

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Gerhard Weber receives lifetime achievement award**

(HalleWestphalia/Heidelberg, 12. Mai 2011) **The entrepreneur and CEO of GERRY WEBER International AG, Gerhard Weber (69), yesterday has been awarded the Forum-Prize of TextilWirtschaft, the renowned German trade magazine for textile and fashion trade. Gerhard Weber, who founded the fashion and lifestyle group, today listed on the stock exchange, in 1973 jointly with a partner, received the prize as recognition for his lifetime achievement.**

The awards ceremony took place on Wednesday evening during the leading convention of German textile industry, the „Forum of TextilWirtschaft“, in Heidelberg. The high-calibre selection committee of specialists of the sector around TW-chief editors Jürgen Müller and Michael Werner honoured Gerhard Weber for „outstanding entrepreneurial achievements in fashion business.“ Hugo Boss executive and laudator Claus-Dietrich Lahrs presented the renowned award to the prize winner, who accepted it with great pleasure: „This is a special honour, that shows that you can achieve a lot with passion for fashion, courage to innovate and with an exceptional team.“ The Forum prize of TextilWirtschaft is awarded every year and stands for entrepreneurial or personal achievements, being of great influence and lasting impact on the development of this economic sector. The selection committee substantiated the honour as follows:

„Gerhard Weber has led his labels Gerry Weber, Taifun and Samoon to the vanguard of their segments. His acting is characterized by constant modernization in all relevant fields: Product, distribution, marketing, logistics. His company advanced from Halle in Westphalia to a global player. Early, much earlier than others, it has introduced modern structures for verticalisation of processes – and among the competing companies now benefits from this edge. Gerry Weber International AG is the most successful and most dynamic provider for ladies' outerwear of recent past in Germany.

The idea, to develop a showroom complex of international appeal at the fair venue Düsseldorf has revolutionized communication and order activity between industry and trade. Halle 29 today is the magnet at the site. The new Halle 30 is about to being completed. Likewise with that Gerhard Weber has pointed the way.

The almost 70-year old entrepreneur is an unfatiguing creator and developer – even outside the sector. The Gerry Weber arena in Halle is setting for internationally noticed major events in sports, culture and music. From here, the name of the initiator echoes out into the world.“

In addition to Gerhard Weber, the Kastner & Öhler Warenhaus AG and the Drykorn Modevertriebs GmbH&Co KG as companies have been awarded the Forum prize.

### **GERRY WEBER International AG**

In 1973, Gerhard Weber together with his partner Udo Hardieck founded the HATEX KG in the Westphalian town Halle and started with production of ladies' trousers. This company evolved into one of the best known German fashion- and lifestyle companies with more than 430 HOUSES of GERRY WEBER worldwide, over 2.000 shop areas and successful branded online shops. Today, GERRY WEBER International AG accounts for annual sales of 621.9 million Euros (business year 2009/2010) and employs over 2.700 employees all over the world. The strong fashion brands GERRY WEBER, GERRY WEBER EDITION, G.W., TAIFUN and SAMOON by GERRY WEBER represent a high level of fashion, perfect fits, excellent quality and a lively lifestyle. International trend scouting, distribution channels in over 60 countries, international partners in Spain, Hong Kong or Toronto are part of the continuing internationalisation of the successful company, admitted to the F.A.Z. index, anticipating sales of more than 700 million Euros for the current year and aiming at admittance into the MDAX.

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