

## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

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Awards ceremony photos: KD Busch/compamedia  
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Gala event recognises Germany's most innovative companies: TOP 100 mentor Ranga Yogeshwar awards the TOP 100 Innovator certificate to Gerald Haas, GEZE Managing Director Research & Development

### 8th Top Innovator award

#### **GEZE is one of Germany's most innovative companies TOP 100 Award for exceptional innovation success**

**GEZE was again awarded the prestigious TOP 100 seal of approval, securing its position as one of Germany's most successful SME innovators. Gerald Haas, GEZE Managing Director Research & Development, accepted the award from TOP 100 mentor and science journalist Ranga Yogeshwar at the Gala Evening to celebrate the 5th German Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Summit held at the Forum am Schlosspark in Ludwigsburg. In his welcome address Winfried Kretschmann, Minister President of the state of Baden-Württemberg, underlined the significance of the innovation competition.**

The key competitive factors when comparing the different companies were 'Climate of Innovation', 'Innovative Processes and Organisation', 'Innovation-friendly Senior Management' and 'Innovation Marketing'. GEZE has long been part of the global elite of developers and manufacturers of innovative systems for door, window and safety technology, and this is the eighth time the company has been awarded the TOP 100 seal of approval – five of them in the past ten years alone.

Part of GEZE's mission is the continuous further development of traditional product segments, to expand their benefits, and to explore new avenues for outstanding solutions.

*"The award that we received today is further proof that innovation, both in digitalisation and in the traditional product segment, is both possible and desirable. Massive investment in new development structures, as well as in highly specialised design engineers, have enabled us to create networking solutions for windows and doors that are unique in the global market, and that make buildings smarter, more efficient, safer, and ultimately happier places to be. This opens up*

*unprecedented opportunities for our customers to automate their buildings," says Gerald Haas, Managing Director Research & Development.*

### **GEZE Cockpit: Innovation in building networking**

The newly developed GEZE Cockpit building automation system marks GEZE's successful entry into the 'Building Networking – Smart Buildings' market, one that will shape its future. GEZE Cockpit is the first smart door, window and safety system, and is closing a gap in building automation. It enables automated doors and windows to be integrated in a building for the first time, creating completely new networking possibilities to meet a whole range of requirements in building automation. [www.cockpit.geze.com](http://www.cockpit.geze.com)



### **Strength of innovation: a new development centre**

With digitalisation, GEZE has taken a bold step that extends from product development through to market launch. An important basis was the composition of the digital infrastructure for the development and operation of smart software products. The independent, family-run business has invested 13 million euros in a new, ultra-modern development centre, and has significantly expanded its research and development capacity over the past two years. Product trials and validation were completed using state-of-the-art equipment. The modular test stands are equipped with the latest robotic technology. Premium quality technical concepts and products can now be realised even faster and more efficiently.

### **An agile and interactive approach**

The processes that lead to innovation were the determinants for the architecture and design of the new building. The engineers and test engineers come across optimal working conditions at every stage of development. Flexible working areas and workspace units equipped with sophisticated sound absorption, lighting and air-conditioning concepts encourage exchange between the disciplines, and enable networking among the different fields of expertise as well as an agile way of working in the project areas. An in-house creative area provides space for experimenting with and testing new ideas, and for unconventional approaches to problem-solving.

### **Laboratory for smart opportunities – users share in the development**

The new development building is a smart building in itself. All the product groups are intelligently networked, and it is designed such that new networking solutions can continually be applied and tested. The insights gained are used to further develop the intelligence of all GEZE products and expand and roll out their benefits for users with the aid of the new GEZE Cockpit building automation system. As part of an interactive development approach, pilot customers were also involved in the GEZE Cockpit project. This resulted in the benefits of optimal, user-oriented product features and time-to-market – the period from development to launching the new system on the market was significantly reduced.

### **'Digital First' in communication**

In line with its new digital direction, GEZE also explored new avenues in the commercial launch of GEZE Cockpit. A Digital First campaign, which was recently recognised with the German Brand Award, used the entire bandwidth of digital communication possibilities.

### **'Smart Talent' – global growth in employee numbers**

Of the 300 employees appointed globally as a result of the GEZE Group's organic growth over the past two years, a significant proportion work in the technology and development field. Innovations do not just originate in Germany as the prime development and manufacturing location, but also in the GEZE subsidiaries in China, Spain and Great Britain. The international manufacturing network consistently applies the most stringent and sustainable production standards to deliver 'Made in Germany' quality – all over the world.

### **TOP 100: the competition**

Since 1993, compamedia has been awarding the TOP 100 seal to small and medium-sized enterprises for exceptional innovative strength and above-average innovation success. Prof. Nikolaus Franke was appointed as Scientific Director in 2002. Franke is the founder and chairman of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation of Vienna University of Economics and Business. Mentor to the TOP 100 is the science journalist Ranga Yogeshwar. Project partners include the Fraunhofer Society for the Advancement of Applied Research and the BVMW, the German Association for Small and Medium-sized Businesses. As media partners, manager magazin, impulse and W&V support the comparison of companies. [www.top100.de](http://www.top100.de).

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## About GEZE

The GEZE brand stands for innovation and for top quality products, processes and services. GEZE is one of the leaders in the global market and it is a reliable partner worldwide for door, window and safety technology products and systems. No matter what the requirements of a building are – GEZE implements optimum solutions and combines functionality and security with comfort and design. GEZE door closers open up numerous technical and visual possibilities. Every day, millions of people go through doors equipped with the overhead door closers from the TS 5000 series and enjoy the comfort of automatic door systems, e.g. the Slimdrive range. Barrier free door and window systems provide greater comfort, not only for people with restricted mobility. The glass systems and fitting solutions for the attractively designed sliding systems are the ultimate in design aesthetics. GEZE also offers a wide product range in the field of window and ventilation technology. Complete "intelligent" smoke and heat extraction solutions (RWA) and a comprehensive selection of door systems for RWA air supply solutions are also available for preventive fire protection. GEZE's safety technology includes escape and rescue route solutions, lock technology, and access control systems. The GEZE building management system provides an overview of a building's entire technical facilities. With its systems expertise, GEZE creates coordinated system solutions which combine individual functional and safety requirements in one intelligent system. GEZE product solutions have received numerous awards and can be found in renowned structures all over the world. The company has a global presence with 31 subsidiaries, 27 of which are outside Germany, a flexible and highly efficient sales and service network, and more than 3,000 employees. In the 2016/2017 fiscal year, GEZE achieved a turnover of over 406 million euros. [\*\*www.geze.com\*\*](http://www.geze.com)