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VDE on Ilse Aigner's Nomination: Technical Expertise Would Be an Asset in the Highest Office of State

Ilse Aigner is set to become Federal President. The candidate for the January election—on whom the governing parties agreed this week—is a trained electrical engineer. The VDE hopes that her term in office will be shaped by technical expertise.

(Frankfurt am Main, November 12, 2026) The VDE Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies welcomes the plan by the CDU, CSU, and SPD to elect Ilse Aigner, an electrical engineer, as Federal President. "Technical understanding and expertise in electrical engineering have been rather rare in top-level politics so far," says Ansgar Hinz, VDE Chairman of the Executive Board. "It would be all the more gratifying—completely independent of party politics—if technical competence were also visibly represented in the highest office of the state in the future."

Before entering politics, Aigner completed an apprenticeship as a radio and television technician. She subsequently graduated from the technical school for electrical engineers as the only woman in her class and as the top student in her class. She then worked for several years at the helicopter manufacturer Eurocopter. Next January, she is set to be elected Federal President by the Federal Assembly.

Bringing German technological expertise back into the public consciousness

In her current role as President of the State Parliament, Ilse Aigner has repeatedly spoken out on Germany as a business location, including at VDE events. "The German economy needs clarity. Only that creates planning security for businesses and consumers. The upheavals in federal politics offer an opportunity for a fresh start and, above all, greater stability for society and the economy," she said, for example, in November 2024 at the VDE Bavaria Evening (in German).

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VDE Chairman Ansgar Hinz is also aware that the office of Federal President in Germany is primarily ceremonial in nature. However, he says: “Germany possesses outstanding technological expertise. This strength must once again be brought more tangibly into the public consciousness. Particularly in the areas of energy supply, digitalization, and industrial transformation, we need more trust in technical solutions. To that end, I hope that a potential Federal President Ilse Aigner will provide forward-looking impetus.”

About VDE:
VDE, one of the largest technology organizations in Europe, has been regarded as a synonym for innovation and technological progress for more than 130 years. VDE is the only organization in the world that combines science, standardization, testing, certification, and application consulting under one umbrella. The VDE mark has been synonymous with the highest safety standards and consumer protection for more than 100 years.

Our passion is the advancement of technology, the next generation of engineers and technologists, and lifelong learning and career development “on the job”. Within the VDE network more than 2,000 employees at over 60 locations worldwide, more than 100,000 honorary experts, and around 1,500 companies are dedicated to ensuring a future worth living: networked, digital, electrical. Shaping the e-dialistic future.

The VDE (VDE Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies) is headquartered in Frankfurt am Main. For more information, visit www.vde.com

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