Amstetten | October 03, 2018

**The Josef Umdasch Research Prize 2019** – **Call for Ideas**

**We are looking for smart ideas and innovative approaches to solutions for the “Future Workplace”**

Continued rapid technological developments as a result of factors like digitalisation, automation and artificial intelligence demand a multi-faceted approach to new technologies, methods and media. Companies are called upon to focus on megatrends at an early stage. This also applies to Doka. The company is using the Josef Umdasch Research Prize 2019 – founded by the parent company, the Umdasch Group – in order to establish contact with national and international start-ups, students and innovators, to find answers to the question regarding the “Future Workplace”.

“Greater efficiency and simplification in a world full of complexity – that is what we are aiming at for our customers,” is how Harald Ziebula, Doka-CEO, summarises the starting situation. These efforts also apply to internal processes. Ziebula continues: “We must give our employees the chance to work in an attractive environment and to some extend interact irrespective of where they are actually located. This requires that we find an answer to the question: What does the Future Workplace look like?”

**CALL FOR IDEAS | until November 25, 2018**

Digitalisation, automation, artificial intelligence & co are tools which aim to help to achieve the goals we have set ourselves. How can we use these tools in the best possible way in our daily work? Which methods should we use in our communications and how can we work more smartly and efficiently together in future? And above all: How can our workplace contribute to this?

* We are looking for new approaches to how people can work together in future.
* We are on the lookout for revolutionary ideas and stimuli as to what the Future Workplace might look like.
* We are looking for pioneering solutions in order to be able to structure and to share knowledge internationally.
* We are looking for start-ups, students and collectives who can enable innovative solutions for collaboration and communication at an international level and which pursue future-oriented technologies that will have a positive influence on work and how we deal with each other on a day-to-day basis.

**JOSEF UMDASCH RESEARCH PRIZE 2019 by Doka**

“Since 1991 we have succeeded in reaching young pioneers and far-sighted thinkers with the Josef Umdasch Research Prize. And a cooperation with a company that operates internationally as we do can serve as a springboard for start-ups,” says Andreas J. Ludwig, CEO of Umdasch Group AG. Because the winning idea will be implemented at Doka. The research prize offers start-ups an opportunity to collaborate with a global player and to assume a leading role in the further development of our internal work structures.

As during the previous year, the World Summit Awards (WSA) are part of the team as our cooperation partner. Thanks to the WSA it is possible to broadcast the “Call for Ideas” throughout the world and to make the international start-up scene aware of the prize. Ideas can be submitted with immediate effect and until 25 November 2018. During December a jury will select a shortlist. The resulting teams will receive financial support amounting to € 5,000.— for the further development and presentation of their idea and will be invited to attend the pitch presentations within the framework of the World Summit Congress in Cascais (Portugal) in March 2019, where the winner will be chosen. This will also be the starting signal for the joint realisation of the solution and the subsequent implementation of the tailor-made Future Workplace at Doka.

 **All details here**  [www.umdaschgroup.com/researchprize](about:blank)

**The Josef Umdasch Research Prize**

Since 1990 the Umdasch Group has been supporting outstanding achievements in research and development through the Josef Umdasch Research Prize. The award is named for Josef Umdasch, the father of the company’s present owners Hilde Umdasch and Alfred Umdasch, who initiated the prize. Today the prize forms an important part of the Umdasch Foundation, an initiative of the Umdasch Group. It aims encourage the personal development of young people and to support initiatives which focus on the topics of education and knowledge transfer worldwide.

**For further information, please contact:**

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