# Press Release

**Fort Worth welcomes new General Manager and Schwaebisch Hall welcomes new Executive Vice President R&D**

## Organizational Realignment at Recaro Aircraft Seating

**SCHWAEBISCH HALL, Germany / FORT WORTH, Texas – Effective October 1, 2018, René Dankwerth, Executive Vice President of Research and Development and an Executive Board member for Recaro Aircraft Seating, will take over as General Manager of Recaro Aircraft Seating Americas, LLC. Sunitha Vegerla, the site's current General Manager, has decided, after four years, to take a step back from her role so she can focus more on her family life. She will remain at Recaro and assume the new role in the executive team as Director of Quality & Process Management. Heiko Fricke will take over René Dankwerths role as Executive Vice President Research and Development and Executive Board member for Recaro Aircaft Seating. He will join the company August 1, 2018.**

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Having been with Recaro Aircraft Seating Americas for more than 14 years, Sunitha initially lead the program management team before becoming General Manager in 2014. She championed a strategy of continuous global growth and propelled the site to its present position as an industry leader.

"Recaro thanks Sunitha for her endless engagement, for the substantial success-story she has created and for her always moving forward attitude in order to generate excellent business for Recaro Aircraft Seating Americas," said Chief Executive Officer and Shareholder of Recaro Aircraft Seating, Dr. Mark Hiller. "Her global business approach created valuable contributions to Recaro in general. We are delighted to announce that she will take the Director Quality & Process Management position and will remain part of the executive team at Recaro Aircraft Seating Americas."

**Bringing a track record of success to the USA**

René created significant achievements while at Recaro Aircraft Seating's headquarters in Germany, including a reduction of failure cost and quality findings by 50% within two years, significant improvement of supply chain quality in deliveries, and an introduction of Total Quality Management (TQM) methods. He later became a member of the Executive Board for Research & Development, where he was instrumental in the development and the ramp-up the CL3710 economy class long range product as well as for the re-entry into the business class long range market with our CL6710 product.

René will work closely with Sunitha for a transition period of two months before he takes over the position as of October 1, 2018.

**New member joining Executive Board in Schwaebisch Hall**

Taking over from René is Heiko Fricke, a studied electrical engineer, who comes with a great and successful business track record of 12 years Daimler (commercial vehicles business unit) and 10 years Airbus, thereof 6 years with a medium sized supplier. He encompasses a wide range of experience, such as development of components and systems for vehicles and aircraft, product-launches, program management and a strong focus on efficiency and profitability. He has worked on large and complex assignments in OEM, Joint Venture and Tier 1 roles.

“I am delighted for Heiko joining our company. He perfectly matches our current and future business challenges and I am positive he will make great contributions to our companys success”, says Dr. Mark Hiller CEO and shareholder of Recaro Aircraft Seating.

Recaro focusses with these changes on a very strong and highly experienced management team envisioning to further substantiate and grow the successful market position.

René Dankwerth, General Manager of Recaro Aircraft Seating Americas, LLC

Sunitha Vegerla, Director of Quality & Process Management of Recaro Aircraft Seating Americas, LLC

*Heiko Fricke, Executive Vice President of Research and Development of Recaro Aircraft Seating, Schwaebisch Hall, Germany*

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*Recaro Aircraft Seating is a global supplier of premium aircraft seats for the leading airlines worldwide. The company has over 2,300 employees, including more than 1,000 working in Germany. It operates plants in Germany, Poland, South Africa, the US and China, as well as service centers in Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, Asia, and Australia. Based in Schwaebisch Hall, Germany, Recaro Aircraft Seating generated sales of 487 million euros in 2017. The company ranks among the world's top three aircraft seat manufacturers.*
*Recaro Aircraft Seating is part of the Recaro Group.*
*The automotive seating business is operated by the licensee Recaro Automotive Seating.*

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