

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

# POWER OF FASCINATION

#### **KEY FIGURES**

| OF STIHL HOLDING AG & CO. KG  |   | 2023   | 2022                                       | 2021  |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Revenue   | Million euros   | 5.270.2  | 5.495.0                                    | 5,058.3   |
| Proportion of revenue from outside Germany  |   | 90.5   | 90.2                                       | 90.1  |
| Wages and salaries, social security,  |   | 90.5   | 90.2                                       | 90.1  |
| pension contributions   | Million euros   | 1,268.8  | 1,327.7                                    | 1,125.9   |
| Employees   | December 31   | 19,805   | 20,552                                     | 20,094  |
| Capital expenditure   | Million euros   | 431.9  | 404.0                                      | 331.0   |
| Depreciation and amortization   | Million euros   | 263.1  | 199.1                                      | 182.6   |
| Balance sheet total   | Million euros   | 8,652.6  | 8,590.0                                    | 7,976.0   |
| <b>-</b>  |   | 65.9   | 61.9                                       | 68.6  |
| Equity ratio  | 70  | 03.7   | 01.7                                       | 000   |
| ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG   | /0  | 2023   | 2022                                       | 2021  |
|   | ∞<br>   |  |  |   |
| ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG   |   | 2023   | 2022                                       | 2021  |
| ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG   | Million euros   | <b>2023</b>  | <b>2022</b>                                | <b>2021</b><br>1,593.3                                    |
| ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG<br>Revenue<br>Proportion of revenue from outside Germany<br>Wages and salaries, social security,  | Million euros<br>%  | <b>2023</b>  | <b>2022</b> 1,783.1 89.7                   | <b>2021</b><br>1,593.3<br>90.5                            |
| ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG<br>Revenue<br>Proportion of revenue from outside Germany<br>Wages and salaries, social security,<br>pension contributions                                     | Million euros<br>%<br>Million euros                                 | 2023<br>1,580.0<br>88.0<br>553.8                   | <b>2022</b> 1,783.1 89.7 578.7             | <b>2021</b><br>1,593.3<br>90.5<br>527.1                   |
| ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG<br>Revenue<br>Proportion of revenue from outside Germany<br>Wages and salaries, social security,<br>pension contributions<br>Employees                        | Million euros<br>%<br>Million euros<br>December 31                  | 2023<br>1,580.0<br>88.0<br>553.8<br>6,003          | <b>2022</b> 1,783.1 89.7 578.7 5,968       | <b>2021</b><br>1,593.3<br>90.5<br>527.1<br>5,748          |
| ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG<br>Revenue<br>Proportion of revenue from outside Germany<br>Wages and salaries, social security,<br>pension contributions<br>Employees<br>Capital expenditure | Million euros<br>%<br>Million euros<br>December 31<br>Million euros | 2023<br>1,580.0<br>88.0<br>553.8<br>6,003<br>162.9 | <b>2022</b> 1,783.1 89.7 578.7 5,968 136.4 | <b>2021</b><br>1,593.3<br>90.5<br>527.1<br>5,748<br>145.9 |



MILLION EUROS REVENUE, 2023 19,805

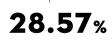
EMPLOYEES GROUP-WIDE, 2023



PERCENT EQUITY RATIO, 2023

**OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE** 

OF STIHL HOLDING AG & CO. KG



SHAREHOLDER FAMILY GROUP HANS PETER STIHL



SHAREHOLDER FAMILY GROUP **GERHILD SCHETTER** (née Stihl) 28.57%

SHAREHOLDER FAMILY GROUP **DR. RÜDIGER STIHL**  14.29%

SHAREHOLDER FAMILY GROUP EVA MAYR-STIHL

#### STIHL WORLDWIDE





The STIHL Group develops, manufactures, and distributes outdoor power equipment for forestry, agriculture, landscaping, construction, and discerning consumers. The product range is complemented by digital solutions and services. The products are sold to end users through authorized servicing dealers and through STIHL's own online shops, which are slated for international expansion in the years ahead. The STIHL Group's sales network consists of 44 sales and marketing companies, approximately 120 importers, and more than 55,000 independent, authorized dealers in over 160 countries. The Group has manufacturing operations in seven countries worldwide: Germany, the U.S., Brazil, Switzerland, Austria, China, and the Philippines. STIHL has been the world's top-selling chainsaw brand since 1971.

#### STIHL HOLDING AG & CO. KG'



STIHL-OWNED SALES AND MARKETING COMPANIES WORLD-WIDE

STIHL KETTENWERK GMBH & CO. KG

WAIBLINGEN. **BRANCH IN WIL** 

(General Partners: Hans Peter Stihl and STIHL AG)

STIHL AG ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG STIHL VERTRIEBSZENTRALE FOUNDING COMPANY | AG & CO. KG | DIEBURG WAIBLINGEN STIHL INTERNATIONAL GMBH, WAIBLINGEN COMPANIES OF STIHL INTERNATIONAL GMBH

> EUROPE Austria<sup>2</sup> | Belgium | Bulgaria | Czech Republic | Denmark | Finland | France | Germany | Greece | Hungary | Italy | Montenegro | Netherlands | Norway | Poland | Portugal | Romania | Russia | Serbia | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland<sup>2</sup> | Ukraine | United Kingdom THE AMERICAS Argentina | Brazil<sup>2</sup> | Canada | Colombia | Mexico | Peru | United States<sup>1</sup> ASIA China<sup>2</sup> | India | Japan | Malaysia **OCEANIA** Australia | New Zealand AFRICA Cameroon | Côte d'Ivoire | Kenya | Morocco | South Africa

ZAMA COMPANIES OF STIHL INTERNATIONAL GMBH

ASIA China | Hong Kong | Japan | Philippines THE AMERICAS United States

<sup>1</sup>Schematic diagram, details on page 68.

<sup>2</sup> STIHL production and sales companies.



# KEY FIGURES | THE STIHL GROUP

The Power of Fascination is immense. It's infectious, releases tremendous energy, brings people together, and lets them go beyond their limits. This Annual Report shows what it means for STIHL. The stories below are about loyal users who have put their trust in us for decades and help us to constantly improve our products. We showcase dedicated employees who refuse to accept the technical status quo as being anything more than temporary, and are always picking up on sustainable and innovative trends and thinking ahead. We also take a look at our dealers, who are the backbone of our business. They too display a palpable fascination for the STIHL brand and its products - one that is often passed down through generations.

The Power of Fascination has been the driving force behind our brand and our business for nearly 100 years, inspiring us to develop high-quality solutions that respect nature and people. JOURNAL

**ANNUAL REVIEW** 









### 

#### JOURNAL

#### **4 A BRAND YOU CAN FEEL**

The STIHL Brand World at Plant 1 in Waiblingen, Germany, is a place that provides a very unique way to engage with our business and our brand.

#### **14 A REVOLUTION IN FORESTRY**

Until now, gasoline-driven tools have been the products of choice for professionals. ForstBW is now demonstrating that battery power is gaining ground in forestry – and why.

#### 22 QUALITY MADE BY STIHL

Attention to detail has always been what sets STIHL products apart. But that alone is not enough to be successful for almost 100 years. That is why we are so committed to quality – from the idea to the finished product.

#### 30 SERVING GENERATIONS OF GARDENERS

Father-and-son duo Bruno and Thomas Discher are dealers working in Potsdam. They show that a fascination for STIHL can be passed down within a family.



READ ONLINE THE 2023 STIHL GROUP ANNUAL REPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE. FOR MORE, VISIT AR.STIHL.COM/2023



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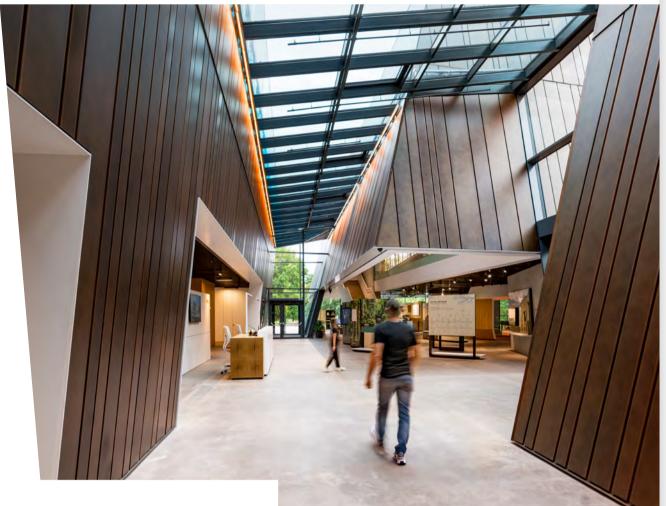
**ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS** 

# A BRAND YOU CAN FEEL

Many years of planning, project work, and construction lie behind STIHL Plant 1. The result is the STIHL Brand World, which has now opened its doors. The project was a true labor of love for many people at the company - one that has culminated in a flagship dedicated to our history, innovation, vision, guests, and employees.







#### STRIKING AND TIMELESS

The **ARCHITECTURE** of the STIHL Brand World is impressive in several respects. The complex radiates strength and power, yet fits perfectly into the setting provided by the forest and the Rems River. The **FACADE**, which is made of aluminum with a special triple coating, creates an ever-changing play of colors, depending on the light and the weather. Structurally, the entire building is supported by just one staircase and two concrete slabs, which carry the entire weight of the roof and facade and enable a very open ground floor with no columns.

**STIHL BRAND WORLD** 

tour.

LEVELS invite you to take a 90-minute

**ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS** 



# VISION

#### FROM HISTORY TO PRODUCT

The tour of the Brand World begins at the top on **LEVEL 2**, "Vision." The focus here is on Andreas Stihl's idea of bringing the saw to the tree, not the other way around. In addition to historical aspects and exhibits, the time frame stretches to the present and covers things that are relevant to STIHL right now.

One floor below, on **LEVEL 1**, STIHL showcases its technical innovations, provides an interactive insight into production, and displays a selection of products from its diverse portfolio.









#### SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND SPARKING FASCINATION

The tour through the STIHL Brand World is rounded off in style by the exhibition on the **GROUND FLOOR.** In addition to the **BRAND WORLD CAFÉ** and the large **BRAND STORE**, visitors can discover both the interactive **TIMBERSPORTS**<sup>®</sup> area and the "Forest Fascination" exhibition.

The extensive **FOREST AND FORESTRY EXHIBITION** is divided into six sections and offers a knowledge platform for all ages and areas of interest. The subjects covered include the forest ecosystem, old-growth forests, sustainable forestry, and the forest of the future. The exhibition was created in collaboration with experts from the fields of environmental science and forestry.

More than 30 short films made exclusively for the STIHL Brand World provide fascinating insights into the practice of forestry, current research projects, and many other aspects relating to "Forest Fascination."



**1,600** M<sup>2</sup> OF EXHIBITION SPACE

ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS

# »A VISION THAT HAS BECOME REALITY«

For Sarah Gewert, Executive Board Member for Marketing and Sales, the STIHL Brand World is much more than just a new building. It's a real passion project that has finally become a reality after many years of planning and construction.



#### Ms. Gewert, what do you think the Brand World means for STIHL? Does its location on the site of Plant 1 - the nucleus of the STIHL Group - have a particular significance?

SARAH GEWERT Plant 1 has had a special significance for both STIHL and the Stihl family for decades. Many groups of dealers paid us a visit at our previous small museum. However, our vision was to make it possible for guests and visitors to get a feel for the brand in its entirety.

The Brand World, which is located in the middle of an environmentally protected area, provides a home for our brand and can be experienced in all its facets and with all your senses. It's a place where we want to show our employees, authorized dealers, and the general public that STIHL is much more than chainsaws.

#### Why is it important for STIHL to invest in the brand?

GEWERT Today, customers don't just buy a product. They also want to know what's behind it. Apart from quality and innovative power, our strong points are also our point of view, the feelings people associate with us, and the purchasing experience. Especially in fiercely competitive market environments, a brand builds trust. In doing so, it guides consumers when they need to make complex purchasing decisions. STIHL has become a real "love brand."

#### Looking internally, what is the significance of the STIHL Brand World for employees?

GEWERT The Brand World is a place for all employees to see and experience the big picture, the reason why STIHL does what it does - regardless of the area they work in and how long they have been working within the Group.

#### »We are the global market leader. The Brand World is an expression of this self-confidence and pride.«

SARAH GEWERT Executive Board Member for Marketing and Sales

All employees across the STIHL Group are brand ambassadors, both internally and externally. I believe that the Brand World plays a big role in creating a sense of identity. This building brings together everything we stand for and what makes us so unique as a brand. The opportunity to experience STIHL in a much wider context than your own job or product portfolio will definitely increase people's pride in working at STIHL and further strengthen their emotional bond. It's a place we can proudly show to our families, children, parents, siblings, or friends.

#### What role does the Brand World play externally?

GEWERT A huge and very diverse one. It lets us give our colleagues from all over the world a very special experience when they are in Germany. The same applies to our authorized dealers. The Brand World is our face to the public. The teams there play their part in the Group's success and are very close to our products and our customers. The Brand World is a source of motivation and inspiration for them too.

We also want the Brand World to be a magnet for existing fans and to make new ones by opening its doors to everyone. I believe that the Brand World has the potential to become a destination in the region where people enjoy spending time and want to visit again and again.

Ultimately, we have designed the brand experience in such a way that people of any age group with different interests can take something from it. When people leave the Brand World, they will ideally have learned something and have been inspired.

Thank you for talking to us!

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# A REVOLUTION IN FORESTRY

Forst Baden-Württemberg, or ForstBW, manages 330,000 hectares of forest in the German federal state of Baden-Württemberg. Along with harvesting wood, the foresters also focus on forest maintenance, which can be a physically challenging task. However, innovative approaches are set to change that in the future. In a groundbreaking pilot project, ForstBW foresters are testing the possible uses of the latest battery-powered tools and charging infrastructure from STIHL.

Vint VV

**ANNUAL REVIEW** 







MIDDLE RHINE VALLEY DISTRICT, WEISWEIL AREA

small, rustic wooden hut lies in the middle of the Upper Rhine Plain, with red checkered curtains in its windows. Gathered around the hut are five men in work clothes with striking black and orange colors, the kind you associate with ForstBW, the state forestry service of Baden-Württemberg. Next to the foresters is an open van loaded with a generous selection of orange-colored STIHL batteries, tools, and charging management solutions, which comprise the mobile charging infrastructure for the battery-powered devices.

"We can plug the van into the socket in our workshop. That way, we can charge the batteries overnight," says one of the men. His name is Lothar Ziser, and he belongs to a group of foresters involved in a pilot project by ForstBW and STIHL. Since May, he and his colleagues have been testing how well STIHL's charging infrastructure and battery-powered tools work in professional forestry.

#### **PROFESSIONALS DISCUSS NEEDS**

The initial talks between STIHL and ForstBW began in November 2022. "We discussed the technical requirements for forestry work and how they can best be met with battery-powered technologies rather than gasolinedriven tools," says Konrad Leicht, project manager at ForstBW. "STIHL and ForstBW worked together to select



»We used to do everything with gasoline-powered tools. but we're much happier with the batterypowered units.«

LOTHAR ZISER ForstBW forester



a range of STIHL battery-powered tools and charging infrastructure that draws on the familiar world of combustion engines while also bringing something new to the table."

Battery-operated tools have significant advantages over gasoline-driven ones, including less noise and fewer vibrations, something that the foresters find very positive. They are also impressed with the STIHL ADVANCE X-TREEm HT forestry harness in combination with the STIHL HTA 150 battery-powered pole pruner. The setup enables the tool to be clicked into an attached flexible strap on the harness so that the tool's weight is distributed across the body, while retaining significant freedom of movement. When it comes to protecting new growth - an area that was previously dominated by the gasolinepowered clearing saw with shredder blade the foresters appreciate the agile HLA 135 K battery-powered long-reach hedge trimmer. These aspects are now set to make working life in forestry much easier.

The forestry service cares deeply about the pilot project with STIHL. "ForstBW believes that battery technology will become the standard in





#### 330,000

**HECTARES OF FOREST** are managed by ForstBW in Baden-Württemberg.



»Our objective was to cooperate with our users to find out which advantages STIHL's battery technology can bring to their everyday work.«

MICHAEL VARGA Project Manager at STIHL



#### »The tools and procedures using battery technology already have the potential to be deployed successfully in professional forestry services.«

KONRAD LEICHT Project Manager at ForstBW

A practical solution on the go: STIHL's mobile charging infrastructure means the foresters always have the right batteries on hand.



forestry in the short to medium term," Leicht says. "The tools and the ways of working with them already have the potential to be deployed successfully in professional forestry services."

The employees were skeptical at first, he recalls. Their concern was whether they could actually handle their tasks without using gasoline. "Because STIHL's gasoline-powered tools are very good and efficient, my colleagues were concerned about replacing them with battery-operated products," Leicht says.

Another concern was that the batteries may run low quickly, meaning that work would be constantly interrupted. These reservations quickly turned out to be unfounded. "In the past, the foresters also had to keep refilling the gasoline tools," Leicht says. "Now they go to the charging station and just change the battery, which lasts quite a long time.

If the foresters spend a longer period in the forest, they always have the required spare batteries on hand in combination with the STIHL ADVANCE X-Flex hip belt as part of the modular harness system and the easily clippable battery carrying bags."

#### FIELD-TESTING BATTERY-POWERED TOOLS

The team loads the battery-powered tools they need into the van. Their next job takes them even deeper into the alluvial forest areas of the Upper Rhine Plain, where the paths become narrower and muddier. At the edge of the forest, they keep coming across all kinds of handcarved wooden figures, including giraffes, a chimney sweep, and an elephant. Suddenly, the van stops. The men get out, strap on black and orange STIHL harness systems, put on their headsets, and equip themselves with tools such as battery-operated saws, brushcutters, and pruners, some of which are three meters long. "We wear the headsets for safety reasons so that we can communicate with each other at a distance in the forest and warn each other of dangers," Ziser says.

The men get to work. Instead of the usual buzzing of chainsaws, only a slight whirring can be heard. It's pleasantly quiet - much quieter than if typical saws with combustion engines were being used. "We used to do everything with gasoline-powered tools, but we're much happier with the batteryoperated ones. Among other things, they're lighter and their performance is great too," Ziser says enthusiastically.

Ziser begins working on a set of young beech trees. "We carry out maintenance and restoration work, plant new vegetation, start new forests, and harvest wood," he says. "The batterypowered tools are ideal for maintaining existing young trees and new trees starting to grow," says forester Alexander Dick.

But was the switch from gasoline to battery power in the professional sector really that easy? "I was skeptical at first," Dick says. "But I have to say I'm pleasantly surprised. The batteryoperated tools are very powerful and comfortable to use, especially since they're so quiet. You can hear the birds chirping and you can communicate better with your colleagues." The results so far show that battery power is actually better than combustion engines in some areas of forestry work and has a number of advantages. In addition, the usual activities performed with gasoline-powered tools can now be carried out using battery-operated ones without any interruptions and without changing work processes, with the batteries always fully charged and easily available.

#### STIHL LEARNING WITH USERS

Michael Varga is a project manager at STIHL and oversees the ForstBW project: "Our objective was to cooperate with our users to find out what benefits STIHL's battery technology can bring to their everyday work. The project has showed that it's possible to replace combustion engines with STIHL battery power in ForstBW's forestry work."

STIHL is learning a lot from the partnership, says Varga. The knowledge gained from the project



will allow STIHL to enhance products where required and adapt them to the needs of users, he adds. "The foresters know from their own experience what they need or don't need," Varga says. "Their feedback is crucial." The principle, as he describes it, is "from the user for the user."

STIHL is supporting ForstBW by visiting them, documenting findings, and recording their feedback. "All data is carefully analyzed and goes toward enhancing battery-powered products and the charging infrastructure," Varga says.

Dick takes the opportunity to make a request: "The battery-operated tools are currently still at a disadvantage when faced with thicker diameters during tasks like harvesting wood." He is hoping for a solution using electric power soon. STIHL already has this point on its agenda. "Using battery technology to harvest wood is a challenge, but it holds tremendous potential for us as well," Varga says.

#### »The batterypowered tools are ideal for maintaining existing young trees and new trees starting to grow.«

ALEXANDER DICK ForstBW forester







ForstBW manages the forest in the state of Baden-Württemberg, which covers a total area of 330,000 hectares. The total area is divided into 21 districts spread across the entire state. On average, a single district comprises between 13,000 and 17,000 hectares of forest, with around 20 to 40 foresters being employed in a forest district. **ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS** 



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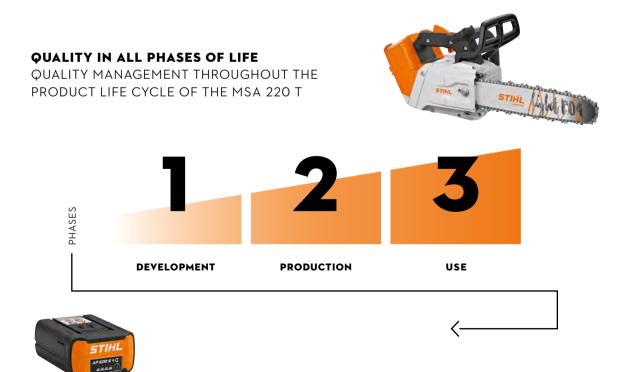
# QUALITY MADE BY STIHL

STIHL applies its high quality standards to every phase of a product's life cycle – from the spark of inspiration in development and precise execution in production, right down to our service once the product is in the hands of our customers. The following pages provide an insight into STIHL's quality promise using the STIHL MSA 220 T battery-powered chainsaw as an example. he quality of STIHL products is not confined to a single moment in time. Instead, it represents a continuous process that extends over all phases of our products' lives. Three phases in particular have an impact on the durability and quality of our products: development, production, and use.

STIHL products undergo continuous quality assurance over all phases of their life cycle, demonstrating that quality is a fundamental commitment at STIHL.

The STIHL MSA 220 T, which is used with batteries from the AP series, is part of the product segment for professional users. Thanks to its high cutting performance, the battery-operated saw is designed to efficiently handle demanding jobs carried out by gardening and landscape maintenance professionals, as well as by tradespeople. The precise development and manufacture of each individual part, along with the after-sales service provided by authorized dealers, ensure that the MSA 220 T meets all stringent quality standards and guarantees maximum durability and reliability.

For STIHL, the quality of our products is more than a promise. It is an enduring commitment that is woven into every phase of the product life cycle, enabling us to continue writing the STIHL success story day after day, product after product, based on our concept of quality. The pages below take a closer look at this concept by examining the above-mentioned phases in a product's life, using the STIHL MSA 220 T battery-powered chainsaw as an example.



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The rain test demonstrates the robustness of the battery pack when used in wet weather.

## Q

»We carry out a large number of tests during the development process to ensure the performance, safety, and robustness of our products.«

DR. DANIEL SAUERTEIG System Development



#### **DEVELOPMENT** CONSTANT SCRUTINY

The development phase of our products, such as the STIHL MSA 220 T or the AP 500 S battery pack, is a cornerstone of our product quality. It is driven by the research work and innovative spirit of our employees, who meet the highest quality standards in the process. As part of this process, every innovation is put through its paces.

This is done by planning intensive trial and test phases for each product. Apart from trials in a real-world environment, such as sawing jobs, products undergo numerous other tests – like battery packs from the AP series being cooled down to their minimum operating temperature in a freezer to ensure that the system works even at the lowest of temperatures.

Tests like this during the development phase ensure that our products can be improved incrementally and honed for mass production. In doing so, STIHL ensures that every product meets the needs and demands of our customers at market launch.



#### **PRODUCTION** CLEANLINESS IS KEY

The quality of our products takes concrete shape during the production phase. At all international production facilities within the STIHL manufacturing network, qualified employees turn the ideas from the development phase into reality. Every component is made with the utmost precision. Modern production techniques and stringent quality tests ensure that every part of the STIHL MSA 220 T and all other products meet our quality standards.

A crucial aspect to quality during this phase is industrial cleanliness, i.e. the cleanliness requirements for products and production environments. This ensures that our tools and their components are clean according to defined standards and remain so during the production process, which in turn guarantees reliable operation for users.

Industrial cleanliness is also of the utmost importance on our battery assembly line, where the batteries from the AP series for the STIHL MSA 220 T are manufactured. To check environmental cleanliness there, devices known as particle traps are laid out and then analyzed in a clean room. The analysis includes the size, number, and type of the particles. The findings can be used to ensure environmental cleanliness on the battery assembly line.

#### WHAT IS A CLEAN ROOM?

A clean room is a physically separated area in which the air purity – measured as the number of particles per cubic meter – is maintained according to defined standards and is therefore not affected by environmental factors. In the clean room at the STIHL founding company (Plant 1), particle analysis is carried out to monitor production and as part of special measurements.



Framed particle filter from the clean room with separated particles







»Monitoring environmental cleanliness on the battery assembly line using particle traps makes a major and important contribution to ensuring the highest quality in our battery products.«

DR. BENJAMIN SCHWARZ Quality Management »We start analyzing all service aspects in the development process using preproduction samples. This enables us to think about the service associated with our products even before our customers get hold of them.«

MARTIN BAUM Senior Technical Service Manager



#### **USE** SERVICE CREATES LONGEVITY

3

The use phase is the moment of truth. The STIHL MSA 220 T and its AP series battery packs have to prove themselves on the job. It's not just about sheer performance. Durability and resilience under a wide range of conditions are also important. Thanks to the more than 55,000 authorized STIHL servicing dealers worldwide, we also provide after-sales support to our customers consisting of advice, training, and repair offerings.

However, our service spirit starts much earlier. All service aspects, from maintenance to spare parts, are already considered during the development process. This leads to a design that is as service and customerfriendly as possible, allowing users of the STIHL MSA 220 T to clean the air filter, replace the hinged carrying ring themselves, and so on.

Continuous analysis of end customer satisfaction and serviceability shows that our quality promise does not end with market launch. Instead, it reflects an ongoing process that is responsible for the ongoing optimization of product quality and the resulting customer satisfaction.

 $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$ 

#### 4.5 OUT OF 5

**STARS** was the average rating of machine products in the STIHL online store in 2023. STIHL analyzes the ratings at product level and responds to corresponding trends by analyzing root causes and taking measures to improve the quality of its products.

# **QUALITY FACTS**

| <b>///</b>   |            | <b>///</b>  | <b>///</b> ] | <b>///</b>  |  |  |  |
|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--|--|--|
|              |            | <b>///</b>  |              | <b>///</b>  |  |  |  |
|              | SEV        | ERA         | L            |             |  |  |  |
|              | HUNDRED    |             |              |             |  |  |  |
| <i>   </i>   | BATTERY    |             |              |             |  |  |  |
|              | PROTOTYPES |             |              |             |  |  |  |
|              | m ARE      |             |              |             |  |  |  |
| ASSEMBLED    |            |             |              |             |  |  |  |
|              | FOR TEST   |             |              |             |  |  |  |
| <i>III</i> ) | DURPOSES.  |             |              |             |  |  |  |
|              |            | <b>//</b> / | <b>///</b>   | <b>//</b> / |  |  |  |
| <i>   </i>   |            | <b>///</b>  |              | <b>///</b>  |  |  |  |
| <i>III</i>   |            | <b>//</b> / | <b>///</b>   | <b>//</b> / |  |  |  |
|              |            |             |              | <b>///</b>  |  |  |  |
| <i>III</i> : |            | <b>//</b> / | <b>///</b>   | <b>//</b> / |  |  |  |
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#### PARTICLE TRAPS

are analyzed using an optical microscope, with 256 individual highresolution images being shot automatically.



is the typical time span for a **PARTICLE TRAP.** 

50+

necessary to check all the requirements for a STIHL battery pack.

# SERVING GENERATIONS OF GARDENERS

If you're a keen gardener in Potsdam, you will most likely know the fatherand-son duo Bruno and Thomas Discher. Since 1979, the name Discher has been synonymous with garden equipment, quality, and service. Together with STIHL, the independent dealer has not only developed substantially in the past, it's also ideally positioned for the future.

ischer Gartentechnik OHG is based on Fritz-Zubeil-Strasse in the Babelsberg district of Potsdam, in a white building with a pitched roof and large window fronts. Even

The garage workshop survived the winter, though, and turned into a success story. Over the years, the business grew steadily, and customers not only flocked from the region but

from a distance, the flag bearing the unmistakable orangeand-white logo catches the eve. In the store. the one thing you notice is that STIHL is everywhere. The sales floor is home to a wide variety of products, from ride-on mowers and work cloth-



came from much further afield. "We even had customers from central and northern parts of the country," Discher recalls. Their order book filled to such a degree that they sometimes had up to 100 lawn mowers waiting to be ser-

ing to robotic mowers and much more. The walls are adorned with vintage-style metal pictures of STIHL saws, certificates, photos of employees, and trophies. Tradition and family come first here. viced. "We didn't become dealers until the Berlin Wall came down. There was nothing to sell, so we just repaired things," he says.

#### ICY START IN EAST GERMANY

The story of the Discher family begins in 1979 in the former East Germany. Bruno Discher, now 81, plucked up the courage back then to start his own lawn mower repair workshop in Potsdam. It quickly turned out to be a real gamble, because that was the year a catastrophic winter swept over the country, with meter-high blankets of snow everywhere. Intermittently, the entire power supply went down in East Germany. "I sat in my workshop and wondered whether it was really a good idea to start my own business right then," Discher says. "Who wants to have their lawn mower repaired when everything is covered in snow?"

#### FALL OF BERLIN WALL OPENS UP NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The reunification of Germany brought big changes, with an abundance of goods suddenly appearing. Discher decided to expand his business from just repairing lawn mowers to selling garden equipment as well, adding more rooms to his garage. In addition to the sales area, today's store has a state-of-the-art workshop in which ride-on mowers, chainsaws, and robotic mowers are repaired.

The partnership with STIHL began in 1992, when a STIHL representative presented the new chainsaws during a visit to Potsdam. Discher was initially skeptical about the idea of selling saws. Ultimately, though, the quality of the products won him over, and he added them to his range – a decision that worked out well for him and helped his business flourish.







### HOW IT ALL BEGAN

During the catastrophic winter of 1979, Bruno Discher founds his oneman lawn mower repair business in Potsdam (then East Germany).





Founder Bruno Discher still comes into the store every day and advises his regular customers.

### 1989-1992



German reunification opens up new opportunities for Discher, who decides to start selling garden equipment, including STIHL saws.

### 2011



Bruno Discher's son Thomas decides to take over the reins of the growing family business. The fatherand-son duo ultimately move into larger premises.

ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS





The state-of-the-art workshop repairs equipment such as ride-on mowers and iMOWs.

# »I still come into the store every day. The work gives me energy.«





Peter Romanek has been with the Dischers since 1984. A mechanic by training, he is also a true STIHL enthusiast. The 65-yearold proudly presents one of his 30 STIHL saws.

The Discher team (from left to right): Nancy Peske, Lars Sieber, Bruno Discher, Matthias Hoffmann, Jörg Slawinski, Michael Zeidler, Kathrin Lautsch, Rolf Rothe, Peter Romanek, Thomas Discher. Front row: Sebastian Buchs.



**ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS** 

Bruno Discher's son Thomas started occasionally helping out in the store in the late 1990s. As retirement age was looming for Discher Senior, he asked Thomas if he would like to take the reins. "I was still very young, but I knew that I wanted to continue the family business," Thomas says.

#### **DISCHER AND STIHL - A STROKE OF LUCK**

In the mid-2000s, father and son decided to look for larger premises and to become business partners. They founded a general partnership, with Thomas being responsible for operations from then on. Although he has handed over the reins, Bruno can't let go completely. He still comes into the store every day, looks after regular customers, and provides his son Thomas with sage advice. At the same time, STIHL has continued to develop its network of dealers in Germany. Those who became dealers were able to "fit out their stores perfectly and showcase high-end machines professionally," Thomas Discher explains.

The partnership proved to be a stroke of luck for the Dischers. STIHL not only supported them with sales tools for their store, but also became a strategic partner. "We got a lot of personal attention," Discher says, full of praise. "We were given training and met suppliers, sales staff, and even members of the Stihl family." STIHL offers Thomas Discher additional training to gain an



**YEARS** is how long Discher OHG has now been operating. The company has overcome a number of hurdles and is now one of the best places to go for garden equipment in Potsdam.

even deeper insight into the products. "We received personal insights into the different trades and even traveled to the U.S. for a factory tour," the business owner recollects. "Those were very unique experiences."

# »STIHL is a reliable partner and supplier and gives us valuable support.«

THOMAS DISCHER

#### WELL POSITIONED FOR THE FUTURE

Today, Discher OHG bears little resemblance to its beginnings as a one-man business. The company now employs ten people, and father Bruno is still on the sales floor every day. Working in the store gives him energy, and he simply can't imagine retiring just yet. The same is true of the staff. Peter Romanek has been working in the workshop as a mechanic since 1984. Despite officially having been retired for a year, he still helps out for a couple of hours a week. "Peter knows our large customer base, as he has essentially been there from the beginning," Discher says. "Many people know and trust him and value his decades of experience." Romanek is also a passionate STIHL enthusiast. "I collect old STIHL saws and repair them," he says. The 65-year-old now owns over 30 STIHL chainsaws.

Although the Dischers sell other garden equipment, STIHL remains their biggest supplier by far. "STIHL is clearly in at the top when it comes to quality. They care deeply about what they produce," Thomas says. "STIHL is a reliable partner and supplier, and gives us valuable support. With that in mind, we are very confident about the future."

#### LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

### Dear Business Partners, Dear Staff, Dear Friends of the STIHL Group,

2023 was another difficult year. The ongoing war in Ukraine and the new war in the Middle East caused uncertainty among policymakers both in Germany and around the world. The aftermath of the pandemic also brought increased inflation, sustained pressure in supply chains, and high energy prices. Meanwhile, extreme weather events and forest fires on all continents dominated the headlines.

These global events also had an impact on the STIHL Group, with revenue down over the previous year. We took robust countermeasures to ensure the longterm stability and competitiveness of the Group, allowing us to keep the decline in revenue within narrow limits and lay the foundations for a more successful 2024. When compared directly with its competitors, STIHL has actually held up well, which makes me optimistic.

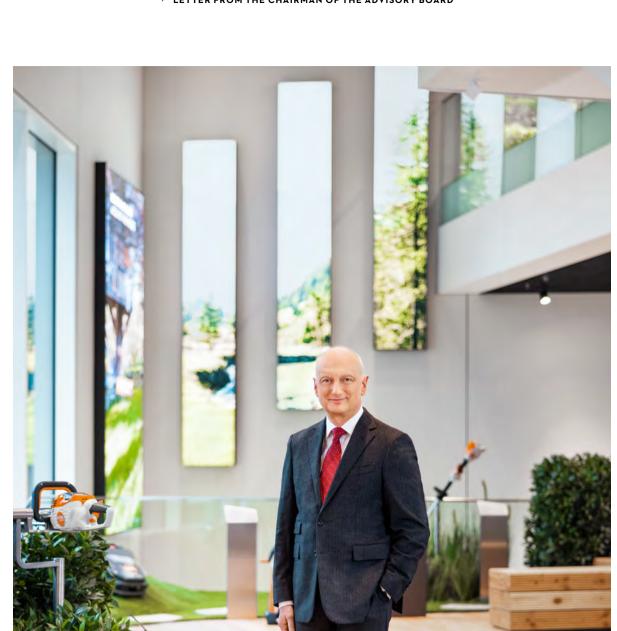
In this time of upheaval and uncertainty, I would like to express my gratitude to employees across the STIHL Group. Your extraordinary commitment and tireless efforts have enabled us to overcome the challenges of the past year. You have once again demonstrated flexibility and shown great personal dedication to our business.

The tasks ahead of us will not get any easier. However, I firmly believe that we can set the course for a successful future by joining forces and following a clear strategic direction.

On behalf of the Advisory Board, I would also like to thank all our partners, the Supervisory Board, the Executive Board, and the employee representatives for their positive and constructive cooperation.

**DR. NIKOLAS STIHL** Chairman of the Advisory Board

ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS





### EXECUTIVE BOARD OF STIHL AG<sup>\*</sup>

\* STIHL AG is the managing partner of STIHL Holding AG & Co. KG and ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG

**INGRID JÄGERING** Finance DR. MICHAEL PROCHASKA Human Resources and Legal Affairs

**MICHAEL TRAUB** Chairman of the Executive Board

SARAH GEWERT Marketing and Sales MARTIN SCHWARZ Manufacturing and Materials **ANKE KLEINSCHMIT** Development

#### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Dear Business Partners, Dear Staff, Dear Friends of the STIHL Group,

2023 was tough for us all. After leaving the challenges of the pandemic behind us, we faced an overall economic situation that remained uncertain due to high inflation, weak business activity, and the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. Despite difficult conditions, the STIHL Group recorded revenue of over 5.3 billion euros. This figure is 4.1 percent lower than the previous year's total and fell short of our expectations as a result.

However, after years of significant growth, the entire outdoor power equipment industry is currently in a phase of temporary consolidation, leading to a fall in global production, including at the STIHL Group, and prompting STIHL and our authorized dealers to make adjustments to inventories.

The transformation of our business continues unabated, irrespective of economic and global political events. We are seeing that the transition from gasoline-powered to battery-operated products is progressing faster than we predicted. This requires maximum levels of agility and execution on our part. At the same time, this trend confirms that we are on the right track with our battery strategy and our long-term thinking and actions. Over the next two years, we will be launching 30 new battery-operated products STIHL ANNUAL REPORT 2023 -> ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS -> **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD** 

on the global market. We are also making targeted investments in the development of new product platforms and services to expand STIHL's leading position worldwide in the long term. One example: In 2024 alone, we will invest 17 million euros in the construction of a dedicated production facility for EC motors at the site of our founding company in Waiblingen.

The Stihl family's long-term perspective and its confidence in the Executive Board and the entire team are the basis for this success. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to employees across the STIHL Group, who mastered the difficult conditions in a great spirit of unity across all locations. My thanks also go out to the Executive Board and the members of the Employee Council for our positive and constructive working relationship.

hubs

MICHAEL TRAUB Chairman of the Executive Board of STIHL AG

# ANNUAL REVIEW

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# MANAGEMENT REPORT -THE STIHL GROUP

The STIHL Group posted revenue of 5.3 billion euros in the past fiscal year, a fall of 4.1 percent over 2022. Negative currency effects and a significant decline in sales were the main reasons for this fall. At 432 million euros, capital expenditure was noticeably higher than in 2022, and was focused primarily on the worldwide production companies.

#### **REVENUE REACHES 5.3 BILLION EUROS**

In fiscal year 2023, the STIHL Group generated consolidated revenue of 5,270 million euros. This equates to a decline of 4.1 percent over the previous year (2022: +8.6 percent).

The proportion of revenue generated outside Germany was 90.5 percent, compared with 90.2 percent in the previous year. A total of 28.3 percent of total revenue was generated in the eurozone, with 36.0 percent in the European Union overall.

Currency exchange had a negative effect, at 3.0 percent. Calculated at the average exchange rates of 2022, revenue would have decreased by 1.1 percent. The euro traded at an annual average of 1.08 against the U.S. dollar and was therefore slightly higher than the previous year (1.05).

#### INVESTMENT IN GERMANY AND ABROAD

In fiscal year 2023, investment (property, plant, and equipment, as well as intangible assets, excluding additions from the expansion of the consolidated Group) at the STIHL Group amounted to 431.9 million euros (2022: 404.0 million euros). Some 33.9 percent of capital expenditure was invested in the German founding company, while 66.1 percent was invested in the other companies of the Group, both in Germany and abroad. Of the total investment, 82.3 percent was made at the production companies within the STIHL Group.

Construction activity in the STIHL Group was also at a high level in 2023. For example, a total of 125.9 million euros was invested in land and buildings (2022: 86.9 million euros).



#### NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, DECEMBER 31, 2023 - STIHL GROUP

As in previous years, investments focused mainly on production and logistics facilities at the production companies. STIHL invested in a new hydraulic press at its German site, and the new STIHL Brand World was also opened. Outside Germany, investments included 14.6 million euros in a new ZAMA production building in the Philippines.

#### SATISFACTORY EARNINGS

From a Group perspective, the earnings situation was satisfactory in 2023.

#### STRONG FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

The Group's capital structure remains positive. The equity ratio at the end of the 2023 reporting period amounted to 65.9 percent (2022: 61.9 percent). Equity therefore covers all noncurrent assets and inventories, as well as a part of the receivables and other assets.

Liquidity remains at a high level. In general, the Group's capital expenditures are funded without the need for borrowing.

# MANAGEMENT REPORT – THE STIHL FOUNDING COMPANY

Once again, 2023 proved to be a challenging year for STIHL in a variety of ways. The economic environment continues to be dominated by uncertainty, high energy prices, inflation, and weak activity. In addition, after years of strong growth, the markets are in a phase of temporary consolidation. As a result, the STIHL founding company in Germany recorded a fall in revenue of 11.4 percent due to these almost unprecedented conditions. In contrast, the investment volume increased to 162.9 million euros and the equity ratio to 40.3 percent.

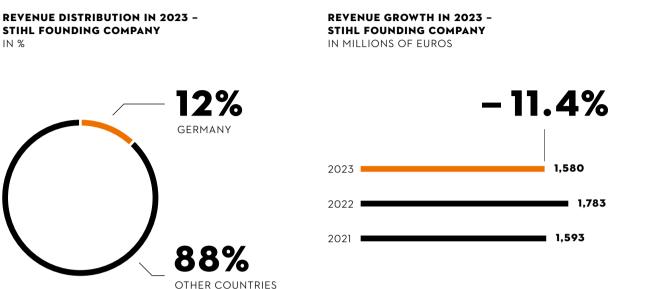
# REVENUE OF 1.6 BILLION EUROS AT THE FOUNDING COMPANY

In fiscal year 2023, revenue at the founding company fell considerably by 11.4 percent (previous year: 11.9 percent) to stand at 1,580 million euros. The export ratio remained at a very high level of 88 percent (previous year: 89.7 percent). The largest declines in revenue were recorded in Australia/Oceania, Africa, and North America in particular.

#### **HIGH INVESTMENT**

The investment volume (property, plant, and equipment, as well as intangible assets) amounted to 162.9 million euros in the reporting year (2022: 136.4 million euros). The majority of investments were made in the ONE STIHL SAP S/4HANA project and in construction and building facility projects – mainly in the Brand World and the renovation of the office building at Plant 1 and Andreas-Stihl-Strasse 19 in Waiblingen. Further major expenditures involved investments in production facilities in Waiblingen and Weinsheim.

In addition, significant investments were made in research and development at the Waiblingen founding company and in the IT infrastructure. As in previous years, investments in 2023 exceeded depreciation.



#### STABLE EQUITY RATIO REMAINS HIGH

The equity ratio stands at 40.3 percent (previous year: 39.7 percent) and therefore remains at a very high level. This means the fixed assets and part of inventories are covered by equity. Total liquidity, including securities held as current and noncurrent assets, accounted for 15.2 percent of the balance sheet total. However, it should also be noted that these items are offset by high long-term obligations from the company pension plan.

### SELF-FINANCED PENSION OBLIGATIONS INCREASING

The actuarial reports led to an increase in pension provisions and other liabilities from outstanding capital payments of 3.0 percent overall compared to 2022 (increase in the previous year: 14.4 percent). The calculations are based on the Heubeck 2018 G mortality tables.

# CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

As they ensure the STIHL Group's sustained success and its ability to meet customer demand, investing in people, locations, machinery, and technologies continued to play a major role in 2023. Despite weaker sales in 2023, the STIHL Group is pursuing a long-term investment strategy. As a result, it continued to invest in various construction and future projects, as well as in machinery and equipment at the STIHL Group's international locations in the past fiscal year.

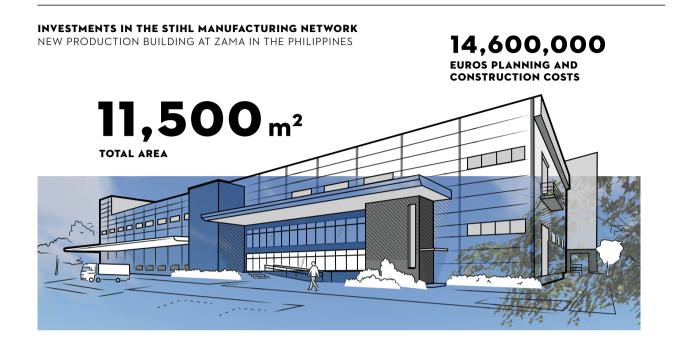
#### STIHL BRAZIL EXPANDS SALES STRUCTURE

STIHL Brazil is investing in the expansion of its sales structure with two new distribution centers in Jundiaí, located in the Southeast Region, and Benevides in the North Region. The former has been in operation since 2020, the latter since 2022. The grand opening of both locations took place in March 2023. The new distribution centers are located almost 2,800 kilometers apart, helping shorten delivery times for STIHL customers in the world's fifth-largest country, increase competitiveness in the domestic market, and further optimize the service level of logistics processes. At the STIHL production and sales company in Brazil, the aim is to make the increasingly diverse product range available to customers quickly and easily.

The distribution center in Jundiaí, in the state of São Paulo, measures 8,000 square meters and provides more than 4,800 warehouse spaces to support the 2,400 sales outlets it serves. Meanwhile, the newly opened 7,000-square-meter STIHL distribution center in Benevides has 2,500 warehouse spaces. In 2023, STIHL Brazil also became the first South American STIHL company to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

#### ZAMA DEDICATES NEW BUILDING IN THE PHILIPPINES

The STIHL Group is investing roughly 14.6 million euros in planning and construction in its global production network and in stable supply chains. Following the groundbreaking ceremony in January 2023, ZAMA's new production building in the Philippines was officially opened in early 2024. The investment in the new 11,500-square-meter building enables growth in new product segments such as cable harnesses, technical textiles, and electromechanical injection systems. It also underscores the growth strategy for the STIHL Group in southeast Asia. ZAMA is and remains an important building block for international production at STIHL. ZAMA has been part of the STIHL Group since 2008 and is the most important supplier of development services in the field of complete carburetor systems for power tools.



### STIHL GREECE NOW ALSO REPRESENTED IN CYPRUS

STIHL Greece is strengthening its presence in southern Europe with a new branch location in Cyprus. Since March 2023, the centrally located premises in the capital city Nicosia have housed sales floors, a concept store, and a workshop for inspection and servicing. Following an investment of around 140,000 euros, the new showroom and service area feature a modern and sleek design. The aim is to inspire even more dealers to offer STIHL customers a special experience in the future.

#### NEW PRESS AT THE FOUNDING COMPANY

To expand the production of stamped and deepdrawn parts, the parts center at the founding company in Waiblingen purchased a new hydraulic specialty press with a customized conveyor system. With a price tag of around three million euros, the press enables a more flexible approach to production and offers new functionality. The straightening machine was also improved, and the coil change was partially automated. The new press was put into operation in May 2023, maintaining the STIHL Group's level of vertical integration.

#### **DIGITAL PRINTING ON GUIDE BARS**

Since early 2023, the guide bar production facility in Waiblingen has been offering custom printing options for standard bars. With a total investment of around 19.8 million euros, five industrial four-color inkjet printers are gradually being put into operation in the STIHL Group. The new machines produce special "light" and "strong" bars and make rapid custom printing possible. The digital printing machines are in use at the founding company in Germany, as well as at STIHL Inc. in the U.S. and STIHL Brazil.

# PRODUCTION

The STIHL Group continued to face challenges in fiscal year 2023. With orders falling short of the heights seen in the prior year, program adjustments had to be made at all production companies across the Group. Despite the difficult conditions, the Group once again succeeded in overcoming the uncertainties that arose by taking a variety of measures. The year ushered in multiple innovations in the international manufacturing network, particularly in the battery segment, which should ensure the long-term success of the STIHL Group.

# INTERNATIONAL COURSE SET FOR THE EXPANSION OF BATTERY PRODUCTION

The STIHL Group's "Battery first" strategy has grown tremendously in importance and underscores the increasing value placed on battery-powered products. However, the market for battery-operated tools is fiercely competitive. As a result, the international STIHL manufacturing network is responding to the increased demand for battery-powered power tools and is constantly expanding the portfolio of batteryoperated products. STIHL battery-operated products are currently manufactured at the STIHL production companies in Austria, the United States, and China. Battery-operated products will also be made at the founding company in Waiblingen, Germany, from 2024 on, and at the new production facility in Oradea, Romania, starting in 2025.

#### FIRST BATTERY-POWERED PRODUCT FROM STIHL CHINA

In 2023, the production of the STIHL FSA 30 marked the start of battery-operated product manufacturing in Qingdao, China. Production lines there have been churning out the battery-powered STIHL clearing saw since October 2023. An automated bolting station was specially developed for production. The STIHL FSA 30 is an entry-level battery-powered clearing saw and is attracting huge demand from the market. Its production demonstrates the great willingness of the international STIHL manufacturing network to embrace new technology.

#### NEW ASSEMBLY LINES FOR STIHL TIROL

STIHL Tirol, the STIHL center of excellence for groundsupported outdoor power equipment, is increasing the degree of automation in production with three new assembly lines for battery-powered products. In 2023, STIHL Tirol put a new assembly line into operation for the STIHL FSA 200 battery-powered clearing saw. The entire powerhead and the control handle are produced together on a single workpiece carrier. Some of the polymer parts incorporated into the product are produced on new injection molding machines at the polymer production unit at STIHL Tirol. The STIHL BGA 250, BGA 50, and BGA 160 blowers are also made on the new assembly lines.

# U.S.: INNOVATIONS IN BATTERY AND GASOLINE POWER

STIHL Inc. is also gearing up for the market transformation in power technology. Located in Virginia Beach, USA, the North American production company of the STIHL Group has converted 7,800 square meters of its facility for the production of batteryoperated tools. Roughly 13 million U.S. dollars was invested in expanding the production of STIHL batterypowered saws, leaf blowers, pruning shears, trimmers,

and edge trimmers and launching the production of ten additional batterypowered products. STIHL Inc. also doubled AP battery pack manufacturing capacity in 2023.



**STIHL INC. EMPLOYEES** in the U.S. are involved in making battery-powered products and battery packs in Virginia Beach.

Nevertheless, STIHL Inc. is not slowing down in the gasoline sector in the North American market and is producing new gasoline-powered saws for the consumer sector. The new STIHL MS 162, MS 172, MS 182, and MS 212 models have been rolling off the assembly lines in Virginia Beach since 2023. With 1.2 to 1.8 kilowatts of power, the gasoline products cater to the entry-level segment.

#### PRODUCTION OF NEW CLEARING SAWS AT STIHL BRAZIL

Change was in the air this past year in Brazil, at the Group's largest production facility. Six new professional clearing saws manufactured at STIHL Brazil were launched in July 2023. The new STIHL FS 161, FS 221, FS 351, FS 291, FS 460, and FR 410 models represent the next step in the evolution of the STIHL FS 220, FS 160, and FR 220 clearing saws. In October 2023, production of the first STIHL electric high-pressure cleaner also started in Brazil with the assembly of the STIHL RE 100.

#### **GRAVITY-CAST PISTON PRODUCTION BEGINS**

The official start of production of gravity-cast pistons for professional chainsaws and cut-off machines made in-house marks an important milestone for the STIHL Group. The aim was to minimize the risks in the supply chains for key components while increasing vertical integration and expertise within the Group. By partnering, development and production teams have enhanced in-house expertise for gravity-cast pistons. Inspired by its mission to achieve and maintain dual technological leadership, the STIHL Group is focused on ensuring its future capabilities in all core components of combustion engines for professional users. The start of in-house production of gravity-cast pistons laid another solid foundation for this ambition in the past fiscal year.

#### **NEW ACCESSORIES FOR THE STIHL GTA 26**

In June 2023, STIHL Plant 3 in Wiechs am Randen started producing an ergonomic shaft extension for the best-selling GTA 26. The extension makes the battery-operated product even more versatile. Since its market launch in 2019, the garden pruner has been a real success story that continues to this day. To manufacture the new accessory, production and development collaborated on developing a highly automated production concept and nine standard tools, as well as a production cell with automatic handle tube assembly and labeling. Along with a shaft extension of 150 centimeters, the new accessory's strengths include its low weight and versatility in use.

#### ERGONOMICS AND REACH

THE ERGONOMIC SHAFT EXTENSION FOR THE STIHL GTA 26



#### PRODUCTION IN WIECHS AM RANDEN STIHL Plant 3 on the Swiss border has been producing the shaft extension for the STIHL GTA 26 since June 2023.

# **150** см

MORE REACH is what the new accessory for the STIHL GTA 26 offers.

#### ERGONOMIC AT ANY ANGLE

Quickly switching between tasks close to the ground and at heights is now possible at any time. In both cases, the battery is always in the tool. A curve in the extension means that the garden pruner leans into the shaft, preventing the tool from tipping forward and falling during use.





**KILOGRAMS** is all the extension weighs, making it easy to work with.

#### A GOOD GRIP ON EVERYTHING

The design of the softgrip handle and the long handle tube ensure good handling.

# DEVELOPMENT

Change has always been part of STIHL's DNA – and part of the Group's nearly 100-year success story. Our aim is to always be a few steps ahead technologically, especially in product development. In the pursuit of dual technological leadership, the global focus of development is primarily on innovative and powerful battery-operated products. Along with the electric transformation and the advancement of gasolinepowered tools, development at STIHL made progress on robotics, artificial intelligence, digitalization, and connectivity in 2023.

### SHORTER INNOVATION CYCLES FOR BATTERY-POWERED PRODUCTS

STIHL used to be active in a market with few competitors and gasoline power as the main technology. However, market conditions have changed dramatically. Today, the Group is confronted with many new providers, which has prompted it to adapt its approach to development accordingly. Shorter innovation cycles significantly accelerate the development timeline for new products, particularly in the battery sector. The many years of experience of our STIHL teams and our in-depth understanding of our customers' needs help us to continuously prove ourselves on the market.

#### THE FUTURE IS BATTERY-POWERED

To meet the increased market demand for batteryoperated tools, STIHL is striving for dual technological leadership. New products for both types of drives are being developed in parallel with a focus on batteries. Inspired by the current shift in technology and trends, STIHL is increasingly leveraging its capacities for the development of battery-powered drives. As a result, the past fiscal year was characterized by a series of innovations in the STIHL battery segment. Nevertheless, there are many sectors and regions in the world where gasoline-powered products offer tremendous advantages.

#### HIGH-INNOVATION PRODUCT CAMPAIGN

A total of nine new models have been added to the battery-powered brushcutter and battery-powered KombiEngine portfolio since mid-2023. The STIHL FSA 80/80R, KMA 80R, FCA 80, FSA 120/120R, and KMA 120R are now available for personal use even in larger gardens. Meanwhile, the STIHL FSA 200/200R with a bike or loop handle is designed for professional use. The STIHL FSA 80 and FSA 80R are the first brushcutters with a bike handlebar and metal tools to be available to consumers in the AK battery system. The STIHL FSA 120 and FSA 120R battery-powered brushcutters replace the existing STIHL FSA 90 and FSA 90R models in the AP system. The two products offer 40 percent more power than earlier models. The STIHL FSA 80 and STIHL FSA 120 powerheads were used to develop the STIHL KMA 80R and the STIHL KMA 120R battery-powered KombiEngines respectively. Both are compatible with the existing KombiTools. The new STIHL FCA 80 edge trimmer in the AK battery system is the latest addition to the Group's range for consumers in North America.

Thanks to its excellent performance, the STIHL FSA 200 series offers an alternative to the STIHL FS 131, FS 240, and FS 311 gasoline-powered brushcutters. The FSA 200 and FSA 200R are primarily designed for professionals due to their 45-centimeter mowing diameter, a newly developed anti-vibration system, and an air filter for longer service life. They are also compatible with the Smart Connector 2A, which enables professional fleet management.

The STIHL FSA 30, the new battery-powered trimmer in the battery-operated segment, was also launched by STIHL in the past fiscal year. It replaces the FSA 45 with interchangeable cutting tools or tool-free Polycut plastic blade changing option and is suitable for occasional use by nonprofessional gardeners. With a total weight of just 2.3 kilograms including battery, guard, and mowing head, the STIHL FSA 30 battery-powered trimmer is particularly flexible in use.

#### **POWERFUL AND QUIET**

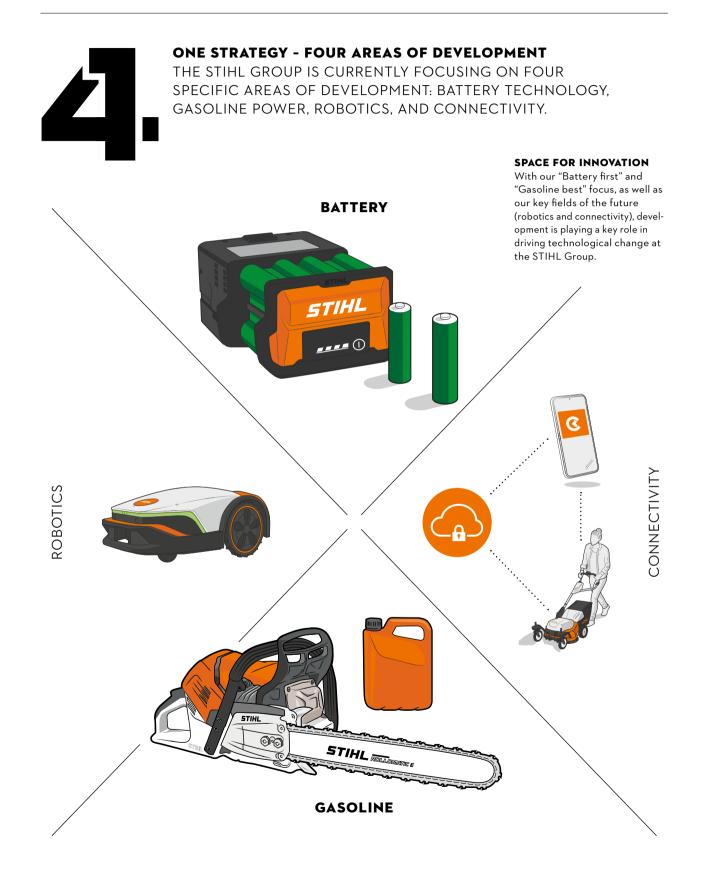
In 2023, the STIHL MSA 60 C-B and MSA 70 C-B consumer series and the MSA 160, 200, and 220 professional series were added to the STIHL battery-operated chainsaw portfolio. One clear advantage of the battery-powered saws is their lower noise emissions. The new products also stand out thanks to their versatility, ease of use, and lower weight. The new consumer-grade battery-powered saws are so quiet that hearing protection is not required in all scenarios. They also have an electronically controlled, brushless electric motor with high energy efficiency that operates virtually wear-free. The newly developed battery-powered saws can be used for a variety of applications, such as preparing firewood or pruning trees and shrubs.

#### INNOVATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN MARKET

Zero-turn mowers are a brand-new addition to the STIHL portfolio. A total of 19 model versions have been available on the U.S. market since early 2023. The mowers are a subsegment of ride-on mowers in which the speed of the driven wheels (normally the rear ones) can be set independently using a control lever on the left and right side. STIHL is breaking new ground with its zero-turn mowers, offering various models to home and professional users. The 100 and 200 series, which are divided into three models – the STIHL RZ 142, RZ 152, and RZ 261 – are available for discerning consumers. The professional range for horticulture and landscaping is also divided into different series: the 500, 700, and 900 series.

#### STILL THE LEADER IN THE GASOLINE-POWERED SECTOR

To continue to meet the diverse needs of STIHL customers, the Group is not slowing down when it comes to the development of gasoline-powered products. Instead, the Group is continuously evolving in terms of drive technology. With the new STIHL MS 162, MS 172, MS 182, and MS 212 models, STIHL continues the tradition established by the STIHL MS 170 and 180, the world's bestsellers in the consumer sector. STIHL saws offer tremendous cutting performance in this category. With 1.2 to 1.8 kW of power, they represent the entry-level segment of STIHL's gasoline-operated products. Customers also appreciate the additional model features, such as the antivibration system, air filter, and lower fuel consumption.



# HUMAN RESOURCES

Human resources within the STIHL Group took a further step in its evolution in 2023. A wide range of projects and innovative ideas, such as a cinema advertising campaign to attract new employees, were rolled out this past year. The Group is also increasing its efforts at schools in order to tailor its message to potential employees at a grassroots level. In addition, STIHL is honing its focus on promoting diversity so as to create an inclusive and supportive working environment for everyone.

#### STIHL FOR ALL

In recent years, STIHL Group companies worldwide have made it a priority to promote diversity within the workforce and ensure awareness and acceptance. For example, the Group specifically addressed the topic of women at STIHL in a 2023 issue of the *Blick ins Werk* employee magazine.

In May 2023, the "Women Network @STIHL" celebrated a successful kickoff event. The STIHL Executive Board and Advisory Board also acknowledge the importance of this topic. Karen Tebar, Deputy Chair of the Advisory Board and a member of the Supervisory Board, took part in the event, as did Ingrid Jägering, Executive Board member for Finance and Controlling, who is the patron of the "Women Network." In addition, Information Technology has established the "Women in IT" format, which has led to an increase in the proportion of women in the department in just one year.

STIHL Brazil celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023. Back in 2019, the STIHL company launched "Programa Diversidade – STIHL para Todes" (Diversity program – STIHL for all). Alongside women, the focus is also on people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and ethnic minorities. The individual obstacles in working life are highlighted in various campaigns to ensure even greater understanding within the workforce. Since 2021, the "Diversity School" has been training management staff at STIHL Brazil on diversity issues to strengthen their focus on each individual employee. You can read more about diversity in the STIHL Sustainability Report, which will be published in May.

#### **GRASSROOTS RECRUITMENT**

Employees' children are an important pillar in the Group's human resources efforts. To further actively support the compatibility of family and career, additional spots were created for the founding company at the Mia Stihl childcare center. Daycare coverage was expanded in 2023 to include the Ludwigsburg site. As a result, spots are now available for the children of STIHL employees at a total of three daycare centers.

Showing young people the world of STIHL and giving them a look at professions that they might otherwise never have tried out is the aim of the "Manufacturing Technology Summer Camp." Organized by STIHL Inc. and the Virginia Manufacturers Association in Virginia Beach, the ninth edition of the camp took place in July. During the four-day camp, 34 high school students were called on to demonstrate team spirit, technical skills, and financial talent while building a desk lamp.

STIHL France is also focusing on close cooperation with young people. In partnership with one of the five largest business schools in France, STIHL became a case study as part of a seminar. The course included three sessions in which upcoming economic challenges for STIHL were examined in terms of consistency and responsibility.

#### A NEW APPROACH TO RECRUITMENT

STIHL companies are excellent businesses to work for, having received awards in several countries for their exceptionally good performance as an employer. For the third year in a row, STIHL Inc. was ranked 30th on *Forbes* magazine's list of America's best mid-size employers. The STIHL Group's second-largest production company, in Qingdao, China, was recognized as a "Great Place to Work" by the institute of the same name. STIHL Spain also received certification as a "Great Place to Work" for 2023.

STIHL Tirol has created an innovative workplace with a new office concept. In the urban setting of the new building in Innsbruck, employees are guaranteed a wide range of working options. STIHL Tirol also broke new ground in the creation of recruitment videos. Three short commercials have been running in movie theaters throughout Tyrol and on social media channels since October. The ads present the strengths of STIHL as an employer to a wide audience. In late 2022, the founding company launched an initiative to recruit new employees. Known as the STIHL Staff Re-

ferral Program, the scheme offers current members of staff a bonus for successful new employee referrals. The STIHL founding company's growth and employees benefit equally from these joint efforts.



**MOVIE THEATER ADS** provide an innovative way to attract new employees to STIHL Tirol.

#### LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

The STIHL Mentoring Program was also launched in 2023 in Germany. As part of the program, experienced managers (mentors) and STIHL employees (mentees) build personal relationships. During regular virtual meetings, they talk about what is on their minds and the resulting personal and professional development of the mentees. This approach gives younger employees the opportunity to establish close contacts with managers and boost their careers. The STIHL Reverse Mentoring program acts as a counterpart. Experienced workers learn from young employees, resulting in synergies in the areas of digitalization, New Work, and employer branding.

Managers across the Group have their voices heard in the Global Leadership Survey, which was conducted for the fifth time in 2023. The overall findings reflect the satisfaction of the managers and indicate a solid foundation for the Group's management culture. Consistently good ratings in the areas of working environment, quality orientation, and solution orientation provide a basis for future growth and the continuous development of the Group.

# OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Now that the restrictions imposed by the pandemic have been lifted, the STIHL Group's occupational safety and health management focus has returned entirely to operational processes - even though the coronavirus pandemic is still being felt in some respects. Campaigns to promote direct contact with managers and employees represent new approaches to occupational safety and health management at STIHL that have been received positively and are having a lasting impact.

#### GET ACTIVE

The new campaign aims to draw attention to the issue of occupational safety and raise awareness of a safe working environment among all employees. As part of the initiative, staff are actively encouraged to remain focused throughout the day, spot potential sources of danger, and either eliminate them directly or report them to the appropriate office. The campaign is complemented digitally by short video clips that deal with general occupational safety topics, such as safetyconscious behavior and drawing attention to sources of danger that can easily be overlooked.

In addition to communication measures such as roll-up banners, the issue is also addressed personally by

managers in order to promote a high level of safety awareness throughout the workforce. The recurring discussion of occupational safety and health management in team meetings or department meetings during the "Ten minutes for safety" section encourages staff to think and act with prevention in mind. Employees are trained to be mindful in every situation and to recognize sources of danger that seem insignificant at first glance or do not primarily affect their own work area.

The number of accidents in 2023 was lower than in the prior year. In 2023, a total of 192 safety officers, 664 fire safety assistants, and 1,017 trained first aiders at the founding company helped ensure health and safety in all work areas.



FIT AND HEALTHY STIHL OFFERS EMPLOYEES MANY WAYS TO PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH

> STIHL's approach to promoting good health starts at the top: Managers across the Group regularly address topics relating to occupational safety and health management in everyday working life. A healthy lifestyle is actively encouraged through campaigns centered on digital advice and sports offerings. STIHL ensures the long-term health of employees through measures such as sports groups and fitness rooms.

#### ADDRESSING THE TOPIC OF HEALTH DIRECTLY

In addition to occupational safety, employee health is a top priority at STIHL. The STIHL Group health strategy aims to make sure that employees remain healthy, motivated, and productive in the long term and feel well cared for at the company where they work. Many individual factors contribute to this factors that go beyond a well-equipped workplace. With that in mind, STIHL's health campaign included multiple digital sports offerings and digital nutritional advice, as well as talks on healthy sleep and mental health. The initiative complemented the existing health offerings and provided employees with a comprehensive program that contributes to their physical and mental well-being.

Directly approaching employees through interactive events had a positive effect on people's awareness of the issue of health. The STIHL plant in Ludwigsburg, for example, held a "Health Day," where staff had the opportunity to join presentations on topics such as restful sleep and mindful stress management and take part in training sessions during working hours. Employees also had a chance to talk to experts at a variety of information booths and take a look at their current state of health. A variety of health screening options were offered, including foot pressure measurement and pupillographic sleepiness tests.

#### PRECAUTION AND CAUTION

Even though the coronavirus pandemic played a less prominent role in fiscal year 2023 than in previous years, some protective measures were still maintained. They included providing face masks and self-tests, as well as observing hygiene guidelines. In addition, vaccination against the coronavirus continued to be offered by partner physicians. The offer is primarily aimed at people in high-risk groups who are particularly vulnerable to the virus and its side effects. As part of the same campaign, all employees at the founding company's plants were offered free flu shots.

# MARKETS

Despite the end of the coronavirus pandemic, global crises continued in fiscal year 2023 and once again impacted the STIHL Group's global sales. STIHL, like other businesses, felt the effects of the war against Ukraine and the associated supply chain problems. Due to the deterioration in consumer sentiment caused by high inflation, retail sales fell significantly compared to the prior fiscal year.

#### END OF THE COCOONING EFFECT

Now that the pandemic is over, consumers are spending less on gardening and forestry equipment. Instead, people are investing more in other areas. Compared to 2020, 2021, and 2022, when it was in full force, the cocooning effect waned for the first time in the past fiscal year, affecting global sales of STIHL products. In addition, high inflation led to a global reluctance to buy on the part of consumers and hesitant ordering behavior on the part of retailers due to the uncertain economic situation. Moreover, the industry's supply problems took a long time to resolve. As a result, retailers had to wait until after the end of the season to receive stock, leading to high inventories at the start of the 2023 season. Repeat orders from retailers then declined, negatively impacting sales development

#### **BATTERY BOOM**

The shift toward battery-powered products continues, with the STIHL Group recording growth in this line of business as well in 2023. Especially in the North American market, STIHL achieved higher sales of battery-operated products and posted general market share gains in this segment in the past fiscal year. In other encouraging developments, STIHL Inc. expanded its dealer network in North America to focus more on hardware store customers, with large retail chains such as ACE Hardware and Midstates building further on their partnership with STIHL by the end of 2023.

#### CHALLENGING WEATHER CONDITIONS

Unfavorable weather conditions in large parts of Europe in the first half of 2023 led to a delayed start to the season in the past fiscal year. In many countries, winter and spring remained very dry. Central Europe experienced a long, wet spring that transitioned into a dry early summer, which slowed demand for STIHL garden tools such as lawn mowers. In the North American market, a long, wet winter was followed by erratic regional weather, ranging from unprecedented forest fires to flooding. These restrictions on forestry work led to a drop in demand, particularly for STIHL professional products, among our customers in Canada.

The market in Oceania was no exception to this rule. The year started extremely wet and cold there and culminated in bushfires in Australia. High inflation, the sharp rise in interest rates, general economic weakness, and high inventories in the retail sector had a negative impact on market activity in the first half of the year in the southern hemisphere as well.

#### MIXED PICTURE IN EMERGING MARKETS

In the Indian market, good economic development and the upcoming 2024 elections led to an increase in both government spending and tenders, which had a positive impact on sales of STIHL products.

Due to the high devaluation of the Kenyan shilling and massive tax increases, development in Kenya fell short of expectations. Despite the adverse circumstances, however, the new sales company succeeded in achieving new sales and revenue records in east Africa in 2023. Inflation, rising interest rates, and political unrest in the Sahel and Gabon are also weighing on the business of local importers. The negative trend was exacerbated by the impact of the war against Ukraine on food availability and food prices.

However, this trend was offset by positive sales effects in parts of the African market. The growing importance of local food cultivation is driving the increasing mechanization of agriculture and forestry. The work of importers in west Africa, for example, has received a boost in the region from developments such as signs of a positive sales trend in Côte d'Ivoire. The South African market also reported a year-on-year increase in sales, which was supported by a weak first quarter in the prior year. The opening of two new locations in Africa also had a positive effect, with new branches in Morocco and Cameroon expanding STIHL's presence on the world's second-largest continent.

### UNFAVORABLE BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

In Latin America, the consumer climate took a clear downturn due to high inflation rates, political instability, a deteriorating security situation, and a lack of purchasing incentives from governments. The overall trend was exacerbated by unfavorable climatic conditions such as heat waves, droughts, and floods. Thanks to the special sales promotion measures taken at a national level, some countries nevertheless managed to post a slight increase in sales compared to the prior year. In the Brazilian market in particular, sales were up year on year. In Colombia, Ecuador, and Bolivia, social unrest had a negative impact on sales and revenue development.

#### **BIG ANNIVERSARY AT STIHL BRAZIL**

The 50th anniversary of the Brazilian STIHL company STIHL Ferramentas Motorizadas Ltda. is a special one for the Group. The first company in the South

American market was founded in Brazil in 1973, marking the start of the international STIHL manufacturing network. São Leopoldo was home to the first chainsaw production line outside Germany. Since its founding, more than 15.4 million



YEARS OF STIHL BRAZIL. Founded in 1973, the company was the first STIHL company in South America.

powerheads have been manufactured there. Partner companies started importing and distributing STIHL chainsaws in Brazil in the 1950s. In the early 1980s, STIHL Brazil began exporting to other South American countries. Today, STIHL Brazil is an integral part of the STIHL Group and the international manufacturing network.

#### BALANCE SHEET STRUCTURE OF STIHL HOLDING AG & CO. KG (CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS) IN MILLIONS OF EUROS

| ASSETS                         | 4,728        | 2,240       | 1,685                | 8,653 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|-------|
|                                | FIXED ASSETS | INVENTORIES | OTHER ASSETS         | ·     |
| EQUITY<br>AND<br>LIABILITIES ∎ | 5,701        | 1,320       | 1,632                | 8,653 |
|                                | ΕϘυΙΤΥ       | PROVISIONS  | OTHER<br>LIABILITIES |       |

# BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

(Condensed version)

#### ASSETS

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF STIHL HOLDING AG & CO. KG ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG

IN THOUSANDS OF EUROS

| Notes to the Balance Shee          | et DEC. 31, 2023 | Dec. 31, 2022 | DEC. 31, 2023 | Dec. 31, 2022 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| FIXED ASSETS                       |                  |               |               |               |
| Intangible assets                  | 175,357          | 161,970       | 135,679       | 138,724       |
| Property, plant, and equipment     | 1,930,943        | 1,765,474     | 611,050       | 559,371       |
| Financial assets (1                | 2,622,035        | 2,757,737     | 267,363       | 321,560       |
|                                    | 4,728,335        | 4,685,181     | 1,014,092     | 1,019,655     |
| CURRENT ASSETS                     |                  |               |               |               |
| Inventories                        | 2,240,080        | 1,940,853     | 433,942       | 365,964       |
| Receivables and other assets       |                  |               |               |               |
| Trade receivables                  | 595,071          | 632,525       | 31,817        | 37,549        |
| Receivables from related companies | 7,777            | 11,258        | 303,783       | 334,105       |
| Receivables from shareholders      | 0                | 0             | 6,384         | 0             |
| Other assets                       | 205,998          | 184,323       | 28,667        | 33,655        |
|                                    | 808,846          | 828,106       | 370,651       | 405,309       |
| Securities (2                      | 2) 165,205       | 150,993       | 43,419        | 78,751        |
| Cash and bank balances             | 441,221          | 730,246       | 5,933         | 28,369        |
|                                    | 3,655,352        | 3,650,198     | 853,945       | 878,393       |
| PREPAID EXPENSES                   | 34,067           | 31,698        | 9,332         | 6,173         |
| DEFERRED TAX ASSETS                | 234,873          | 222,914       | 108,104       | 111,009       |
| TOTAL                              | 8,652,627        | 8,589,991     | 1,985,473     | 2,015,230     |

#### BALANCE SHEET STRUCTURE OF ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG

IN MILLIONS OF EUROS

| ASSETS                       | 1,014        | 434         | 537                  | 1,985 |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|-------|
|                              | FIXED ASSETS | INVENTORIES | OTHER ASSETS         | .,    |
| EQUITY<br>AND<br>LIABILITIES | 800          | 860         | 325                  | 1,985 |
|                              | EQUITY       | PROVISIONS  | OTHER<br>LIABILITIES |       |

#### EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

#### CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF STIHL HOLDING AG & CO. KG

#### ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG

IN THOUSANDS OF EUROS

| Notes to the Bala   | ance Sheet | DEC. 31, 2023 | Dec. 31, 2022 | DEC. 31, 2023 | Dec. 31, 2022 |
|---|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| EQUITY  | (3)        | 5,700,518     | 5,321,335     | 800,000       | 800,000       |
| PROVISIONS  | (4)        |               |               |               |               |
| Provisions for pensions and similar obligations                 |            | 738,058       | 717,026       | 691,020       | 667,621       |
| Provisions for taxes  |            | 45,629        | 157,187       | 23,605        | 27,901        |
| Other provisions  |            | 535,952       | 547,651       | 145,148       | 156,927       |
|   |            | 1,319,639     | 1,421,864     | 859,773       | 852,449       |
| LIABILITIES   |            |               |               |               |               |
| Liabilities to banks  |            | 153,103       | 39,808        | 0             | 0             |
| Loan from the Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation                         | (5)        | 100,000       | 100,000       | 100,000       | 100,000       |
| Participating capital   | (6)        | 43,288        | 41,117        | 43,288        | 41,117        |
| Advance payments received                                       |            | 17,565        | 17,374        | 0             | 0             |
| Trade payables  |            | 302,841       | 350,022       | 76,130        | 70,060        |
| Liabilities to related companies                                |            | 697           | 0             | 65,926        | 24,456        |
| Liabilities to companies in which<br>an equity interest is held |            | 969           | 6,138         | 26            | 6             |
| Liabilities to owners   |            | 829,260       | 1,141,890     | 0             | 81,597        |
| Other liabilities   |            | 117,758       | 106,565       | 37,260        | 39,285        |
|   |            | 1,565,481     | 1,802,914     | 322,630       | 356,521       |
| PREPAID EXPENSES  |            | 3,282         | 1,195         | 2,083         | 2,016         |
| DEFERRED TAX LIABILITIES  |            | 63,707        | 42,683        | 987           | 4,244         |
| TOTAL   |            | 8,652,627     | 8,589,991     | 1,985,473     | 2,015,230     |

# NOTES

#### ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION METHODS

Fixed assets are valued at the cost of acquisition or production. Cost includes the costs of materials and labor, and an appropriate share of material and production overhead. Assets with a limited useful life are subject to systematic depreciation. Wherever deemed necessary, impairments are recognized to reflect assets' lower fair values.

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or fair value. General sales risks are reflected by appropriate range deductions.

Receivables and other assets are measured at their nominal values. Allowances are made for recognizable individual risks and general default risk.

Provisions for pensions are measured in accordance with the projected unit credit method on the basis of the Heubeck 2018 G mortality tables.

All recognizable risks and contingent liabilities are taken into consideration in the measurement of other provisions.

Liabilities are recognized at their settlement amounts.

#### CONSOLIDATED GROUP

The consolidated group includes STIHL Holding AG & Co. KG and all domestic and foreign affiliated companies (see list).

Due to their lesser importance, Carl Benz Center Objekt GmbH & Co. KG, Stuttgart, and Carl Benz Center Neckarpark GmbH, Stuttgart, are not included in the consolidated financial statements.

#### CAPITAL CONSOLIDATION

Capital consolidation takes place in accordance with Section 301 Subsection 1 to Subsection 3 of the German Commercial Code (HGB). Differences arising from first-time consolidation before January 1, 2010, were offset against retained earnings.

#### OTHER CONSOLIDATION METHODS

The Group's internal receivables, payables, revenue, profits, and expenses are eliminated.

Intercompany profits are eliminated pursuant to Section 304 Subsection 1 of the German Commercial Code (HGB).

Deferred taxes are recognized on intercompany profits as well as on debt consolidation affecting profit and loss.

#### **CURRENCY CONVERSION**

The balance sheet values of the capital and reserves were converted at the respective average historical exchange rates of the respective year. Other assets and liabilities were converted at the average spot exchange rate on the balance sheet date.

# NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF STIHL HOLDING AG & CO. KG AND OF THE BALANCE SHEET OF ANDREAS STIHL AG & CO. KG

#### ASSETS

#### (1) Financial assets

The reported financial assets in the consolidated financial statements mainly related to equity investments and securities held as fixed assets.

#### (2) Securities

These are predominantly other securities used for short-term investments.

#### EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

#### (3) Equity

In the two balance sheets, the equity is shown in a total amount in accordance with Section 9 Subsection 3 of the German Companies Disclosure Act (Publizitätsgesetz). Equity includes noncontrolling interests in the amount of 1,127 thousand euros.

#### (4) Provisions

The pension provisions cover pre-existing pension entitlements and future benefits.

Other provisions relate to possible outstanding employee benefits, warranty items, and other contingencies.

#### (5) Loan from the Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation

The loan is available to ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG.

#### (6) Participation capital

The take-up rate of the offer to the employees of ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG to continue to participate in the capital of the company in the form of participation rights was high in fiscal year 2023.

#### Average number of employees across the Group

| Europe                  | 9,819  |
|-------------------------|--------|
| North and South America | 6,606  |
| Asia/Oceania/Africa     | 4,038  |
| TOTAL                   | 20,463 |

### **BOARDS OF THE GROUP**

#### MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF STIHL HOLDING AG & CO. KG

Hans Peter Stihl, Remseck | Honorary Chair of the Advisory Board

**Dr. Nikolas Stihl**, Stuttgart | Chair of the Advisory Board | Partner of STIHL Holding AG & Co. KG

**Dr. Rolf Breidenbach,** Dortmund (from April 22, 2023) | Former Chair of the Management Board of HELLA GmbH & Co KGaA

Franz Fehrenbach, Stuttgart (until January 31, 2023) | Former Chair of the Supervisory Board of Robert Bosch GmbH and the former Managing Partner of Robert Bosch Industrietreuhand KG

**Ralf W. Dieter,** Stuttgart (from January 1, 2024) | Former Chair of the Board of Management of Dürr AG

Prof. Dr. Michael Hoffmann-Becking, Munich (until April 22, 2023; from July 18 to December 31 2023) | Attorney at Law and former partner at the law firm Hengeler Mueller

**Dr. Markus Miele,** Gütersloh (from April 22, 2023) | Managing Partner of Miele & Cie. KG

**Prof. Dr. Martin Richenhagen,** Duluth (GA), USA | Former Chair, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the AGCO Corporation

Selina Stihl, Stuttgart | Deputy Chair of the Advisory Board | Partner of STIHL Holding AG & Co. KG

Karen Tebar, Waiblingen | Deputy Chair of the Advisory Board | Partner of STIHL Holding AG & Co. KG

Dr. Eberhard A. Veit, Göppingen (until January 31, 2023) | Member of the Supervisory Board of Robert Bosch GmbH and Managing Partner of Robert Bosch Industrietreuhand KG as well as Managing Director of 4.0-Veit GbR

Michael von Winning, Stuttgart | Authorized Representative of the Executive Board of the Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation

#### MEMBERS OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD OF STIHL AG

Hans Peter Stihl, Remseck | Honorary Chair of the Supervisory Board | Partner of STIHL Holding AG & Co. KG

#### REPRESENTING THE OWNERS

**Dr. Nikolas Stihl,**' Stuttgart | Chair of the Supervisory Board | Partner of STIHL Holding AG & Co. KG

**Dr. Rolf Breidenbach,**<sup>1</sup> Dortmund (from July 18, 2023) | Additional Deputy Chair of the Supervisory Board (from July 18, 2023) | Former Chair of the Management Board of HELLA GmbH & Co KGAA

**Dr. Markus Miele,** Gütersloh (from July 18, 2023) | Managing Partner of Miele & Cie. KG

Franz Fehrenbach,' Stuttgart (until January 31, 2023) | Additional Deputy Chair of the Supervisory Board | Former Chair of the Supervisory Board of Robert Bosch GmbH as well as former Managing Partner of Robert Bosch Industrietreuhand KG

Prof. Dr. Michael Hoffmann-Becking, Munich (until July 18, 2023) | Attorney at Law and former partner at the law firm Hengeler Mueller Prof. Dr. Martin Richenhagen, Duluth (GA), USA (from July 18, 2023) | Former Chair, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the AGCO Corporation

**Selina Stihl,** Stuttgart | Partner of STIHL Holding AG & Co. KG

Karen Tebar, Waiblingen | Partner of STIHL Holding AG & Co. KG

#### REPRESENTING THE EMPLOYEES

Günter Meyer,' Weinsheim | Deputy Chair of the Supervisory Board | Chair of the Employee Council of the Weinsheim plant of ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG

Thomas Bamesberger,' Stuttgart (until July 14, 2023) | Head of Production and Logistics at ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG

Marion Freytag, Burgstetten | Quality Associate in Crank Mechanism Production at ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG

Matthias Fuchs, Ludwigsburg | Trade Union Secretary of the IG Metall Regional Office for Baden-Württemberg

Tatjana Funke, Stuttgart (until July 14, 2023) | Trade Union Secretary of IG Metall Regional Office for North Rhine-Westphalia

Florian Hoche,' Besigheim (from July 14, 2023) | Head of System Validation/Development at ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG

Dr. Klaus Langhans, Winnenden (until July 14, 2023) | Senior Manager of Development Services and Organization at ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG

Horst Otterbach, Waiblingen (from July 14, 2023) | Portfolio Manager for Forest and Tree Maintenance at ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG

Susanne Thomas, Ludwigsburg (from July 14, 2023) | Authorized Representative of IG Metall, Ludwigsburg and Waiblingen branch

#### MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF STIHL AG

**Michael Traub** Chair of the Executive Board

**Ingrid Jägering** Executive Board Member for Finance

Anke Kleinschmit Executive Board Member for Research and Development

Sarah Gewert Executive Board Member for Marketing and Sales (from January 1, 2023)

**Dr. Michael Prochaska** Executive Board Member for Human Resources and Legal Affairs

Martin Schwarz Executive Board Member for Manufacturing and Materials

# **COMPANIES OF THE STIHL GROUP**

Name of the company

Equity interest in %

#### CONSOLIDATED COMPANIES

| Germany   |       |
|---|-------|
| STIHL Holding AG & Co. KG, Waiblingen                                 | 100.0 |
| STIHL AG, Waiblingen  | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG, Waiblingen                                 | 100.0 |
| STIHL International Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung, Waiblingen | 100.0 |
| Mogatec GmbH, Drebach   | 100.0 |
| STIHL Vertriebszentrale AG & Co. KG, Dieburg                          | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL Verwaltungs-GmbH, Waiblingen                            | 100.0 |
| STIHL-Verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH, Waiblingen                         | 100.0 |
| STIHL Kettenwerk Verwaltungs-GmbH, Waiblingen                         | 100.0 |
| STIHL Beteiligungsgesellschaft GmbH & Co. KG, Waiblingen              | 100.0 |
| STIHL Kettenwerk GmbH & Co. KG, Waiblingen                            | 100.0 |
| ZAMA Holding GmbH, Waiblingen   | 100.0 |
| STIHL Ventures GmbH, Waiblingen                                       | 100.0 |
| STIHL direct GmbH, Waiblingen   | 100.0 |

#### Other countries

| STIHL Incorporated, Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA                            | 100.0 |
|--|-------|
| STIHL Ferramentas Motorizadas Ltda., São Leopoldo, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil | 100.0 |
| CS Cosmos STIHL Manufacturing, Inc., South Chicago Heights, Illinois, USA    | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL Power Tools (Qingdao) Co., Ltd., Qingdao, China                | 100.0 |
| STIHL Tirol GmbH, Langkampfen, Austria                                       | 100.0 |
| STIHL Gesellschaft m.b.H., Vösendorf, Austria                                | 100.0 |
| STIHL Vertriebs AG, Mönchaltorf, Switzerland                                 | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL Ltd., Camberley, Surrey, United Kingdom                        | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL N.V., Puurs-Sint-Amands, Belgium                               | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL SAS, Torcy, Marne-la-Vallée, France                            | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL S.A., Torres de la Alameda, Spain                              | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL S.A., Sintra, Portugal   | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL S.p.A., Cambiago, Italy  | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL SINGLE MEMBER S.A., Kifissia, Attica, Greece                   | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL A/S, Sandefjord, Norway  | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL Norden AB, Stenkullen, Sweden                                  | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL Oy, Vantaa, Finland  | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL Sp. z o.o., Tarnowo Podgórne, Poland                           | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL, spol. s r.o., Modřice, Czech Republic                         | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL Kereskedelmi Kft., Biatorbágy-Budapark, Hungary                | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL Motounelte S.R.L., Otopeni, Romania                            | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL Power Tools S.R.L., Bucharest, Romania                         | 100.0 |
| TOV ANDREAS STIHL, Kyiv, Ukraine   | 100.0 |
| TOV ANDREAS STIHL Zemelna Kompanija, Kyiv, Ukraine                           | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL EOOD, Sofia, Bulgaria  | 100.0 |

| Name | of th | ne cor | npany |
|------|-------|--------|-------|

Equity interest in %

| STIHL d.o.o. Beograd, Belgrade, Serbia   | 100.0 |
|--|-------|
|  |       |
| OOO ANDREAS STIHL Marketing, St. Petersburg, Russia                              | 100.0 |
| OOO STIHL SUEDWEST, Krasnodar, Russia  | 100.0 |
| STIHL Limited, London, Ontario, Canada   | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL S.A. de C.V., Cuautlancingo, Puebla, Mexico                        | 100.0 |
| STIHL SAS, Rionegro, Antioquia, Colombia   | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL S.R.L., Lima, Peru   | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL Amazonas S.R.L., Pucallpa, Peru                                    | 100.0 |
| STIHL Motoimplementos S.A.U., El Talar, Buenos Aires, Argentina                  | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL (PTY.) Ltd., Pietermaritzburg, South Africa                        | 100.0 |
| Kabushiki Kaisha STIHL, Kaminokawa-machi, Tochigi, Japan                         | 100.0 |
| Taicang ANDREAS STIHL Power Tools Co., Ltd., Taicang City, Jiangsu, China        | 100.0 |
| ANDREAS STIHL Pvt. Ltd., Chakan, Tal-Khed, Pune District, India                  | 100.0 |
| STIHL SERVICE CENTRE SOUTHEAST ASIA SDN. BHD., Petaling Jaya, Malaysia           | 100.0 |
| STIHL EAST AFRICA LIMITED, Nairobi, Kenya  | 100.0 |
| STIHL Marketing West & Central Africa Limited, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire            | 100.0 |
| STIHL North Africa Limited (S.A.R.L.), Casablanca, Morocco                       | 100.0 |
| STIHL Central Africa Limited (SARLU), Douala, Cameroon                           | 100.0 |
| ZAMA Corporation Ltd., Tai Po, NT, Hong Kong                                     | 100.0 |
| ZAMA Japan Kabushiki Kaisha, Hachimantai-shi, Iwate-Ken, Japan                   | 100.0 |
| U.S.A. ZAMA, Inc., Franklin, Tennessee, USA                                      | 100.0 |
| ZAMA Precision Industry Manufacturing Philippines, Inc., Sto. Tomas, Philippines | 100.0 |
| ZAMA Precision Industries (Huizhou) Co., Ltd., Huizhou City, China               | 100.0 |
| ZE Electronic Manufacturing Services Limited, Hong Kong                          | 51.0  |
| STIHL PTY. Ltd., Knoxfield, Victoria, Australia                                  | 100.0 |
| STIHL Limited, Auckland, New Zealand   | 100.0 |
| C.A.S.A. S.r.I., Milan, Italy  | 100.0 |

#### NONCONSOLIDATED COMPANIES

| Carl Benz Center Objekt GmbH & Co. KG, Stuttgart | 100.0 |
|--|-------|
| Carl Benz Center Neckarpark GmbH, Stuttgart      | 100.0 |

#### OTHER HOLDINGS

| BMZ Holding GmbH, Karlstein am Main             | 10.0   |
|---|--------|
| Serra GmbH, Waiblingen                          | 33.33  |
| Greenworks (Jiangsu) Co. Ltd., Changzhou, China | 18.675 |
| Dryad Networks GmbH, Eberswalde                 | 7.25   |
| FlyNex GmbH, Leipzig                            | 3.254  |
| TinyMobileRobots ApS, Malling, Denmark          | 22.0   |
| Spotta Limited, Cambridge, United Kingdom       | 5.93   |

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2023 HIGHLIGHTS

# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS











#### CYPRUS BRANCH OFFICIALLY OPENED MARCH

Since March, STIHL has been represented by a new branch location in Cyprus' capital, Nicosia. The location, which includes a concept store, sales areas, and a workshop, was opened during an official ceremony.

#### 2 STIHL GROUP JOINS UN GLOBAL COMPACT MARCH

STIHL has joined the United Nations Global Compact, committing itself to sustainable and responsible corporate governance. The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact on human rights, labor, environment, and anticorruption act as firm guidelines for the STIHL Group's business strategy.

#### 3 SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR JUNE

The founding company presented the Supplier of the Year award for the 43rd time, with five suppliers being recognized. For the first time, this year also saw two titles being awarded in the special category of sustainability to suppliers who meet our high standards in terms of responsible labor and business practices, environmental protection, and transparency.









# OPENING OF THE BRAND WORLD SEPTEMBER

After three and a half years of construction, the STIHL Brand World at Plant 1 in Waiblingen, Germany, officially opened its doors on July 13, 2023. The opening ceremony was attended by numerous dignitaries, including the Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg, Winfried Kretschmann, who inaugurated the new building by bucking up a tree trunk.

#### **5** INAUGURATION OF THE NEW SPECIAL MECHANICAL ENGINEERING BUILDING SEPTEMBER

STIHL again clearly expressed its commitment to Germany as a business location by inaugurating its new special mechanical engineering building in September. STIHL invested around 15 million euros in the expansion, which was carried out using sustainable construction methods.

### 6

STIHL BRAZIL TURNS 50 OCTOBER

STIHL Brazil can look back on 50 successful years. As the first STIHL company in South America, it laid the foundation for the international manufacturing network. A special celebration was held to mark the 50th anniversary.

#### TIHL TIMBERSPORTS® WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN STUTTGART NOVEMBER

The Timbersports® World Championship returned to Stuttgart in 2023, having previously been held there in 2013 and 2016. The event was staged over two days at the Porsche-Arena, with Danny Martin of Germany winning his first World Championship medal in front of a home crowd. The Australians were crowned world champions in the team competition for the fourth time in a row.

8 CUTTING EDGE AWARD DECEMBER

"The future is orange" was the motto adopted by 125 students in 44 teams as they presented their innovative and forward-looking ideas at the Cutting Edge Award finals in December. The three winning teams each took home 1,500 euros.

STI<mark>HL Hol</mark>ding AG & Co. KG Badstraße 98 71336 Waiblingen Germany

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