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A&O strengthens its team with a new CFO

Thomas Echelmeyer joins A&O as CFO

On 1 October, Thomas Echelmeyer will assume the function Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and accordingly Commercial Director of A&O Hotels and Hostels, Europe's largest privately run hostel chain with headquarters in Berlin. In his new position, the 56-year-old financial expert will be in charge of finances, accounting and taxes, as well as the areas of controlling, risk management and IT.

"We have managed to recruit an acknowledged financial expert in Thomas Echelmeyer. He will support our planned growth strategy, adjusting and strengthening the financial and reporting processes to suit the greater demands", says Oliver Winter, CEO of the A&O Group.

The graduate of business management previously worked as chief financial officer for one of Germany's pre-eminent housing companies. A qualified auditor and accountant, Echelmeyer also provided multidisciplinary support to national and international companies on the German market and abroad.

"This is a particularly exciting year for A&O in its corporate history. So I am especially delighted to be joining A&O now. I am confident that my experience in the financial sector will help the company advance on the international stage", Echelmeyer adds.

To find out more, please visit www.aohostels.com.

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About A&O HOTELS and HOSTELS

A&O HOTELS and HOSTELS has been managing 33 establishments in 21 cities and six countries (Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Denmark, and Italy) since 2000. Europe's largest provider of hostel accommodation, A&O reports annual growth of more than 15 percent. In May 2017, A&O Copenhagen Nørrebro opened its doors, and in July A&O Venice Mestre. In addition, an opening in Bremen is also planned for 2017. A&O generated a revenue of approximately €114 million with roughly 24,000 beds and more than 3.7 million overnight stays in 2016.

To continue building its portfolio in major European cities and to develop its product, A&O was pleased to recruit TPG Real Estate as an institutional partner in January 2017.

The chain always provides hotel accommodation at central locations that are easy to reach and offer unbeatable value for money to guests. A&O focuses on a wide range of en-suite room categories to ensure that target groups with a love of travel can all be accommodated under one roof, including single travellers, couples, families and large groups. Our guests' reasons for travelling include leisure/city breaks (40 percent), group/school trips (37 percent), family holidays (15 percent) and business trips (8 percent).

The company is particularly strong in direct sales and online marketing: 52 percent of guests book their accommodation online; aohostels.com is the most popular booking channel. Travellers benefit from custom options such as group bookings in real time without restrictions. Around 19,600 school and group trips have come to rely on the service and quality we offer.

The Group has its own academy and a dual degree course programme to offer its staff a range of attractive career options. The company is particularly open to taking on newcomers.

The hotels and hostels are 4-star QMJ certified, TÜV certified in accordance with the Youth Hostel Quality Standard and hold the youth travel quality seal by Reisenetz, the active network for Youth Travel in Germany.

The A&O Group has received the double-A rating from the TREUGAST Solutions Group for the third year running now.

The chain is actively involved in sports and education and has been supporting SOS Children's Villages since 2004, as well as youth sports at 1. FC Union Berlin since 2010 and youth sports at SK Sturm Graz since 2014.

Press contact:

Text&Aktion | Rainer Fornauf

Kaiser-Friedrich-Ring 53 | 65185 Wiesbaden

Tel: +49 (0)611 – 9 86 96 – 24 | E-mail: Rainer.Fornauf@text-aktion.com