



PRESS RELEASE

Michaeli's successor at IKV named

Hopmann to become new head of the Institute of Plastics Processing (IKV)

Aachen, October 2010. University Professor Dr.-Ing. Christian Hopmann (42) will succeed University Professor Dr.-Ing. Dr.-Ing. E.h. Walter Michaeli as head of the Institute, Director of the Association of Sponsors of IKV, and holder of the Chair of Plastics Processing at RWTH Aachen University. Michaeli will hand over these functions after many highly successful years when he reaches retirement age in summer 2011.

Hopmann studied Mechanical Engineering with particular focus on Plastics Processing at RWTH Aachen University. He received his doctorate in 2000 with a study on Ceramic Injection Moulding, supervised by his predecessor Professor Michaeli. He was initially a research fellow at the Institute of Plastics Processing (IKV), and then head of its department of Part Design/Materials Technology. From 2001 to 2004, Hopmann was Chief Engineer and, in this capacity, Deputy Director of IKV, which will enable him to contribute valuable experience to his future activities.

In 2005 Hopmann started his industrial career at RKW AG Rheinische Kunststoffwerke (today: RKW SE), Europe's leading manufacturer of high quality polyethylene and polypropylene films, nonwovens and nets, initially as head of Quality Management at RKW's site in Petersaurach in southern Germany. From 2006 to the end of 2009, he was head of Extrusion and thus responsible for the production of polyolefin films for hygiene, consumer packaging and industrial applications. During this period he improved his management skills by attending the Program for Executive Development at the International Institute for Management Development IMD, Lausanne, Switzerland. Since 1 January 2010, he has been Managing Director of RKW Sweden AB in Helsingborg, Sweden.

"I am looking forward very much to my new assignment at IKV. The special constellation at the Institute, which is outstandingly networked not only in interdisciplinary research inside and outside RWTH but also in industrial joint research, is the basis for excellent academic teaching. Caring and expanding this is a major challenge and an honour which I am very pleased to accept. I am convinced that my previous experience, both at IKV and in industry, constitute an outstanding basis for performing this function. I am particularly looking forward to cooperating with the people I will meet. Together, we will ensure that IKV continues its positive development", said Hopmann.

Alongside Professor Michaeli, all the staff at IKV are looking forward very much to working with Professor Hopmann.

About the IKV

The IKV Institute of Plastics Processing at RWTH Aachen University is one of the biggest institutes engaged in this field of research. The Institute has more than 300 employees working on the problems encountered during the processing of the many different types of plastics that are now available. IKV's excellent contacts with industry, together with its outstanding facilities, ensure that students benefit from a comprehensive, practically oriented course of study. Plastics engineering graduates from the IKV are thus sought-after experts in industry. Around 50 percent of German plastics engineers with a university degree have received their education at IKV. In organisational terms, IKV is divided up into the four specialist departments of Injection Moulding and PU Technology, Extrusion and Further Processing, Part Design and Materials Technology, and Composites. The Institute also takes in the Centre for Analysis and Testing of Plastics, and the Training and Further Education department. It is run by an Association of Sponsors, which currently has a membership of about 250 plastics companies from all over the world. The members of the Association of Sponsors exploit their



cooperation with the Institute to ensure that they benefit from new developments at a particularly early stage. Professor Dr.-Ing. Dr.-Ing. E.h. Walter Michaeli is Head of the Institute and Managing Director of the Association of Sponsors. He also holds the Chair of Plastics Processing at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at RWTH Aachen University.

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Future head of IKV: University Professor Dr.-Ing. Christian Hopmann (photo: private)