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PRESS RELEASE

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Discussion on the Future of Medical Technology and the Further Development of the MDR at Rudolf Storz

Member of the European Parliament Oliver Schenk visits Rudolf Storz

Emmingen – Member of the European Parliament Oliver Schenk (CDU) visited the medical technology company Rudolf Storz together with Julia Steckeler of Medical Mountains. The visit focused on the future of the European medical technology sector, the challenges posed by the Medical Device Regulation (MDR), and the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises for Germany as a hub for medical technology.

During a company presentation, Oliver Schenk gained insight into the development, expertise, and diverse range of services offered by Rudolf Storz GmbH. Founded in 1949, the family-owned company has more than 75 years of experience in medical technology and currently employs over 175 people. As a contract manufacturer, the company covers a broad spectrum along the medical technology value chain—from design and development through manufacturing to the finished medical device.

Focus on MDR: Balancing Patient Safety and Competitiveness

During the visit, Mr. Schenk also had the opportunity to learn about Rudolf Storz's medical products. Through the products on display, Oliver Schenk gained an impression of the product diversity, the manufacturing processes, as well as the technical capabilities and high standards required for the production of high-quality medical devices. With a portfolio of more than 7,000 products, the company offers a wide range of surgical instruments for various medical applications.

A key topic of the discussion was the European Medical Device Regulation (MDR) and its impact on companies in the industry. It became clear that the regulatory requirements do not only affect manufacturers of their own medical devices. As a contract manufacturer, Rudolf Storz is also directly affected by the MDR, as customers require corresponding certificates

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and documentation that must be submitted as part of the collaboration. The associated documentation and administrative burden is considerable and presents the company with additional bureaucratic challenges.

The goal must therefore be to reconcile the high standards for patient safety with regulations that are practical and economically feasible. Small and medium-sized enterprises need a reliable regulatory framework so they can continue to focus on their core competencies and remain competitive in production.

Neben den regulatorischen Herausforderungen interessierte sich Herr Schenk insbesondere für die Themen Digitalisierung, Automatisierung und künstliche Intelligenz. Rudolf Storz hat in den vergangenen Jahren gezielt in die Digitalisierung von Unternehmensprozessen sowie in die Automatisierung der Fertigung investiert. Auch künstliche Intelligenz kommt bereits intern bei ausgewählten Prozessen zum Einsatz. Um diese Entwicklung weiter voranzutreiben, beschäftigt sich ein Mitarbeiter gezielt mit den Einsatzmöglichkeiten und der Integration von KI in die betrieblichen Abläufe.

The goal of these investments is to streamline processes, continuously improve manufacturing, and ensure the company’s long-term competitiveness. At the same time, our standards for our own performance remain unchanged: For our customers, consistently high quality and absolute on-time delivery are our top priorities. These two factors form the foundation for a successful, long-term partnership.

In addition to its contract manufacturing business, Rudolf Storz is also active in the distribution of its own approved medical devices. Under the “medical bees” brand, the company markets these products, thereby offering customers additional options. In this area as well, the sometimes-lengthy wait times for the approval of new medical devices pose a challenge, as they can delay market launch and hinder the development of new products, thereby making it more difficult for the company to plan with certainty.

Overall, the visit provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the challenges and future issues facing the industry directly at the production site and to bring the perspective of a medium-sized medical technology company into the political dialogue.

„Die Medizintechnik in unserer Region steht für jahrzehntelange Erfahrung, höchste Qualität und Innovationskraft. Damit Unternehmen wie Rudolf Storz auch künftig in Deutschland wettbewerbsfähig produzieren und investieren können, braucht es verlässliche und praxisgerechte Rahmenbedingungen. Patientensicherheit und

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wirtschaftliche Umsetzbarkeit dürfen dabei keine Gegensätze sein. Eine zukunftsfähige MDR muss beides gewährleisten“, betonte Fabian Stuckenbrock, Geschäftsführender Gesellschafter der Rudolf Storz GmbH.

The visit underscored the importance of direct dialogue between policymakers, industry representatives, and companies. Only through dialogue with local manufacturers can the practical implications of regulatory decisions be fully understood and viable solutions for the future of the European medical technology sector be developed.

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