



Ekrem Yigitdoel as new Managing Director of the Open Industry Alliance 4.0

Alliance pushes positioning in the Industry 4.0 market

Reinach, Schweiz, 1 October 2021 - With immediate effect, the Open Industry Alliance 4.0 will be led and represented by Ekrem Yigitdoel as Managing Director. Thus, the alliance is strengthening its core team and setting the course for continued successful positioning in the Industry 4.0 market. Ekrem Yigitdoel has been part of the Open Industry 4.0 Alliance since its founding and previously held responsibility for the board area “Marketing & Communication” in his role as Vice President Cooperation & Joint Venture Management at Voith – a member of the Alliance as well.

As Managing Director, Ekrem Yigitdoel reports to the Board. The position of Managing Director was newly created by the Open Industry 4.0 Alliance, on the one hand to do justice to the strong influx – with currently more than 80 members – and on the other hand to professionally align the structure of the organisation. The aim is to further expand the membership base and ensure that everyone benefits from the Alliance on an ongoing basis through their membership.

As a former employee of Voith, Ekrem Yigitdoel brings the cumulative expertise to actively support the course of the Open Industry 4.0 Alliance and to further establish the support and cooperation opportunities of the Alliance members in the market.

“I am very happy and proud to receive the trust of the Open Industry 4.0 Alliance to shape our vision and mission together with the member companies and to bring our vision into reality,” said **Ekrem Yigitdoel, Managing Director der Open Industry 4.0 Alliance**. “We had a very good start two years ago, a significant growth in membership and maturity of the OI4 organization. The foundation is laid to continue now with implementation projects of OI4 compliant solutions. Those implementations will happen at our member companies but also at customers of our members.”

Open Industry 4.0 Alliance to be further expanded

The technology company Voith will remain part of the Alliance's Board of Directors and will be represented by Dr. Benedikt Hofmann, Chief Technology Officer for Automation, Digitalisation, AI & Drive Technology at Voith. Previously, Dr. Benedikt Hofmann held various management positions at Voith in the field of digitalisation and mobility and worked as a manager at McKinsey&Co, before joining Voith.

“I am pleased to be able to contribute to the faster, simpler and value-creating digitization of the industry via OI4,” said Dr. Benedikt Hofmann.

The alliance is getting an additional support of Sebastian Hilscher. Sebastian will be part of the board with immediate effect and will succeed Hans-Jürgen Hilscher who will remain at the Alliance for a certain transition period.

Sebastian Hilscher has been CEO of Hilscher Gesellschaft für Systemautomation mbH. Sebastian was previously responsible as CTO for the further development of netX, Hilscher's core technology, and has already celebrated great successes with it.

"The Open Industry 4.0 Alliance is a key piece of the industrial digitalization. I am excited to be part of this fundamental change towards a production in a digital environment," said Sebastian Hilscher.

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About the Open Industry 4.0 Alliance

The Open Industry 4.0 Alliance acts as a partnership of leading European industrial companies that pragmatically participate in the implementation of cross-vendor industry 4.0 solutions and services for manufacturing facilities and automated warehouses. The Alliance was launched in April 2019. The association is headquartered in Reinach, Switzerland.

Further information can be found at <https://www.openindustry4.com/>

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