

Effective and seamless integration of functionalities: VNI business area builds on agile competence center

- **Newly created project management organization in the Vehicle Networking and Information (VNI) business area**
- **Agile competence center masters increasing complexity of large-scale projects and helps to better meet customer requirements**
- **Werner Köstler heads “VNI Key Projects”**

Regensburg, Germany, October 21, 2020. In a world of increasing digitalization and connected mobility, technology company Continental is setting the course for a systematic changeover to agile methods and culture to cope with rising complexity of large-scale projects. For this purpose, Continental has set up a Center of Competence for project management, so-called “VNI Key Projects”, in the Vehicle Networking and Information (VNI) business area. It combines expertise, increases the overarching knowledge transfer and increases efficiency in project management. In addition, it not only gains knowledge about best practices, but also ensures that they can be used universally. This ultimately simplifies the provision of seamless, effective and comprehensive integration of functionalities. VNI Key Projects was founded on July 1, 2020 and has since taken over five key projects from various car manufacturers. An experienced team of employees, consisting of the project managers and managers of these projects as well as other senior experts, was gradually integrated into the project organizations. Since October 1, 2020, the competence center is fully operational. Werner Köstler is heading the new organization. Ralf Lenninger has taken over his previous position as Head of Strategy and Business Development in addition to his previous duties as Head of Future Solutions at VNI.

“With the rising connectivity of vehicles and the introduction of high-performance computers into vehicle electronics, our projects are becoming increasingly larger, software-centric, complex and global. It is therefore time for a new project management organization designed to meet the challenges in the market and better meet customer requirements,” says Helmut Matschi, Head of the Vehicle Networking and Information business area and member of the Executive Board of Continental. “With Werner Köstler as head of this organization, we will be even more agile and efficient in developing our key projects, thereby raising the performance and quality of our project management to the next level. In addition, we create the basis for continuous functional enhancements throughout the entire product life cycle.”

Competence center pools project management expertise

Continental is collaborating with a variety of internal and external parties on several large and complex projects. The software proportion of such projects is growing rapidly and the responsibility for system architecture is shifting further and further from customer to supplier. In addition, project development times are becoming shorter and customer requirements are changing along the entire development phase. This makes it crucial for suppliers such as Continental to react quickly, agilely, and efficiently. In order to set the course in this environment, Continental has established the central project organization "VNI Key Projects" in the Vehicle Networking and Information business area, which is now fully operational. VNI Key Projects has a project office infrastructure and provides a pool of experts for each key project selected. In this context, the rapid and simple reuse of modules and platforms and the extensive transfer of knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices become essential. The implementation facilitates the introduction of technology in all VNI business units and masters the increasing complexity of the projects through shorter planning periods.

About Werner Köstler

As Head of the Key Projects organization, Werner Köstler reports directly to Helmut Matschi, Head of the VNI business area and member of the Executive Board of Continental AG.

Werner Köstler completed his master's degree in industrial electronics at TU Vienna (Vienna University of Technology) and also earned an EMBA from Insead Singapore and Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. He joined Siemens VDO in 1993. His professional positions included managing the Chassis Electronic NAFTA and Body & Security units for tier-1 customers and heading the Body & Security and Interior business units in Asia.

Continental develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and connected mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent, and affordable solutions for vehicles, machines, traffic and transportation. In 2019, Continental generated sales of €44.5 billion and currently employs more than 232,000 people in 59 countries and markets.

Connect, inform, integrate: Along these strategic pillars the business area Vehicle Networking and Information (VNI) develops building blocks and end-to-end systems for the networked mobility: hardware, software and services. With solutions for connectivity, human-machine interaction, systems integration and high-performance computing for passenger cars, commercial vehicles and fleets, VNI enables proper networking and a seamless information flow.

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Images and captions



Headed by Werner Köstler, the newly created, agile competence center for project management "VNI Key Projects" in Continental's Vehicle Networking and Information (VNI) business segment is mastering the increasing complexity of large-scale projects and helping to meet customer requirements even better.

Continental_PP_Werner Köstler