

## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Freiburg, July 21st, 2009

### **Celebration at SÜDVERS GRUPPE**

#### **40th anniversary of Manfred Karle as managing director, 65th birthday of Wolfgang Koppitz and the opening ceremony of new rooms**

On the 19th of June, there was a big celebration at SÜDVERS GRUPPE. Manfred Karle, manager of the SÜDVERS GRUPPE, celebrated his 40th anniversary as managing director. In addition, the company commemorated the 65th birthday of Wolfgang Koppitz, managing director of the SÜDVERS Holding. Furthermore the third floor of the main office in Freiburg was reopened after being damaged by a fire in autumn 2008.

Manfred Karle was born in 1946 in Wilhelmsfeld near Heidelberg. In 1969 at the age of 23 and after being trained as an insurance merchant, he took over the SÜDVERS GMBH in Freiburg as general manager. At that time, SÜDVERS managed a premium volume of 700,000 DM. Years of expansion and success followed. His first subsidiaries were opened in Mannheim and Stuttgart. Others followed in Köln, Chemnitz, München, Hamburg and Darmstadt. In 1970 he took over 49 percent of the shares of the company, in 1971 the remaining 51 percent.

By founding many other branches, Manfred Karle expanded the SÜDVERS GRUPPE from a pure insurance brokerage to a company for consultancy and financial services. He met the challenges of international business by founding the Worldwide Broker Network, which serves the international customers of the SÜDVERS GRUPPE worldwide. The premium volume currently amounts to 26 Billion US-Dollar.

Wolfgang Koppitz was born in 1944 in Breslau. He was also trained as an insurance merchant. After a few years of work for insurance companies, he joined SÜDVERS GRUPPE in 1971. In 1975 Wolfgang Koppitz became a member of the company management with executive functions. Two years later, he was nominated head of the main office in Freiburg. In 1987, Wolfgang Koppitz became managing associate of the SÜDVERS GMBH and in 1993 managing partner of the SÜDVERS Holding. His responsibilities have been transferred to Michael Verhasselt, who since February 2008 strengthened the team of SÜDVERS managing directors as the head of the main office in Freiburg. Although retired, Wolfgang Koppitz will remain connected with SÜDVERS GRUPPE as a consultant.

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Finally, the rooms, which were seriously damaged by a fire in autumn 2008, were reopened after being newly renovated. The architecture of these rooms was entirely modified. The architect, Helmut Rüdiger, created bright rooms with flexible interior designs. Now it is possible to create one large conference room out of four smaller rooms for gatherings of up to 150 persons.

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