

## **Company portrait** - 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2011 -

### **ifm electronic gmbh**

Measuring and controlling - Since the foundation of the company in 1969 ifm electronic gmbh has continuously optimised technical processes in almost all industries. ifm is one of the world's leading manufacturers in the automation industry.

More than 4,300 employees in over 70 countries develop and sell solutions for about 100,000 customers in machine construction and other industries.

### **The product portfolio**

One of ifm's strong points is the extraordinarily broad product portfolio that does not only include standard solutions but also caters for special requirements from individual industries. The success story of the family-owned company began in 1969 with the invention of inductive proximity sensors on the basis of film technology. Today the trade name "efector" is synonymous with position and fluid sensors, object recognition, diagnostic and identification systems. The "ecomat" brand stands for networking and control systems.

### **Quality "Made in Germany"**

ifm, a second-generation family-run company with its corporate headquarters in Essen, plus a development and production site in Tettngang on Lake Constance, is closely connected to Germany as a location for industry. Made in Germany – 90 % of the 7,844 ifm products are manufactured here.

More than 450 employees in research and development as well as a close cooperation with research institutions, universities and young companies have lead to over 580 patents and approx. 440 active patents / patent applications as well as innovative product solutions for tomorrow's requirements. These approaches ensure the constantly high quality and innovative strength of the entire range of products.

### **ifm – close to you**

An unusually strong worldwide sales team of about 1,060 sales engineers completes the successful concept. They give a face to ifm, know the special market requirements and country-specific characteristics and offer individual support for any customer. This strategy provides ifm with the flexibility of a

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medium-sized family-owned company as well as internationality and innovative strength of a group of companies.

In 2010 ifm could consequently achieve a turnover of € 470 million.

Contact and more information:

ifm identicom

werbeberatung gmbh

Simone Felderhoff

Phone: +49 / (0)201 / 24 22-1411

Fax: +49 / (0)201 / 24 22-1401

E-mail: [simone.felderhoff@ifm.com](mailto:simone.felderhoff@ifm.com)

Website: [www.ifm.com](http://www.ifm.com)