



Press Release

Investing meaningfully: Why it pays to invest in the fight against climate change

- Sustainability is becoming a decisive criterion for the success and innovative strength of companies
- With its first sustainability report, Techem commits to sustainable business development and the digitalization of the energy transition
- In addition to data protection and the reduction of CO₂ emissions, compliance and supply chains are integral parts of the company's sustainability activities

Eschborn, 28 July 2021. Climate change presents society with major challenges which need to be addressed globally with climate protection and sustainability strategies. As a logical consequence, companies today are increasingly measured by the extent to which they assume ecological, economic and social responsibility. Looking at the real estate sector, which is one of the main sources of CO₂ emissions in Germany with a share of 35 percent of energy consumption, the need for action quickly becomes clear: for a climate-neutral building stock, sustainable investments in efficient, digital technologies are required. Techem, one of the leading service providers for smart and sustainable buildings, just published its first sustainability report for the 2020 fiscal year, focusing on sustainable business development by committing itself to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Investing in the digitalization of energy transition

Techem is investing consistently and sustainably in its digital services – the investments amount to around EUR 60 million with sales of around EUR 317 million in the short fiscal year 2020 compared to around EUR 120 million with sales of around EUR 780 million in the fiscal year 2019/2020. The reporting date of the consolidated financial statements was changed to September 30th of each calendar year. This change was implemented for the first time on September 30th 2020, so that the 2020 fiscal year only counts for six months.

"We take the challenges of climate change as an opportunity, addressing them in our core business, as well as in our company," says Carsten Sürig, CFO and CPO of Techem. "Even more, we believe in innovation and digitalization as drivers of the energy transition and therefore consistently invest in smart and efficient building technology to help our clients to reduce CO₂ emissions. Part of our sustainable investment strategy is to digitalize our infrastructure via radio devices and Smart Readers, and to work with innovative start-ups such as PropTechs to identify new green and smart real estate



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solutions. Our products are already avoiding 8.7 million tons of CO₂e and up to EUR 1.8 billion in costs for heating and hot water per year."

Most of these reductions in cost and emission are currently still attributable to classic submetering, which significantly contributes to CO₂e avoidance by reducing heat consumption by up to 20 percent. The increasing digitalization of submetering and the infrastructure required for it are the basis for other services focusing on additional CO₂e avoidance, healthy living and process efficiency in real estate. Techem's core business thus contributes directly to SDG 7.3 – Increase energy efficiency.

More than climate protection: Sustainability starts with data protection and compliance

As the requirements grow, so does the need for management in the area of sustainability, which needs to be understood as a cross-cutting issue that has to be anchored in companies across all areas. An integral part is the protection of customers' and tenants' data. To meet its high standards for data protection and security requirements, Techem introduced a data privacy management system in 2020 that is supervised by data protection officers. Additionally, the company intends to introduce an information security management system to cover all critical processes in all subsidiaries by 2025.

Acting with integrity is of great importance when it comes to holistic and sustainable business development. Techem's Code of Conduct demonstrates a clear commitment to communicating its understanding of values from the inside to the outside. To anchor the high compliance standards in everyday business, all employees are trained on applicable compliance requirements at least every two years. Additionally, employees have various reporting channels to inform Compliance of concerns or violations. This includes an internal whistleblowing system, which can be used anonymously.

Suppliers based in Germany to guarantee sustainable supply chain

Sustainable corporate governance does not, however, only take place at a company's own headquarters but continues in its supply chain. In total, Techem works with more than 4,200 suppliers, 98 percent of which are based in Germany. Only a small number (0,3 percent) is located in other regions outside Europe. The company holds itself responsible for compliance with labor standards, as well as social, environmental and quality standards in the direct supply chain. New strategic suppliers are audited promptly after signing the contract, while current ones are audited at least every three to four years.



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The sustainability report is based on the guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative. Techem is a member of the United Nations Global Compact and is committed to its Sustainable Development Goals. The report is available [online](#). In the future, reporting will take place annually.

More information on the sustainability report is available in the Techem podcast: "[Immobilienwirtschaft connected](#)" (in German only) with CEO Matthias Hartmann.

About Techem

Techem is one of the leading service providers for green and smart buildings. We provide services in the area of energy management and resource protection, as well as healthy housing and process efficiency within real estate. The company was founded in 1952 and is now present in around 20 countries with 3,750 employees, servicing nearly 12 million dwellings. Techem promotes efficiency improvements along the entire heat and water value chain within real estate. Our devices and solutions prevent around 8.7 million tons of CO₂e per year. As the market leader in remote radio reading of energy consumption in dwellings, Techem continues to drive networking and digital processes within real estate. Modern radio smoke detectors with remote inspection and services related to the improvement of drinking water quality within real estate complete the solution portfolio for the housing industry. For more information see www.techem.com

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