

## **Vita**

### **Prof. Dr. h. c. mult. Reinhold Würth**

Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Würth Group's Family Trusts

#### **“Satisfying our customers is not enough. We want to inspire them.”**

An entrepreneur with a vision

Reinhold Würth was born in Öhringen on 20 April 1935. In 1945, his father Adolf Würth founded a wholesale business for screws and nuts, today known as Adolf Würth GmbH & Co. KG. At the age of only 14, Reinhold Würth joined the company as the first employee and apprentice. In 1952, he concluded his commercial and wholesaling apprenticeship after successfully passing the examination of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

After the early death of his father in 1954, at the age of 19, Reinhold Würth took on the challenge to take over the family business. He managed to close the year 1955, the first business year under his leadership, with annual sales of EUR 80,000. The rapid growth of the company was driven by the reconstruction after the Second World War: connection elements such as screws and nuts were needed everywhere. Early on, Reinhold Würth understood that growth was the key to success. As early as 1962, he ventured outside Germany and established the company's first subsidiary in the Netherlands. In 1987, Würth was represented on all five continents. "I always wanted to know what there was behind the mountain or the next corner." is how he himself describes his courage and his willingness to assume risks, both of which helped him to turn his group of companies into a world market leader in the trade with assembly and fastening material.

Today, the Group with its more than 400 companies is active on the markets of more than 80 countries worldwide. The Würth Group employs more than 66,000 people and reported a new record sales volume of more than EUR 11 billion in 2015.

In 2006, Reinhold Würth passed on the Chair of the Würth Group's Advisory Board to his daughter Bettina Würth. He remains Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Würth Group's Family Trusts and Honorary Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Würth Group.

**"With honesty you can build confidence, and on the basis of confidence you can rule the world."**

Friendliness, openness, proximity – part of the corporate culture lived at Würth

Reinhold Würth is deeply convinced that a company can only thrive if its employees come to work every day with conviction, in loyalty and full of inspiration. This is why, very early on, he established the corporate culture of the Würth Group that is based on values such as straightforwardness, honesty, appreciation and respect of every individual's performance.

Taking on social responsibility, but also respect of and tolerance for each human being have always been part of the self-conception of Reinhold Würth. In order to combine this involvement under one roof and to ensure a continuation of their efforts, Reinhold Würth founded the Würth Foundation in 1987 together with his wife Carmen. It promotes projects in the field of art and culture, research and science as well as training and education.

His appointment as Professor of the foundation chair Entrepreneurship at the University of Karlsruhe (TH) due to his outstanding achievements as an entrepreneur deserves a special mention. The first Chair of the Interdisciplinary Institute for Entrepreneurship, he lectured from 1999 to 2003 at the university.

**"You do not need art to survive, but it contributes to your quality of life."**

Reinhold Würth – a collector driven by passion

The acquisition of one of his first pieces of art (a watercolor by Emil Nolde) in the 1960s was just the beginning of his passion for art. Today, the Würth Collection and its more than 17,000 pieces of art count towards the largest and most important private collections. Excerpts from the Würth Collection are shown in 15 museums and art galleries across Europe. For Reinhold Würth, the coexistence of art and ordinary business serve as the inspiration for new ideas and as a place of encounter for employees and the general public.

In 2004, in recognition of his special social and cultural commitment as well as his entrepreneurial achievements, Prof. Dr. h. c. mult. Reinhold Würth received the German Founders' Award for his lifetime achievement. Apart from many other awards, he also received the Large Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2005, the French medal "Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" in recognition of his extraordinary merits in the cultural cooperation between Germany and France in 2009 and was named "Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur" (Commander of the Legion of Honor) in 2013.

(A detailed list of his honors and awards can be found in the curriculum vitae.)