



Media release
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SFS apprentices gain valuable work experience abroad

SFS invests considerably in the development of young talents within its own ranks. For the second year in a row, a group of SFS apprentices in Switzerland is being given the opportunity to spend several weeks at the Group's plant in Medina (USA). For the very first time, learners from the USA have also been invited to participate in an exchange program with the Swiss site in Heerbrugg.

Promoting the skills of young people through vocational training is an important element of SFS Group's strategy for recruiting and training skilled employees. SFS is a strong advocate of the dual education system, especially in Switzerland. Currently 160 apprentices, or almost 7% of SFS' entire Swiss workforce, are being trained in ten professions. Apprentices account for about 2.5% of SFS Group's headcount worldwide, which is notably high compared to industry peers. This percentage is targeted to increase to about 5% of the global workforce over the medium term. SFS is active in its efforts to promote vocational training in foreign countries, too, especially in the US and Germany.

A group of Swiss apprentices – an office admin specialist, two polymechanics and a machine design engineer – are currently on assignment in the US. They are gathering valuable international experience during their eight-week stay at SFS Group's plant in Medina, Ohio. SFS's young employees can benefit enormously from these exchange programs by improving their foreign language proficiency as well as their personal and professional skills. At the same time, two learners from the US are spending six weeks at the plant in Heerbrugg, where they likewise can take advantage of the opportunity to strengthen and broaden their skills in their particular fields, on the manufacturing floor and in toolmaking.

This international exchange program promotes the personal and professional development of young people and enhances the attractiveness of vocational education programs. Moreover, actively cultivating the development of SFS's young talents is crucial for ensuring the sustainable development of the corporate culture.

About SFS Group

SFS is a global market leader for mechanical fastening systems and precision formed components. SFS Group is organized into three business segments Engineered Components, Fastening Systems und Distribution & Logistics which represent the three business models. In the **Engineered Components** segment, SFS partners with customers to develop and manufacture customer-specific precision formed components, fastening solutions and assemblies. The segment operates in the Automotive, Electronics, Industrial and Medical divisions and sells its products under the SFS intec (Automotive, Industrial), Unisteel (Electronics) and Tegra Medical (Medical) brands. In the **Fastening Systems** segment, consisting of the Construction and the Riveting divisions, SFS develops, manufactures and markets application-specific mechanical fastening systems under the SFS intec (Construction) and GESIPA (Riveting) brands. In the **Distribution & Logistics** segment with the SFS unimarket brand, SFS is a leading provider of fasteners, tools and architectural hardware as well as innovative logistics solutions in Switzerland. SFS Group is a global player with manufacturing sites and distribution companies at more than 70 locations in 25 countries around the world. Sales in business year 2016 amounted to CHF 1.437 bn and the work force numbered approximately 9,000.

For further information visit www.sfs.biz



For media inquiries, please contact:

SFS Group AG
Claude Stadler
Rosenbergsaustasse 8
9435 Heerbrugg
Switzerland

Direct: +41 71 727 51 85

e-mail: corporate.communications@sfs.biz

Share information

Security-No.	23.922.930
ISIN	CH 023 922 930 2
SIX Swiss Exchange AG	SFSN