

Looking back on the 2013 "flood of the century": BFFT workforce helps flood victims with a unique fundraising event

A year ago, large areas of Europe were devastated by the "flood of the century". The employees of vehicle technology developer BFFT stepped in to help with a unique fundraising event, in which they donated overtime worth 10,000 euros. A year after this natural disaster, it's time to take a look at how the funds raised at BFFT helped those affected.

Ingolstadt (June, 27 2014) – After the catastrophic flooding in 2013, BFFT spontaneously came up with the idea of a special fundraiser: all BFFT employees could voluntarily donate one hour of overtime. Out of a total of roughly 700 employees at several national and international locations, approximately 60% participated. The donated overtime hours were monetised in compliance with tax issues and then rounded up by the management. A total of 10,000 EUR was raised to support two projects:

A special vehicle for the BRK

A donation of 5,000 euros went to the Bavarian Red Cross (BRK), towards an all-terrain emergency vehicle. Together with a further donation, this enabled the BRK to order a VW Amarok, which can be used in a depth of up to half a metre of water, thus allowing the rescue team to take supplies to the affected areas and evacuate the local people when the streets are flooded. The vehicle will be used particularly in Lower Bavaria, where BFFT is represented by an office in Regensburg. "After the flooding, our emergency operations coordinators realised that vehicles like these would have been extremely useful, so we are very happy that BFFT's support has helped us to become better prepared for future disasters", said Dieter Hauenstein, deputy head of the BRK's local emergency operations.

Reconstruction of the children's daycare centre in Dresden

In cooperation with "Aktion Deutschland Hilft" (German relief campaign), BFFT donated the remaining 5,000 euros to the "Wiesenfrösche" children's daycare centre in Dresden. In June 2013, two mudslides streamed down over the centre's outdoor facilities. Fortunately, it was possible to keep the mud away from the freshly part-renovated building with sandbags, but afterwards, the entire surface of the outdoor area had to be cleared away, and the children's play facilities rebuilt. The donation from BFFT was used to renovate the outdoor staircase. Thus BFFT employees, many of whom with their own families, were able to help enable the children to play outside again this summer.

CEO Markus Fichtner sees this social commitment from employees as a confirmation of BFFT corporate culture: "Motivation and social responsibility go hand-in-hand, both in engineering and in the social environment."

About BFFT

The *BFFT Gesellschaft für Fahrzeugtechnik mbH* is a vehicle technology developer focussing on electronics (BFFT= Behr Fichtner Fahrzeugtechnik). Established in 1998, the company has enjoyed continual growth and currently employs about 700 staff at its headquarters in Gaimersheim near Ingolstadt (Bavaria) and in other offices in Germany, China, England, Italy, Hungary and the USA. The range of products and services focussing on electronics extends from initial concepts, prototype and series-ready system developments to assuring and safeguarding these systems. Examples for development areas are infotainment, energy and driver assistance systems as well as connectivity. For the past few years, BFFT has also been involved in transferring automotive technologies to the aviation industry. Contractors and partners are international automotive and aviation industry companies and their suppliers.

Further information on BFFT can be found on the website www.bfft.de or gladly provided upon request from the following contact details.

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Images

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We sent you all images as attachment to this press release via e-mail. If needed, the picture files can be provided at higher resolution.

Image 1



Symbolic cheque presentation with Dieter Hauenstein (centre), BRK's deputy head of local emergency operations, and BFFT directors Michael Mittag (left) and Markus Fichtner (right).

(Source: BFFT)

Image 2



The new BRK emergency vehicle will look similar to this converted VW Amarok of the German Red Cross (DRK).

(Source: DRK-Kreisverband Fulda)

Image 3



In June 2013, the outdoor facilities of the "Wiesenfrösche" children's daycare centre in Dresden were destroyed by two mudslides.

(Source: BFFT)

Image 4



The BFFT donation was used to renovate the exterior staircase of the daycare centre.

(Source: BFFT)