

itemis is one of Germany's best employers

itemis AG honoured as a »Great Place to Work®«

Lünen/Berlin, 13 February 2009. At yesterday's award ceremony for the best employers in Germany, hosted by the »Great Place to Work®« institute in Berlin, itemis AG, an IT consulting firm and service provider focusing on model-driven software development (MDS) and embedded systems, once again ranked among the top 100 employers. It is now the second time this year that the company has been honoured for its consistent, employee-focused HR activities. The prize bears witness to itemis's particular quality and appeal as an employer and was conferred in the presence of German Labour Minister Olaf Scholz at a major awards gala in Berlin staged by the Great Place to Work® Institute in Germany.

itemis had undergone an extensive, anonymous survey of its now 130 staff on key workplace issues such as the quality of management and collaboration, professional development opportunities and job satisfaction. The activities and concepts of the company's human resources department were also analysed. In the survey, the initial questions were more general, covering the company as a whole, and then there were open-ended questions in which the company's culture was assessed.

»Great Place to Work®« places the focus of its competition on the issues of credibility, respect, fairness, pride and team orientation. Only if smooth operation in these areas is guaranteed can the corporate climate play an important role in ensuring economic efficiency. In order to operate more effectively and more successfully, relationships between managers and employees, the job and the company and its employees, as well as relationships between the employees themselves must be harmonious. itemis shows that this is possible and has received the »Great Place to Work®« seal of quality.

Management and employees are both equally delighted by the award, »especially since all our employees had an opportunity to express their opinion, so this award is an honour for the company from its employees«, explains Jens Wagener, the company's CEO.

The competition

The Great Place to Work Institute in Germany has undertaken the »Germany's best employer« benchmark study for the seventh time. A total of 257 companies with over 50 employees entered this year's competition to gauge their quality as an employer, more than in previous years. The best 100 companies are given the »Best Employer 2009« seal of quality. At the end of the assessment process, the winners were divided up into three classes based on company size. Olaf Scholz, Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, supports the competition. The »Handelsblatt« and »Personalmagazin« are the competition's media partners.

The assessment

The Great Place to Work Institute investigated workplace culture empirically, based on criteria such as credibility, respect, fairness, pride and team spirit. A total of 60 individual aspects were examined which determine the relationships between employees and

managers, colleagues and the company. 56,000 employees offered their anonymous opinions and answers and rated their employers. The employees' votes accounted for two-thirds of the final score. The employer's human resources department also had to undergo an extensive audit of its corporate culture. This aspect accounted for one-third of the final score.

About itemis

itemis AG is an independent IT consulting firm and service provider based in Lünen. Jens Wagener and Wolfgang Neuhaus founded itemis in 2003 and in 2007 the company name was changed to itemis AG. There are currently 8 offices located throughout Germany, as well as branches in Switzerland, France and the USA. As one of the leading businesses in model-driven software development, itemis also transfers this modern concept onto the development of embedded systems. itemis AG develops the tools required for this under an open source licence and provides them under the umbrella of the Eclipse project. As a strategic member of the Eclipse Foundation, itemis provides a team of eight developers which works on the Eclipse Modeling Project (EMP) and plays a key role in the development of the open source generator framework openArchitectureWare (oAW). Wolfgang Neuhaus, board member of itemis AG, is also board member of the foundation. itemis is involved in many research projects and is currently working on several national and international projects. As a member of various organisations, for example BITKOM, ARTEMIS and SIG-MDSD, itemis supports the exchange between experts, specialists and management. Visit www.itemis.de for more information.

For its achievements in 2007, itemis received the »TOP100« seal of quality, placing it among the top five of Germany's most innovative mid-sized businesses. In the 2008 »TOP JOB« employer ranking, itemis was ranked first in the category »employee development and prospects«, and received eighth place overall.

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