Press release

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Gold for Telefónica Germany: Bavarian Minister of Labour Christine Haderthauer awards certificate for health management

MUNICH/Germany. Bavarian Minister of Labour Christine Haderthauer has awarded Telefónica Germany with the Gold version of the "Holistic Occupational Health Management System" (GABEGS) certificate. She presented the prize on 6 July at the Telefónica Germany Corporate Sports & Family Day in Munich. Telefónica Germany received the coveted award for the first time in 2008, and is the second company in three years to receive the Gold certificate for recertification.

Following its audit as part of the "Holistic Occupational Health Management System" (GABEGS) award run by the Bavarian Ministry of Labour, Telefónica Germany has received gold certification. Once again, it met almost all requirements for exemplary health management. The tested criteria include measures for promoting health, occupational safety, emergency and catastrophe management as well as support for parents through various childcare offerings. Above and beyond that, the process illuminates the corporate policies and their implementation.

"We have made health and safety at work a top priority in living up to our role as an attractive employer in Germany. So I am especially delighted about the certificate from the Bavarian Ministry of Labour," announced René Schuster, CEO of Telefónica Germany. "Measures to promote health are a firm element of our corporate culture. More than half of all employees participate in our sports and health programmes, which we offer regularly at all locations. We are also developing our occupational health management on an ongoing basis."

Ust.-Id.-Nr. DE 811 889 638. Amtsgericht München HRA 70343. Gesellschafter: Telefónica Germany Management GmbH. Amtsgericht München HRB 109061 und Telefónica Germany Verwaltungs GmbH. Amtsgericht HRB 121389, beide ebenda Geschäftsführer beider Gesellschafter: René Schuster, Vorsitzender. Gregor Bieler. Andrea Folgueiras. Markus Haas. André Krause. Joachim Kugoth. Johannes Pruchnow. Peter Rampling. Robert Simmeth. Michiel van Eldik. Carsten Wreth.

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Bavarian Minister of Labour Christine Haderthauer: “Only attractive companies can retain the best employees over the long term. This entails being fully committed to health and safety at work at their locations. Qualified people are increasingly looking for workplaces based on these criteria. Companies can no longer afford to do without the performance and willingness to deliver of qualified employees. With this in mind, I appeal to all companies to follow the example set by Telefónica Germany by introducing Holistic Occupational Health Management and to further promote health protection among their employees. Not only the employees will benefit, but the companies as well. After all, only healthy, active and motivated employees lead companies to success.”

The ministry’s verdict vindicates Telefónica Germany’s strong commitment: in Munich, for example, it has an in-house health studio while all offices offer sports courses and activity programmes. Preventative care examinations, vision tests, stress management and nutritional consulting round out the workplace programme of health promotion.

About the GABEGS certificate
The certification by GABEGS establishes the state of development and quality of companies’ health management systems. All companies with headquarters in Bavaria are eligible for certification. Participation is voluntary and consists of two stages – a self-audit and an external section encompassing a review of the submitted documentation. Companies achieving a 91 to 100 percent score on the requirements checklist receive gold-level certification. The audit is valid for three years, at which point a renewal process can be initiated.

Telefónica Germany GmbH & Co. OHG and its brands O_2 and Alice belong to Telefónica Europe and are part of the Spanish telecommunication group Telefónica S.A. The Company offers its German private and business customers postpaid and prepaid mobile telecom products as well as innovative mobile data services based on the GPRS and UMTS technologies. In addition, the integrated communications provider also offers DSL fixed network telephony and high-speed internet. According to a network test by “connect” magazine (edition 12/10), the O_2 network is top of the list when it comes to reliable file downloads and champion in the telephony category. In the overall result the company is on second position. Telefónica Europe has more than 56 million mobile and fixed network customers in Great Britain, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany.

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