



**Press contact:**

Manuela Neumann  
Head of Marketing  
Phone +49(0)7529 999-422  
manuela.neumann@step-g.com

**Press / media release**

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**Second Managing Director for STEP-G**

**With effect from 26 October 2021, Edgar Gebhart was appointed the second Managing Director of aluminium specialist ST Extruded Products Group, or STEP-G. He now forms one half of the twin management team of the company, joining Markus Ogawa, who has been Managing Director of STEP-G since August 2020.**

Gebhart draws on more than 30 years of experience in various positions in the international aluminium industry. He has been with the group since 2011. Initially, he worked for Aleris International Inc. After the takeover in 2015 by Japanese company Sankyo Tateyama, Inc., a manufacturer of extruded and cast products, he moved to STEP-G. Gebhart became Director Sales with responsibility for the entire sales area. He and his team of experts offer innovative and sustainable aluminium solutions for use in various industrial applications. Customers include companies in the automotive and rail vehicle, aircraft, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering industries. Gebhart is responsible not only for the products and services from STEP-G, but also for the BUG Aluminium-Systeme brand.

“With Mr. Gebhart, we have attracted an experienced and highly respected expert in the aluminium industry for senior management of the ST Extruded Products Group. We’re confident that, with his expertise and established network, he will help drive the long-term further development of STEP-G,” said Markus Ogawa, Managing Director of STEP-G.

Gebhart is looking forward to his new responsibilities as Managing Director: “Our key challenge at STEP-G in the coming years is to further develop and optimise the sustainable and future-oriented transformation of our entire value creation chain, right up to our customers. I can’t wait to shape this path together with our motivated employees in Europe and Asia.”



The future strategy of the joint leadership by Ogawa and Gebhart focuses on customer service and sustainability as well as digitalisation and optimisation of STEP-G's internal and external processes. The two Managing Directors will also continue to steer the entire group so that it responds to future market demands and secures an excellent position on the aluminium market. One of the major drivers behind the company's transformation process is today's changing attitude in the field of mobility with a rapidly growing demand for sustainability. The corporate strategy is also geared towards further qualification of its sites as suppliers of products and components for the automotive and rail vehicle industry as well as in energy and general industry.



## **The company at a glance**

*ST Extruded Products Group, or STEP-G, is one of the world's leading producers of extruded aluminium profiles. With production sites in Germany, Belgium and China, STEP-G is a multinational company. The three German press plants in Bitterfeld, Bonn and Vogt are highly specialised and offer a comprehensive range of extruded profiles and bars. The automotive industry and its direct suppliers rely on the company's innovative quality. Other customers are in the aerospace, rail, and mechanical and electrical engineering industries as well as the construction sector. Completing the portfolio are various forms of processing through to component manufacturing. The foundry in Hettstedt with a comprehensive range of standard and special alloys provides reliable technology and consistent availability from one source.*

## *From foundation to the present day*

*In 1915, the first German factory was opened in Bitterfeld. It was followed in 1921 by the German plant in Bonn, in 1946 by the plant in Duffel, Belgium, and in 1952 by another German plant in Vogt. In 2000, the Chinese plant in Tianjin was commissioned. In 2006, Aleris International Inc. acquired the plants of Corus Aluminium. On 1 March 2015, the Aleris aluminium extrusion operations transferred to the Japanese company Sankyo Tateyama, Inc., a manufacturer of extruded and cast products. In 2019, the foundry in Hettstedt was incorporated into the STEP-G group.*

*More information is available at [www.step-g.com](http://www.step-g.com) and [www.bug.de](http://www.bug.de).*