

Press release

## Cross takes over German market leader in custom spot-welded wire mesh solutions

- **The private equity firm Cross acquires the German company WDM Wolfshagener Draht- und Metallverarbeitung GmbH together with management**
- **WDM's growth strategy includes moving into new markets, pursuing targeted international expansion in regions including Northern and Eastern Europe and expanding the product range in existing markets**

Pfäffikon / Wolfshagen, 8 January 2018 – The private equity firm Cross acquires a majority interest in German company WDM Wolfshagener Draht- und Metallverarbeitung GmbH from a consortium of private investors.

WDM is a German market leader in custom-made, spot-welded wire mesh solutions, bent wire parts, wire mats and grid elements in various end markets. The products are used in a wide range of sectors – from modern agricultural systems and various industrial protective and transport mesh solutions to applications in landscaping. Thanks to USPs such as durability, adaptability and best-in-class quality, WDM is very well-positioned to benefit from further, sustainable market growth.

Dr Michael Petersen, Managing Partner at Cross Equity Partners AG, says: "WDM is a market-leading provider in an attractive niche market. We see many opportunities in further international markets, as well as in related business segments. We are looking forward to supporting the company as it moves into the next growth phase."

Markus Reich, Managing Partner at Cross Equity Partners AG, says: "WDM is an innovative, high-quality provider with a rich tradition. It has an excellent foundation for further growth. As a leading manufacturer of high-quality wire mesh solutions, the company has a first-class reputation among its customers in Germany and abroad."

Ernst Hüffmeier, CEO of WDM: "We are looking forward to working with our new shareholders as we move forward. Cross shares WDM's vision for the company and has the experience needed to support us with our forward strategy."

**About WDM Wolfshagener Draht- und Metallverarbeitung GmbH**

WDM has been producing spot-welded wire meshes for 20 years. In peaceful Wolfshagen, an average of 35,000 meshes leave the factory every day. That is almost 50 tonnes of wire on average that are transformed into spot-welded wire meshes at state-of-the-art semi-automatic and fully automatic mesh-welding machines every single day. WDM's core expertise lies primarily in the mass production of industrial special meshes. Production is carried out with the greatest of care. The company develops individual solutions for individual customer challenges, which are adapted to meet specific requirements. WDM's philosophy "We want to be the most sought-after partner for our customers" has led the company to become a market leader in the market segment of spot-welded wire mesh — a testament to its customers' trust and WDM's quality.

**About Cross**

Cross is a private equity firm with the mission to support the sustainable development of mid-sized companies in Switzerland, Germany and Austria through equity capital, industrial expertise and an extensive relationship network – amongst others in the context of succession of family-owned businesses and corporate spin-offs. Cross invests in leading and profitable mid-sized companies with entrepreneurial management teams in fast growing market niches in engineering, machinery and industrial products. As a long-term investor, Cross supports sustainable profitable growth.

The independent Cross funds are exclusively advised by Cross Equity Partners AG, Pfäffikon SZ. The Cross team has several decades of private equity and industrial experience. To date, the Cross team has successfully invested in approximately 30 companies in Switzerland, Germany and Austria.

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