

Heide Dürr awarded Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany

Berlin / Bietigheim-Bissingen, March 13, 2025 — Heide Dürr has been awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for her social commitment. The award, also known as the Federal Cross of Merit, honors the work of the Heinz and Heide Dürr Foundation. The Berlin-based foundation focuses on early-years education, theater and culture, as well as research projects in various scientific fields.

The Heinz and Heide Dürr Foundation was set up in 1998 and supports projects throughout Germany. One of Heide Dürr's key foundation goals is to establish the Early Excellence approach for early-years education. Early Excellence aims to provide individual support in nurseries and daycare centers and involves parents in their children's educational processes. "Every child must have the chance to receive a good education — right from the start and regardless of their background. We are committed to this social responsibility," says Heide Dürr.

Even after the passing of her husband in 2023, Heide Dürr remains a driving force behind the foundation's work as a Supervisory Board member. Examples of the Heinz and Heide Dürr Foundation's broad-ranging commitment include the German Daycare Award, first presented in 2018, support for playwrights, premieres, and small theaters, remembrance culture, and research projects on artificial intelligence and human genetics.

When presenting the Order of Merit, Berlin's State Secretary for Youth, Falko Liecke, said: "I would like to thank Heide Dürr for her tireless commitment and drive. The foundation of Heinz and Heide Dürr has long been an integral part of the foundation landscape. It has enabled the support of over 500 Early Excellence institutions with more than 10,000 professionals across Germany, as well as the training of specialist staff."

The Heinz and Heide Dürr Foundation holds 3.5% of the shares in Dürr AG. The foundation uses the funds from the annual dividend payout for its work.

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Images for this press release can be found [here](#).

The Dürr Group is one of the world's leading mechanical and plant engineering firms with particular expertise in the technology fields of automation, digitalization, and energy efficiency. Its products, systems, and services enable highly efficient and sustainable manufacturing processes – mainly in the automotive industry and for producers of furniture and timber houses, but also in sectors such as the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, medical devices, electrical engineering, and battery production. In 2024, the company generated sales of €4.7 billion. The Dürr Group has around 20,000 employees and 139 business locations in 33 countries. As of January 1, 2025, the former divisions Paint and Final Assembly Systems and Application Technology were merged to form the new Automotive division. Since then, the Dürr Group has been operating in the market with four divisions:

- **Automotive:** painting technology, final assembly, testing and filling technology
- **Industrial Automation:** automated assembly and test systems for automotive components, medical devices, and consumer goods as well as balancing technology solutions and coating systems for battery electrodes
- **Woodworking:** machinery and equipment for the woodworking industry
- **Clean Technology Systems Environmental:** air pollution control and noise abatement systems

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