

## Three Brose plants among the top 10 German companies



On behalf of the Meerane plant employees, General Manager Jörg Graichen (right), Dirk Schmidsberge (left), coordinator of the Corporate Improvement Suggestion Scheme, and Plant Manager Rico Weigelt accepted the award at this year's annual dib "Idea Management" meeting held in Munich. The awards for the plants in Coburg and Sindelfingen were presented to Susanne Dittrich, responsible for the Corporate Improvement Suggestion Scheme of the Brose Group.

### **Coburg (12. May 2010)**

Three Brose plants rank among Germany's top ten companies for idea management. This is the outcome of a study published by the German Institute of Business Administration (dib) for 2009: Brose Meerane is in second place, Sindelfingen in fourth and Coburg in sixth place. A total of 246 companies and institutions from 17 industries took part in the nationwide study, including 37 automotive suppliers. The study was presented to the public at this year's annual dib "Idea Management" meeting in Munich.

In terms of company size, the results are even better for Brose: in the category "1001 to 5000 employees", the Coburg plant from Upper Franconia ranks first. In view of their size, the Meerane location, too, achieved an excellent second place, the Würzburg plant in Lower Franconia took third place and Brose Sindelfingen fourth place.

"This pleasing outcome reflects the above-average commitment of our staff in actively participating in the development of our family-owned company by demonstrating their entrepreneurial attitude. It also indicates the effectiveness of our comprehensive qualification measures," says Stefan Krug, General Manager of the Coburg location.

For the first time, Brose also competed in the ranking of the ten best group suggestions, with two employees of the Brose location in Coburg immediately taking second place. Their suggestion to improve product construction led to savings of 260,000 euros per year.

Within the Brose group, 11,800 employees of 29 locations worldwide submitted 13,000 ideas in 2009. Around 7,500 of these ideas were put into action, resulting in cost savings of almost 7,5 million euros. This represents an increase of 15% compared to the previous year.

"The German locations alone achieved cost savings of 2.3 million euros. Thus, our corporate improvement suggestion scheme contributes decisively to the continuous improvement of our products and processes and is an important element in harnessing the experience and creativity of our staff," says Susanne Dittrich, responsible for the Corporate Improvement Suggestion Scheme of the Brose Group. "The inventiveness of our employees does not just benefit the company, but the employees themselves, too. In 2009 alone, we paid out a total of 420,000 euros in bonuses to staff who submitted creative ideas," stressed Susanne Dittrich.

The Meerane plant had the highest participation with 97%, followed by Sindelfingen (80%), Coburg (69%), Wuppertal (61%), Gifhorn (59%), Rastatt (56%), Hallstadt (45%) and Würzburg (38%).