********Phoenix Contact started 2017 dynamically: growth in all areas**

“In 2016, Phoenix Contact could generate a sales growth of 3.2 percent. Compared to the industry, surely not bad. However, our planned target of six percent could not be achieved also due to exchange rate effects,” CEO Chairman of the Executive Board, Frank Stührenberg, explained Phoenix Contact´s economic development in the last year at the press conference. With it, the turnover of the Company Group increased to 1.977 billion euros. “In Italy, Russia and India for example, we could achieve a very positive sales growth between 12-17 percent,” Stührenberg explained the diverse market development. “Thanks to the dynamic growth in the electromobility market, the subsidiary Phoenix Contact E-Mobility even achieved a sales growth of 70 percent”. The manufacturer of industrial electronics invested 150 million euros in the development of the Company Group in 2016. 500 new employees joined the company last year.

For the current year, Phoenix Contact expects an increase in turnover of around 6.5 percent. Stührenberg is confident: “In the first quarter of 2017, we have already recorded a very good increase in sales of more than 12 percent. In 2017, we will exceed the 2 billion euros threshold”. Around 150 million euros will be invested in the national and international development by the company also this year. At the site in Milan, Italy, for example, additional sales and training capacities with approx. 6,000 m2 will be established. In India, the production and logistics capacities will be expanded with an investment of 5 million euros. At the site in Blomberg, the size of the laboratory of Phoenix Testlab, the test lab and certification institute for technical products will be doubled to 4,000 m2. Also shares in companies are increasingly included in the investments. At the beginning of April, the company took over Mauell Netzleittechnik GmbH from Velbert to 100 percent. With the integration of the automation specialist in energy networks in the Company Group, Phoenix Contact continues its sustainable growth strategy in the energy market. Just recently, Phoenix Contact has taken over the Taiwanese company Etherwan System Inc., a manufacturer of Ethernet communication technology in automation. Both companies have already successfully cooperated for 15 years. With it, Phoenix Contact significantly strengthens its network technology, a key technology for the digitalization. In February, the Phoenix Contact Group took a share in SmartB Energy Management GmbH, a start-up company for energy management in commercial buildings from Berlin via Phoenix Contact Innovation Ventures GmbH. Their software solution makes energy consumption transparent up to the device level.

On April 24, the Hannover Messe which is seen as a trend indicator of the economy will start. This year, the partner country will be Poland. “Our production site there has become the largest production site outside Germany and is the centre for the production of modular terminal blocks and cabling solutions,” Stührenberg explained the importance. “Our site in Nowy Tomysl is the major employer in the region.”

Phoenix Contact as solution provider for electrical engineering, electronics and automation will present its innovations and trend-setting technologies in Hanover on an exhibition area of approx. 2,500 m2. At the heart of the exhibition appearance, there are solutions for the digitalization which focus on the task fields of Industry 4.0 such as easy operation, secure communication, adjustability or a seamless digital description of the products. With the open control platform PLCnext which is focused in the presentation in Hanover, Phoenix Contact initiates a paradigm shift towards open source-based control solutions for Industry 4.0. “Traditionally, the Hannover Messe is the most important trade fair for us,” Stührenberg confirms. “This year, we will present more than 100 innovations and welcome visiting delegations from 50 countries with more than 1,200 visitors”.