

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Stechert Group mourns for Franz Stegner**

The Stechert Group mourns for its long-standing Managing Director Franz Stegner. He died unexpectedly on Monday, 22.06.2015.

Franz Stegner joined Stechert in 1966 and was a member of the management board since 1969. Since then, he and his wife Eva-Maria developed the company from a small supplier to an international well-known enterprise. On this way, he always went ahead with commitment, bravery and foresight.

The former upholsterer Franz Stegner came from a humble background and worked hard to climb the ladder of success according to his motto "with luck, mind and God's hand". Thereby he always followed his entrepreneurial instinct and stayed true to himself. The greatest achievement for him was to guarantee his loyal employees a save job for decades.

He always recognized the signs of the times and therefore managed to develop Stechert into a fixed size in the furniture market. By founding the Gössnitzer Stahlrohrmöbel GmbH short after the German reunification, he established the company quickly in Eastern Germany and strengthened his market position.

In the 1990s he decided to produce seats for stadiums and arenas. By equipping the Olympiastadion in Berlin for the 2006 World Cup, he achieved the first big success in that area. Due to his meticulous effort he was able to place "his seats" in most Bundesliga-stadiums and World Cup venues in Germany, South Africa and Brazil. Recently he was very proud of being included in the Lexicon of German world market leaders ("Lexikon der deutschen Weltmarktführer") from Florian Langenscheidt and Prof. Bernd Venohr.

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By founding two new companies, the STW GmbH and the TIL GmbH, he expanded the portfolio of the Stechert Group again and joined the interior construction market as well as the market of theatre and auditorium seating. With the “Elbphilharmonie” in Hamburg, the “Philharmonie de Paris” by Jean Nouvel and the new Stage “Theater an der Elbe”, the STW already had notable references after a short time.

Franz Stegner was an entrepreneur of the old school. He always put the interests of the company above his own. His door stood always open for the staff and he helped them with words and deeds. Thus, he created an unique atmosphere and team spirit.

Besides his company, he displayed major commitment to social and charity projects. He promoted sport and culture in our region like no one else. Further on, he founded the “Stechert-Stegner-Stiftung” which helps people who suffer hardship through no fault of their own in Franconia, Germany and in the whole world.

For his entrepreneurial achievements he was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2003.

We will miss our Managing Director and leading figure, but above all, we will sorely miss the human Franz Stegner. All employees will always keep him in honourable memory.

Our sympathy goes out to his family and relatives.

In deep mourning:

The Managing Board of Stechert Group  
and the whole staff.