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Achieving more together.

Dear readers,

I have recently taken over as Managing Director of Night Star Express. I am very much looking forward to this new role and to actively shaping the future of our company, together with our dedicated team and our strong network.

For many years Night Star Express has been standing for quality, reliability and a close partnership with its customers. I intend to uphold these values together with our staff, whilst also introducing new initiatives to ensure the company's continued success. It is particularly important to all of us to build on what has worked well in the past and to remain open to new ideas and developments. For it is only by working



together that we can seize the opportunities of the future.

In this issue of our customer magazine "express", we once again bring you some

fascinating topics. We take you on a tour of our new Night Express site, operated by a partner company of the Zufall Logistics Group in Dortmund, and introduce a new partnership aimed at expanding our keyless delivery concepts. Audits serve several important purposes – essentially, they ensure that processes run efficiently, securely and in compliance with regulations. In our staff profile, we show you how an audit is conducted at Night Star Express.

I hope you find this an interesting read and look forward to working with you again.

Warm regards

Nicole Bourguignon, Managing Director of Night Star Express

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Hinweise bitte direkt an Petra Moss,
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NEW NIGHT STAR EXPRESS MANAGING DIRECTOR

Nicole Bourguignon in office

On 1 April 2026, Nicole Bourguignon (52) took over as managing director of Night Star Express. We wish her much success.

Nicole Bourguignon has in-depth knowledge of the company: as the former Head of Finance, Clearing & Controlling, she has impressed with her competence, commitment and reliability. "With this decision, we are ensuring continuity and making the most of our existing expertise. We are confident that Ms Bourguignon will lead Night

Star Express into the next successful phase of the company's development with foresight," said the shareholders of Night Star Express.

"I am delighted by the trust placed in me and look forward to my new role. Together with our strong network and a dedicated team, I aim to consistently build on the

company's positive development and provide fresh impetus for the future. Constructive collaboration on an equal footing and a clear strategic direction are particularly important to me," emphasises Bourguignon.

A STRONG PARTNERSHIP

Night Star Express & myflexbox

Night Star Express is going to partner with myflexbox, a rapidly expanding provider of smart parcel boxes. Nicole Bourguignon, Managing Director of Night Star Express, said: "We are delighted to be the first night-time express delivery service to partner with myflexbox, initially at a regional level."

With this new collaboration, Night Star Express is taking another important step towards a modern and climate-friendly out-of-home infrastructure. The new partnership makes it possible to deliver Night Star Express parcels from various customer segments in an even more accessible and flexible manner – around the clock, securely and straightforwardly. As an open-platform system, myflexbox parcel lockers are already used by daily parcel services and retailers.

"This new business partnership with Night Star Express Honold GmbH marks an important milestone for us in the B2B sector," explains Jonathan Grothaus, CEO and founder of myflexbox. "The fact that one of the leading night-time express delivery providers is relying on our open parcel station network demonstrates the potential that open networks hold. We are combining our strengths in the field of

time-critical logistics, where reliability is crucial. Together, we enable efficient, sustainable deliveries that work independently of time slots."

The company myflexbox was founded in 2018 as a corporate venture, an in-house start-up of Green Tech Company Salzburg AG. The idea arose from an internal need for a flexible locker system for the secure exchange of IT equipment. myflexbox went on to win Salzburg AG's internal 'Innovation Challenge'. The company's aim is to establish an open smart locker network that is accessible to all users and providers.



Delighted with the signing of the contract (pictured, from left to right): Christoph Hofstetter (Sales Manager at Night Star Express Honold GmbH), Thomas Bauer (Managing Director of Night Star Express Honold GmbH), Thomas Keßler (Business Development at Night Star Express GmbH Logistik) and Jonathan Grothaus (CEO & Founder of myflexbox) at the Hochstraße site in Traunstein

Two goals, strong communication and a dedicated team

Nicole Bourguignon is the new managing director at Night Star Express.

For the new managing director, Nicole Bourguignon, customer focus and high quality are top priorities. She sees the combination of reliability, professional expertise, high motivation and team spirit as one of the company's strengths. Read more about this in the interview below.



Nicole Bourguignon has been at the helm of Night Star Express since 1 April 2026. The new managing director brings with her extensive experience within the company – a key asset for her new role.

Editorial team: Ms Bourguignon, you have recently taken over as managing director of Night Star Express. What are your first impressions of your new role?

Nicole Bourguignon: Very positive. I am very familiar with the company from my previous role as Head of Finance & Controlling. The duties of a Managing Director are extremely varied and involve strategic, operational, financial and legal responsibilities. The tension between stability and innovation is particularly appealing to me. My new position enables me not only to work within the company, but also to collaborate with the staff to contribute to the company's success and actively shape its development.

Editorial team: What do you particularly like about Night Star Express?

Nicole Bourguignon: For more than 30 years Night Star Express has been one of the leading night express service providers and has been maintaining a successful market presence, even during economically challenging times – a remarkable achievement. One of the key factors behind this success is our strong network of shareholder companies and partners both at home and abroad. It is precisely this collaboration that fosters a shared and forward-looking understanding of sustainable logistics among our shareholders and partners, and it is of great value both in day-to-day operations and in strategic decision-making.

Editorial team: What drives this shared commitment?

Nicole Bourguignon: With its innovative concept of overnight delivery for time-critical industrial products, Night Star Express is regarded as a pioneer in the night-time express sector. The compa-

ny therefore boasts established, stable and resilient structures. The strong commitment of everyone involved to this service remains evident to this day. Overnight delivery remains a key service in the industrial logistics sector, with closely coordinated process chains, and continues to offer significant potential for development. Our aim is to guarantee the highest quality at all times. To ensure this we continue to live up to our 'first-class' promise in the future and we are constantly optimising our processes. The shared commitment at Night Star Express is fuelled by experience, trust and the conviction that sustainable success can only be achieved through collaboration.

Editorial team: Many customers of logistics companies are currently under considerable financial pressure. Are you also noticing this trend?

Nicole Bourguignon: Like the rest of the industry, we too are experiencing occasional fluctuations. The current operating environment is challenging. We are seeing cost increases across all areas of the business. Regardless of this, we are steadfastly pursuing our strategy: the national and international expansion of our industry and product portfolio, the growth of our network, and investment in a high-performance infrastructure. Innovative approaches help us to continuously optimise our processes.

Editorial team: What challenges do you currently see for Night Star Express?

Nicole Bourguignon: A key challenge for Night Star Express is to ensure that we maintain our high quality standards and reliable punctuality in the long term, even as operating conditions become increasingly demanding and bureaucracy grows. Rising complexity in logistics chains, growing customer expectations and external factors require precise processes, a robust infrastructure and a high degree of flexibility. Quality and punctuality are non-negotiable for us – they form the foundation of our service promise.

Editorial team: Where do you see Night Star Express's particular strengths?

Nicole Bourguignon: In short: customer focus and high quality. Our strength lies in the combination of reliability, quality and our motivated staff. Every day, they contribute their expertise, experience and dedication. A strong team spirit and open communication not only foster collaboration but also the continuous development of our processes. At the same time, we place great importance on respectful communication with our customers, as trust and stability form the basis of long-term partnerships.

The shareholders are facing the future with optimism alongside the new managing director (from left): Matthias Stich (Cretschmar), Arnold Schroven (Chair of the Advisory Board, Night Star Express), Nicole Bourguignon (Managing Director), Patrick Löwenthal (Hellmann), Thomas Bauer (Honold/Hellmann-Honold), Jens Seidel (Zufall) and Stephan Meyer (Hellmann/Hellmann-Honold).



Mike always gives 100 percent

On the road as an auditor with Night Star Express

Mike Grünewald not only knows the Night Star Express network inside out on paper, but is also, quite literally, at home there geographically. As a long-standing expert, he regularly carries out internal audits on behalf of the head office in Unna at Night Star Express's various sites. Change jobs? Out of the question for him: "This is exactly the right job for me. I appreciate the giving independence, the varied tasks and the fact that there's always something new to discover."

Mike Grünewald has been working at Night Star Express for almost 26 years. He started in the accounts until 2011, and later moved into quality management. "When the position became vacant and I was asked if I were able to see myself doing the job, I didn't hesitate for a moment and accepted. Beforehand, however, I got the family's approval, as you're not really at home very much." The work is certainly demanding and challenging. This is because every audit is meticulously prepared and documented in accordance with strict guidelines based on the DIN 90001 and

140001 standards. It must also be considered that every site has its own profile and individual circumstances. During an audit, the flow of processes, the equipment used in the facilities and vehicles, and information flows are usually examined. Specifically, Mike Grünewald scrutinises the entire process step by step on site. This includes, for example, the loading and unloading of vehicles, handling in the warehouse, the flow of goods and materials, documentation, and office procedures.

He turns up unannounced at the various locations within the Night Star Express net-

work. Giving advance notice would completely undermine the very purpose of his audit assignment. "After all, the point is to experience the situation on the ground exactly as it is in everyday life. Anything else would fail to provide a realistic overall picture. But there is absolutely no debate about this amongst colleagues. Quite the contrary: there is a shared understanding that audits only help us progress and enable us to maintain our success rate consistently close to 100 per cent. After all, we are also subject to very strict external audits, in which we must demonstrate our quality and prove ourselves anew every



time. Otherwise: no certificate, no expertise, but plenty of catching up to do.”

A shared goal: To keep getting better

The audits also help to boost competitiveness, optimise operating costs, improve the quality of procurement and delivery, and, last but not least, strengthen customer relationships. Furthermore, information gathered during audits helps process managers and executives to make sound and forward-looking decisions. Companies that undergo regular internal and external audits also score highly in terms of sustainability and meet the requirements of tender specifications. Mike Grünewald: “With our audits, we’re definitely on the safe side and are thus fulfilling our responsibility.” Following the on-site inspection, there is an audit discussion between the parties involved, followed by a results report or an action/control report. In the event of non-conformities, the sites must rectify the issues within a specified timeframe and submit proposals for improvement measures. “Typical errors occur, for example, during load handling and load securing. This often happens unconsciously, and sometimes it only takes a slight

change or a small external nudge to optimise processes,” reports Mike Grünewald. Depending on the urgency and classification of the audit findings, a follow-up consultation and personal monitoring of measures with a status report are carried out.

With best-practice ideas on the way home

As a rule, the audits take place twice a year across Germany. This regular review naturally also brings to light a great deal of positive feedback and examples of best practice, from which the entire network benefits. Conversely, Mike Grünewald also takes away a wealth of ideas: “My colleagues possess a wealth of expertise or have, through trial and error, acquired many useful and valuable skills for themselves. This is highly precious, because in the logistics sector in particular, a talent for improvisation is often required due to events that cannot always be planned.” In addition to theoretical knowledge and years of experience, Grünewald himself possesses further valuable skills to carry out the audits to a professional standard. “The top priorities are objectivity, a clear focus and, above all, fairness. Essential qualities also include a high level of attention, decision-making ability, open-minded-



A QUICK FOLLOW-UP Mike Grünewald

Editorial team: Mike, you get around a lot in Germany. How many kilometres do you drive each year?

Mike Grünewald: I'd say about 45,000 kilometres. I'm not counting the ones I feel like I've spend time with sitting in traffic jams.

Editorial team: What do you like about your job as an auditor?

Mike Grünewald: No two days, sites or regions are the same. As a result, hardly any two audits are alike. This makes my day-to-day work very dynamic and exciting. I also get the chance to take a close look behind the scenes and see how processes are set up on site, where strengths and opportunities lie, but also where the risks are. After all, both of these assessment criteria are part of my job. I also value the interpersonal interaction because communication on an equal footing is essential for creating a good working relationship and a level of trust.

Editorial team: Your work is highly significant and involves a great deal of responsibility ...

Mike Grünewald: This work helps to improve efficiency, quality and safety, as I assist in identifying discrepancies and exploring opportunities for improvement. The willingness to undergo regular audits develops confidence, transparency and security in our customers. This is because we thereby demonstrate that, we comply with established quality standards, safety guidelines and legal regulations. This strengthens our customer relationships and serves as proof of professional working practices.

Editorial team: Speaking of variety. Which unexpected event has stuck in your memory from that long period?

Mike Grünewald: That was during the 2011 floods in eastern Germany; I found myself in a rather awkward situation on the motorway



bridge over the Mulde. The water was already on the carriageway and still rising. I managed to get out of the danger zone just in time and ended up safe and dry. In circumstances like that and with such unpredictable weather, even the best planning is of no use. A certain degree of flexibility in my job is therefore certainly no bad thing. My motto is also: take things as they come and make the best of the situation.

ness, the ability to work in a team and a certain tactfulness in dealing with people.”

The management of Night Star Express attaches exceptional importance to internal and external audits: “As an objective and impartial assessment, they make a significant contribution to the company’s success. After all, compliance with legal, regulatory and standardised requirements is essential for a company’s integrity and reliability. “During an audit, we can identify best practices, pinpoint gaps and uncover opportunities for improvement, which further enhances our competitiveness and strengthens our already highly successful market position,” emphasises Nicole

Bourguignon, Managing Director of Night Star Express. “We are therefore delighted to have our long-standing colleague Mike Grünewald at our side – a particularly competent and dedicated expert with whom we also share a good personal relation.”



New location: on the road to success

Following Zufall's relocation: growth, innovation and a strong team spirit.

It has been just under six months since Friedrich Zufall GmbH & Co. KG's Night Star Express site moved from Unna to Dortmund. What began as a logistical feat has since developed into a modern, high-performance site – characterised by efficiency, a spirit of innovation and a strong team ethos.

“The people who bring this site to life every day make it so special.”

Two long-standing colleagues (from left): Christian Pütz and Daniel Titzmann



A joint official launch ceremony with symbolic significance and a new conveyor belt system

“When we were planning the move, it was clear that we needed more space, more efficient processes and, above all, room for the future,” recalls Jens Seidel, Director of CEP at Friedrich Zufall GmbH & Co. Today, it is evident that this decision goes far beyond a mere change of location: “We have made significant progress not only in terms of space but also in terms of organisation. The new site gives us the flexibility we need for further growth.”

The move itself was a real tour de force. Within just a few days, Lukas Franz, the relocation project manager, and the entire team fitted out the halls and offices, organised the storage areas and established new procedures. The team's ingenuity was particularly noteworthy. For instance, one driver quickly developed his own public address system based on an ESP32 microcontroller. Staff can now access information and receive announcements via an app or browser – a smart, practical solution that makes day-to-day work noticeably easier. With the new location, work processes have also changed significantly – and improved:

1 | More power, more speed
Handling capacity has doubled up to 30,000 parcels a day. Processes now run more smoothly, enabling the team to respond more quickly and avoid bottlenecks at an early stage.

2 | Technology that supports
A state-of-the-art conveyor system and a fully automated scanning system ensure efficient operations. This is complemented by clever in-house innovations developed by the team – such as the internal public address system.

3 | Team spirit that makes a difference
The effectiveness of this collaboration is evident in many processes: during the switch to the new conveyor system, colleagues from the warehouse and administration teams worked together spontaneously to avoid mistakes. This is just one example that highlights the strong sense of team spirit at the site.





The ceremonial opening and the first parcel on the new conveyor belt system

4 | A working environment that adds value

Modern office spaces, ergonomic workstations and quiet areas create an environment that promotes motivation and satisfaction.

“With over 5,000 square metres of warehouse space, sustainable infrastructure and a strategically favourable location, the site offers the best conditions for the future. 63 doors – 42 of which are in active use and 21 held in reserve – ensure a high degree of flexibility in night-time express operations,” explains Operations Manager Sebastian Ehrentraut. Every day, around 45 delivery vehicles and approximately 100 collection and scheduled vehicles are in operation. The site is also well-staffed: “We have a permanent, dedicated workforce and strong support from temporary staff. We also receive numerous applica-

tions to further support our growth,” says Jens Seidel. Another clear advantage is the proximity to Dortmund’s main customs office. A fact that further simplifies logistics processes.

Experience meets enthusiasm

For long-serving employees such as Daniel Titzmann and Christian Pütz, this development is particularly impressive. Both are among the company’s ‘veterans’ and are responsible, among other things, for ensuring that warehouse operations run smoothly. “We have a great product that still inspires enthusiasm even after so many years,” says Christian Pütz. And his colleague adds: “It’s really impressive to see how big we’ve become. I still really enjoy working here. Everyone takes an interest in one another and supports each other.”

With a long-term lease and further planned innovations, the Dortmund site is well equipped for the years ahead. Night Star Express is thus embarking on a new chapter – with more scope for ideas, more efficient processes and innovative solutions. But that alone does not guarantee success: “The people who bring this site to life every day make it so special”, sums up Jens Seidel.

INTERVIEW WITH JENS SEIDEL

Ready for the future in Dortmund

A move that is more than just logistics: for Night Star Express, the new site in Dortmund marks the start of a new chapter. Jens Seidel, Director of CEP at Friedrich Zufall GmbH & Co. KG, talks about new beginnings, team spirit and the opportunities that come with growth.

Editorial team: Mr Seidel, why did you decide to move to Dortmund?

Jens Seidel: At just under 1,800 square metres, the warehouse space in Unna was not sufficient anymore. With the new site in Dortmund, we have now found the ideal combination of significantly more space, excellent transport links and a strong economic environment.

It was also particularly important to us to be able to design new work, office and break areas according to our own ideas. This has enabled us to create a modern, open working environment that reflects our corporate cul-

ture. In total, we now have around 6,200 square metres of warehouse and office space at our disposal – a decisive step forward.

Editorial team: What role does the new site play in your overall strategy?

Jens Seidel: This site is a key component of our growth strategy. Over 5,000 square metres of warehouse space alone enables us to double our daily handling capacity to around 30,000 parcels. At the same time, this move strengthens our regional presence and brings us even closer to our customers. As the site with the highest shipping volume in the network, we aim to further build on this lead and consistently develop our operations to the highest quality standards. We are also placing greater

focus on new business areas – such as contract logistics, air freight and customs services. A clear advantage here is the immediate proximity to the main customs office and Dortmund Airport. Looking back, the intensive search for a suitable property has been absolutely worthwhile.

Editorial team: There are a number of specialist businesses in your neighbourhood. Any good ideas for building a local network?

Jens Seidel: We see ourselves as a reliable local partner – both as an employer and as part of the regional economy. The location offers an exciting mix of industries, which creates a number of opportunities for collaboration. We therefore do not rule out partnerships with local companies. This can lead to valuable synergies that benefit not only us, but the entire network.

Editorial team: How do you put your commitment to sustainability into practice?



Jens Seidel: Also in this field, the new location offers clear advantages. A fast-charging infrastructure for electric vehicles is already in place – a key component as we are systematically electrifying our vehicle fleet. In addition, we are working with the owners to assess the installation of a photovoltaic system. For us, sustainability does not end with technology: in our day-to-day work, we also focus on energy-efficient solutions, ergonomic workstations and the mindful use of resources.

Editorial team: What does this step mean to you personally – and what are you most looking forward to?

Jens Seidel: For me, this move symbolises a fresh start and further development. Following the intensive planning and implementation phase, it’s a great feeling to see how ideas have become reality. What I’m most looking forward to is working alongside our team in this new environment and actively seizing and building on the many opportunities that lie ahead.



Offer Weekend service

Delivery seven days a week

Night Star Express customers use the overnight delivery service not only on weekdays but also at weekends. Urgently needed parts can thus be delivered overnight from Saturday to Sunday by 6 am – helping to ensure that crops can be harvested, work on construction sites can continue, and horse breeders receive their deliveries on time.

“Our weekend service customers are mainly from the automotive and agricultural sectors, as well as from the horse breeding, construction and agricultural machinery industries,” explains Fiete Kraß, systems planner at Night Star Express. “During the peak season from April to September, we mainly support agricultural machinery specialists in ensuring that har-

vesters and farm machinery do not come to a standstill. For farmers, it would quickly threaten their livelihood if they were unable to continue working at the weekend due to damage to their tractor or harvester.”

Fiete Kraß describes the delivery process in detail: “Parcels are collected by late afternoon and delivered by early morning. Often much earli-

er, in fact, during the night. We deliver parcels throughout Germany, as well as to neighbouring European countries. The service is already available in the Benelux countries, and we can also offer it in other countries by arrangement. Deliveries are made contact-free to pre-defined, lockable depots. This means the demanded parts are on site and can be installed or used straight away.”

Available on site from the start of the project

Companies from other sectors, such as commercial vehicle manufacturers, use Night Star Express’s weekend service all year round. Here, Night Star Express plays a vital role in ensuring that spare parts for commercial vehicles – such as police and fire engines, as well as buses – are back in service at short notice. Whether it’s a small screw or a grain tank for a combine harvester, all shipments are delivered over-

night and are guaranteed to arrive on site before work begins.

Other key target groups who regularly use Night Star Express’s weekend service include beekeepers and horse breeders. As natural mating is now rarely used in modern horse breeding, breeders order semen from the desired stallion to the relevant stud farm. From there, it is immediately dispatched in refrigerated packaging via the relevant vet to the mare ready for insemination. As horse semen, even when refrigerated, has a very short shelf life, fast and reliable transport seven days a week is essential for horse breeders.

If you have any questions about the weekend service, please get in touch with your contact person at Night Star Express straight away.



New Quality Manager

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Lina Renkhold (31), who joined the Operations team at Night Star Express’s headquarters in Unna in March 2026. A qualified biologist with a PhD, she has gained further qualifications in quality management and, in her new role, is responsible for areas including sustainability, health and safety at the site, supporting ISO audits, and monitoring quality metrics. “I have been given a very warm welcome by the whole team and have been thoroughly trained. I look forward to driving these exciting initiatives forward.” Lina finds her sporting balance on the golf course.



