

## Press Release

08/28/2007

### **More productive meetings are the order of the day: working people in Europe back modern workplace design**

**Working people in Europe would like to communicate more creatively with one another. This was the result of a representative survey conducted on behalf of office and conference furniture manufacturer Wilkhahn. 76 per cent of all those surveyed thought meetings would be more productive if participants were able to view and process important digital documents jointly. 69 per cent would like to be able to access their own network or the internet in parallel. 1,584 men and women from Germany, France and Great Britain took part in the survey.**

**Berlin, 08/28/2007.** Unclear objectives, inadequately prepared participants and missing documents generate more frustration than results at meetings. Europe's working people already spend a large portion of their working time in meetings: while in Germany more than half get together for meetings at least once a week, the figures are 43 per cent in Great Britain and 41 per cent in France. Yet, only very few are satisfied with this result.

Over 80 per cent would like to see more productive meetings. Approximately four-fifths thought that consultation could be more productive if all participants were better prepared and had a complete set of relevant documents with them. Follow-up and assessment work is also a decisive factor: 82 per cent would like to see proposals and ideas being documented in full and made available to everyone who participated.

### **Digital projectors and laptops are popular**

For a project meeting, editorial conference or a presentation: technology plays a key role whatever the setting. 64 per cent of respondents frequently or occasionally switch on a digital projector for meetings; 73 per cent use their laptop for this purpose. Men incorporate such technology more than women do. While 70 per cent of men use a digital projector, only

51 per cent of women do so. The same applies to a laptop: more than three-quarters of the men frequently or occasionally use a laptop in meetings, while the figure for women is only two-thirds. In the case of videoconferences, German men and women both tend to be rather reticent. While 28 per cent of respondents in Great Britain and 27 per cent in France frequently or occasionally have videoconferences, the figure for Germany is only 14 per cent. Technology has some pitfalls too: over two-thirds of those surveyed thought conferences would be more productive if technical equipment functioned properly and were easier to operate.

### **Interaction makes meetings more productive**

Data from the internet, spontaneous visual presentation and shared processing of documents: in meetings today it is important for participants to be able to contribute their proposals and ideas immediately and discuss and evaluate the same jointly. And yet this kind of interaction is neglected in many meetings. At any rate, three-quarters of all respondents believed conferences would be more productive if participants were able to view and process digital documents jointly. And over two-thirds felt meetings would be more fruitful if those attending could spontaneously access information from their own network or from the internet. The workplace environment plays a key role here: 63 per cent of those surveyed thought it would be helpful if tables, chairs and workplace design could be adjusted to the requirements of a meeting more flexibly. At the moment, just under a quarter of respondents frequently or occasionally use partitions, folding tables or lecterns.

### **Wilkhahn transforms conference rooms into communication interiors**

In view of the frequency and length of meetings with corresponding personnel costs it pays off to invest in solutions that make conferencing more efficient and economical. In an age that focuses so much on information and communication, linking up conference interiors to modern media technology is increasingly coming to mean a decisive competitive advantage. Such technology goes far beyond mere visual presentation via a digital projector. What we need are solutions that allow those attending a meeting spontaneous access to their own data which they can

then make visually accessible to others and change when necessary. The Wilkhahn "Dynamic Multimedia Conferencing" system provides the answer to these complex requirements: mobile, foldable tables (Confair folding tables) with the possibility of integrating everything that is necessary for a conference fully equipped with relevant media technology. The tables can be linked up with just three plug-in connections via special techni-modules – so-called 4C-Boxes. A single floor port provides cable management for the supply of data, USB, audio and power. Up to 40 conference places can be configured quickly and provided with connectivity for all options of modern media technology. A laptop that is connected to any workplace can be activated as a data source for projection purposes at the press of a button. All conference participants therefore have the possibility of accessing important digital information spontaneously, and of viewing and processing documents together. Conferences could thus become so much more efficient.

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