



## MDS MÖHRLE

Hamburg · Berlin · Schwerin

**A new force in the north German tax, audit and legal market: MDS MÖHRLE & PARTNER and HAPP LUTHER UND PARTNER will merge with effect from 1 January 2010.**

**The new MDS MÖHRLE Group will have around 230 employees in three locations, and further expansion is planned for 2010.**

Hamburg, October 2009. Things are changing in the market for legal, tax and audit advice. Two long established, highly regarded firms, tax and audit firm MDS MÖHRLE & PARTNER and the law firm HAPP LUTHER UND PARTNER, have agreed to merge, opening the way for them to offer an integrated service to their clients. The merger will create one of the largest multi-disciplinary advisory firms in north Germany. The combined group will employ approximately 230 people, of which 20 are partners. Joint-managing partners of the new firm will be accountant and tax advisor Jochen Delfs (45), and lawyer Rüdiger Ludwig (48).

Tax advice and audit and accountancy services will, as before, be provided by MDS MÖHRLE, with HAPP LUTHER Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft delivering legal services. Dr. Martin Luther, Dr. Tobias Möhrle, and the prominent company and corporate lawyer Dr. Wilhelm Happ will be the managing directors of the law firm.

“In the light of increasingly complex client demands, we will now be able to offer our clients a significantly better, broader and above all, multi-disciplinary service through the merged firm” says joint managing partner Jochen Delfs. MDS MÖHRLE and HAPP LUTHER have been working together on a range of client projects for some time, and the positive experience of that co-operation was behind the decision to merge. “In HAPP LUTHER we have found a long established, and very highly regarded firm, which has a client base similar in profile to ours. Particularly important is that they work the same way we do – building close relationships to clients to really be able to understand their needs” commented Delfs.

Joint managing partner Rüdiger Ludwig added “ we see many parallels in the firms’ culture and philosophy which will greatly enhance the synergies we expect to see”. The firm plans to continue to follow the existing growth strategies, and on the legal side Ludwig expects

to see headcount growth in the region of 20% next year. "The firm offers laterals the chance to enjoy top quality work in an interesting environment", promises Ludwig. HAPP LUTHER's move to join MDS MÖHRLE in their Haferweg premises, in Hamburg Eimsbüttel, is planned for 2011. The budgeted turnover for the new firm for 2010 is €24 million. "The new MDS MÖHRLE Group will be a force to be reckoned with in each of its three core areas of tax, audit, and legal" added Dr. Tobias Möhrle.

## *About HAPP LUTHER UND PARTNER*

*HAPP LUTHER UND PARTNER with 7 partners and a total of 13 lawyers advises and represents companies and entrepreneurs in company and corporate law matters including M&A transactions, intellectual property, employment and real estate. The firm has long term relationships to "Mittelstand" businesses as well as to large national and international firms and listed companies, Charitable Trusts, Insurance Companies, Banks, Hospitals and other professional services companies. As is widely known in the market, HAPP LUTHER's clients include all the German companies within the Gambro-Gruppe, AstraZeneca, Weimann, BenQ Deutschland, numerous companies from the pharmaceutical and health care sectors, and from the insurance and trade sectors. The well-known German singer Udo Lindenberg is also a client of the firm.*

## *About MDS MÖHRLE*

*With around 210 employees MDS MÖHRLE is one of the leading firms in Germany offering audit, tax and legal advice. The firm has offices in Hamburg, Berlin and Schwerin. Clients include family and owner-managed businesses, Charitable trusts, as well as many national and internationally active listed companies. Its clients are drawn from a range of sectors including trade, engineering, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, media, IT and real estate. MDS MÖHRLE also offer a full range of tax and business advisory services including succession, estate planning and inheritance matters, to entrepreneurs, their businesses, and to private individuals.*

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