

Press Release

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Stephan Sielaff takes the helm of the Schill+Seilacher Group: "Building on the strengths of specialty chemicals"

Nearly 30 years of experience in transformation, internationalization and operational leadership - new CEO aims to bring the specialty chemicals Group closer to customers and markets

Zurich, 5 October 2026. Stephan Sielaff took over as Chief Executive Officer of the Schill+Seilacher Group on 1 October. A chemical engineer by training, he brings around 30 years of experience in specialty chemicals and related industries. His career includes senior roles at Unilever and Lenzing AG, and most recently at SSI SCHÄFER Plastics. At Schill+Seilacher, Sielaff will lead the next phase of development for the internationally active specialty chemicals Group.

Sielaff takes the helm at a challenging time for Europe's chemical industry. International competitive pressure, rising costs and weak industrial demand are testing companies across the sector. He does not believe the answer lies in cost reduction alone. In his view, customer proximity, operational excellence, international collaboration and the ability to bring innovation successfully to market will be decisive.

"European specialty chemicals continue to have strong prospects. But we need to move faster, work more closely with our customers and make better use of our strengths internationally," says Sielaff. "A good product alone is no longer enough. What matters is the value we create for our customers."

For the Schill+Seilacher Group, Sielaff translates this into a clear ambition: "We already have an international footprint. Now we want to make better use of the strength of our Group - thinking globally, acting together and staying closer to our customers." By connecting expertise, technologies and market knowledge more effectively across locations and business areas, the Group can create not only more efficient structures, but also new opportunities for innovation, collaboration and customer value.

Sielaff began his career at Unilever, where he held roles spanning operations, innovation and product development, culminating in the position of Innovation and Engineering Director for Home and Personal Care Europe. After further roles at Symrise, he became Chief Operating Officer of Swiss specialty chemicals company Archroma. He subsequently served as CEO of Austria-based Lenzing AG and, most recently, as CEO of SSI SCHÄFER Plastics.

Dr Peter Düroff, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Schill+Seilacher Group, says: "The world will not wait for us. In our markets, speed, international reach and the ability to turn good ideas into real business are becoming increasingly important. In Stephan Sielaff, we have appointed a CEO who has successfully navigated precisely these kinds of challenges and developed companies in demanding international markets. Together, we want to take the Group forward - with entrepreneurial courage, commercial discipline and a clear focus on our customers."

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The Schill+Seilacher Group was founded in 1877 and develops and manufactures specialty chemicals and process additives for a wide range of industrial applications. The foundation-owned Group employs around 900 people worldwide, with locations in Germany, the United States, Malaysia and Switzerland. Its portfolio includes process and performance additives for leather, paper, textiles and man-made fibres; ingredients for cleaning products and cosmetics; additives for rubber, plastics and wood-plastic composites; as well as defoamers and other process chemicals.

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