines, quality control devices and electronic boards for the textile industry. It has factories in Italy, China, India, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland. Established over a century ago, Savio has evolved over the years through intense Research & Development, highest manufacturing flexibility and high quality standards. Global dimension, extreme flexibility and productive excellence are Savio's principal strategic assets, while the group continuously reviews, renovates and consolidates its leadership to reflect changing world market needs over time.

<https://www.savio.group/>