

PRESS RELEASE

Setting a new standard in the construction sector: GROPYUS enters collaboration with automation specialist KUKA

- Proptech GROPYUS and automation specialist KUKA announce their collaboration to install a fully automated and digitally managed production facility at the Richen site near Heilbronn, Germany
- This comprises an investment in the mid-double-digit million-euro range
- This will expand GROPYUS's production capacity to approximately 3,500 apartments per year by the end of 2024

Berlin, Vienna, and Augsburg, 27 September 2023 – GROPYUS, a German-Austrian proptech specialised in sustainable and modular construction, and KUKA, a world-leading provider of intelligent automation solutions, have today announced their collaboration to expand the production and manufacturing facility at GROPYUS's Richen site. The core focus of this investment is making the factory a highly automated and fully digitally integrated manufacturing site.

KUKA is supplying a flexible, turnkey system for this purpose and integrating 45 robots and 12 AGVs (automated guided vehicles). The Augsburg-based company combines in-depth process know-how from automated modular residential construction with many years of expertise from projects in the automotive industry. GROPYUS is responsible for managing the entire facility and is implementing a task-based production management system. With this investment, the proptech plans to fully digitize its production and increase its capacity to over 240,000 sqm gross floor area, which corresponds to more than 3,500 apartments. Full production capacity should be realised by the end of 2024, by which time 100 new highly skilled jobs will have been created at the Richen site.

Modular construction accelerates residential construction

With 86% automation, GROPYUS will be able to manufacture a wall element in 17 minutes – thanks to this new production line. A ceiling element will be ready in just 16 minutes. Markus Fuhrmann, CEO of GROPYUS, says: "Going by current calculations, we can expect a shortfall of around 900,000 to one million apartments in Germany by 2025. In combination with digitized processes, modular construction can significantly accelerate the building of new homes while reducing costs. This collaboration with our experienced automation partner, KUKA, means we will be able to massively expand our production capacity by the end of next year – enabling us to manufacture an affordable, marketable, and sustainable product on an industrial scale."

"As automation specialists, we've been driving an unprecedented evolution in the construction sector for many years. We've already been able to apply our specially developed applications and considerable process expertise outside of Europe. Being a global group headquartered in Augsburg, it's all the more meaningful for us to now be working with GROPYUS in Germany to create a shining example for the whole of Europe. This project is setting new standards in flexibility and sustainability in automated, modular construction," says Gerald Mies, CEO at KUKA Systems.

A solution to transform the construction sector

In light of the broader necessity for revolutionary change in the construction sector, GROPYUS is sending an industry-wide signal with this investment: bespoke, sustainable buildings are now possible with competitive pricing and can even be implemented on a large scale. This is an important step toward making the construction sector more environmentally friendly and creating affordable housing. The investment in the Richen site also bolsters Baden-Württemberg's status as a location where economic development and sustainability are being brought to the fore.

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Additional resources

- More images for editorial use can be found [here](#).

About GROPYUS

Gropyus is reinventing multi-family housing: founded in 2019, the PropTech develops real estate as constantly evolving, optimizable products and digitizes all aspects of the real estate lifecycle. The multi-storey wood hybrid buildings are climate positive and digitally designed as well as fully automated manufactured. Highest standards in design, production and construction operations ensure top quality, create cost and planning security for project developers and reduce construction times by up to 50 percent. In cooperation with established players such as Vonovia, Gropyus is paving the way for a sustainable, digital future for the real estate industry. Around 375 employees work at the sites in Vienna, Berlin, Steinhaus, Richen, Dornbirn and Ruggell. Gropyus was founded by Markus Fuhrmann (co-founder of the publicly listed food delivery service Lieferheld/Delivery Hero), Philipp Erler and Bernd Oswald, among others.

For its innovative strength, Gropyus has already received the "PropTech of the Year Award" from the industry association ZIA (Zentraler Immobilien Ausschuss e.V.) as well as the Ernst & Young "Scale-up Award" in the categories PropTech and Real Estate.

Further information: <https://www.gropyus.com/>.

About KUKA

KUKA is a global automation corporation with sales of around 4 billion euro and around 15,000 employees. The company is headquartered in Augsburg, Germany. As one of the world's leading suppliers of intelligent automation solutions, KUKA offers customers everything they need from a single source. From robots and cells to fully automated systems and their connectivity in markets such as automotive with a focus on e-mobility & battery, electronics, metal & plastic, consumer goods, e-commerce, retail and healthcare.

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