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## **Continuity in the Executive Board of Rheinmetall AG: Supervisory Board and Executive Board set course early for succession**

- **At the start of 2013, Klaus Eberhardt hands over chairmanship of the Executive Board to Armin Papperger**
- **Chief Financial Officer Dr. Herbert Müller to be succeeded by Helmut Merch**

In its meeting today, the Supervisory Board of Rheinmetall AG secured continuity in terms of management personnel in the Rheinmetall Group early on and thus laid the foundation for a successful continuation of the strategy of profitable growth at Rheinmetall.

On entering retirement at the beginning of 2013, it is planned that Klaus Eberhardt (64) will relinquish the chair of the Executive Board of Rheinmetall AG to Armin Papperger (49). Armin Papperger has already represented the Defence division there since the beginning of 2012. Also at the start of 2013, Dr. Herbert Müller (59) will resign from the Executive Board of Rheinmetall and hand over his function as CFO of the Group to Helmut P. Merch (56). Helmut P. Merch, who is currently responsible for the Defence division as Chief Financial Officer, is appointed to the Executive Board of Rheinmetall AG with effect from January 1, 2013.

Klaus Eberhardt, who has managed the Rheinmetall Group as CEO for 13 years, and Dr. Herbert Müller, who has been responsible for finance in the Executive Board since the beginning of 2000, will remain connected to the company. Klaus Eberhardt remains Chairman of the Supervisory Board of KSPG AG, the automotive arm of the Rheinmetall Group.

Klaus Greinert, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Rheinmetall AG, said: "We are pleased that from 2013, with Armin Papperger, we will have an internationally experienced businessman at the top level of management at Rheinmetall, who has already contributed decisively to the Group's development. Together with Helmut Merch's many years of experience as CFO at Rheinmetall, the company will continue the path successfully pursued by Klaus Eberhardt and Dr. Herbert Müller with a high level of professionalism and uninterrupted continuity."

Armin Papperger has been part of the Rheinmetall Group since 1990. After various posts in the management of subsidiaries, he was responsible for Vehicle Systems as

well as for the Weapons and Munitions department in the Defence division board since 2010. Since the start of 2012, he has been Chairman of the Defence division board and a member of the Rheinmetall AG Executive Board. In the past few years, Armin Papperger has considerably advanced the internationalization of the Defence business through strategic acquisitions and the integration of foreign subsidiaries.

Helmut P. Merch has worked for the Rheinmetall Group since 1982. From the start, he took on various management tasks at subsidiaries, including as a Head of Division and Executive Board member of the former mechanical engineering subsidiary Jagenberg AG and as Vice-Chairman of the former electronics subsidiary Aditron AG. Since 2001, he has been Chief Financial Officer of the Defence division.

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