# PRESS RELEASE

**Würth Elektronik at the DLD Conference: CTO focuses on Horticulture LED Lighting**

**Vertical Farming:** **A way out of the food crisis**

Waldenburg (Germany), May 24, 2022—At Digital Life Design (DLD), an international conference and innovation platform organized by Hubert Burda Media, Alexander Gerfer underscored the importance of vertical farming for food supply security. LEDs specially optimized for photosynthesis are an important tool in the fight against impending food shortages, said the CTO of the Würth Elektronik eiSos Group.

The global DLD event series focuses on the transformation of markets, media, culture and society through the Internet and new digital business models. Lifestyle, design, music and art are important indicators of trend-setting changes and therefore also topics of Digital Life Design.

The motto of this year's DLD conference was "Reality Rules". The moderator was Lauren Kiel, General Manager, Bloomberg Green, at Bloomberg Media. The presentations included Controlled Environment Agriculture (speaker: Project Consultant at BayWa AG) and Vertical Farming (speaker: Marc Oshima Co-Founder & Chief Marketing Office at AeroFarms).

An attack on one of the largest wheat producers disrupted global supply chains, increasing the risk of famine. The Ukraine conflict also impacted this year’s DLD (May 20 to 22). Thus, the presentation by Alexander Gerfer was awaited with particular excitement. It was about nothing less than indoor food production, which can make its contribution to food supply security, especially in metropolitan areas during difficult times. “Conflict, pandemic, fragile supply chains and advancing climate change are increasingly threatening food supplies”, Gerfer said. He sees new farming methods as one of the most important ways to achieve greater sustainability and supply security.

The UN expects the world's population to grow to almost ten billion people by 2050, so rising transport costs and uncertainties are making urban and vertical farming increasingly important. Initial deployments can be seen in countries such as Singapore, Sweden, the Netherlands, the U.S. and Japan. Food produced locally and year-round on a minimal footprint does not need pesticides and can be optimized specifically for human consumption through appropriate lighting, according to the CTO. At times there can be a large gap between farming and logistics so vertical farming will contribute to a more self-sufficient society.

With its own biologists and agronomists as well as cooperations with universities, for example with the Technical University of Munich, Würth Elektronik has been involved in this field as a supplier of components for horticulture LED lighting for some time. Würth Elektronik sees itself as a technology enabler that has been intensively researching the topic of growing plants with horticulture LEDs for more than six years.

Future prospects in LED light

Würth Elektronik proactively supports horticulture LED lighting pioneers in the development of innovative lighting systems, Gerfer emphasized. Würth Elektronik has the necessary components in stock and is also happy to provide developers with free samples.

**Available images**

The following images can be downloaded from the Internet in printable quality: <https://kk.htcm.de/press-releases/wuerth/>

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| Image source: Würth Elektronik  **The motto of this year's DLD conference: "Reality Rules".**  **Moderation: Lauren Kiel, Bloomberg Green (right).** | Image source: Würth Elektronik  **CTO Alexander Gerfer (2nd from right): Vertical farming is important for supply security.** |

About the Würth Elektronik eiSos Group

Würth Elektronik eiSos Group is a manufacturer of electronic and electromechanical components for the electronics industry and a technology company that spearheads pioneering electronic solutions. Würth Elektronik eiSos is one of the largest European manufacturers of passive components and is active in 50 countries. Production sites in Europe, Asia and North America supply a growing number of customers worldwide.

The product range includes EMC components, inductors, transformers, RF components, varistors, capacitors, resistors, quartz crystals, oscillators, power modules, Wireless Power Transfer, LEDs, sensors, connectors, power supply elements, switches, push-buttons, connection technology, fuse holders and solutions for wireless data transmission.

The unrivaled service orientation of the company is characterized by the availability of all catalog components from stock without minimum order quantity, free samples and extensive support through technical sales staff and selection tools.

Würth Elektronik is part of the Würth Group, the world market leader for assembly and fastening technology. The company employs 8,000 staff and generated sales of 1.09 Billion Euro in 2021.

Würth Elektronik: more than you expect!

Further information at www.we-online.com

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