

Press Release

Schaeffler receives VDA Logistics Award for innovative automation solutions in intralogistics

HERZOGENAURACH, 2026-03-05.

- Schaeffler receives prestigious VDA Logistics Award for the strategic initiative "Touchless Material Flow"
- Initiative aims to reduce reliance on manual interventions and optimize material flow through AI-powered automation
- Award underlines Schaeffler's innovative strength in the digitalization and automation of its plants

Motion Technology Company Schaeffler has received the VDA Logistics Award for its "Touchless Material Flow" strategic initiative. With the program, the company aims to reduce its reliance on manual interventions in its global intralogistics operations and, through automated and AI-powered solutions, set a new standard in material flow optimization. The initiative was launched in 2021 and has already been successfully implemented at several manufacturing locations worldwide. A key requirement for successful implementation is the availability of an extensive portfolio of solutions encompassing automated guided vehicles, automated storage and retrieval systems, and humanoid robots. "Touchless Material Flow" connects all of these in a digital ecosystem.

"We are very pleased to have won the prestigious VDA Logistics Award, which confirms our vision of fully connected, autonomous intralogistics," says Thomas Kirchermeier, Senior Vice President Supply Chain Management & Logistics at Schaeffler AG. "Schaeffler pursues the goal of continuously automating and digitalizing its logistics processes. With the 'Touchless Material Flow' initiative, we are creating a scalable digital backbone for our global manufacturing operations. Schaeffler is transforming material flow from purely physical movement to an intelligent, digital ecosystem. Through the use of AI and humanoid robots, we are setting new standards in terms of productivity and making our plants fit for the digital future."

Schaeffler additionally provides an overview of all approved automation solutions via an internal platform – with technical data, supplier information, and use cases. With the help of a standardized end-to-end approach, potential along the entire material flow is systematically recognized and productivity is sustainably increased through the targeted use of modern automation technologies and organizational

optimizations. The globally available solutions portfolio offers simple and scalable standards that help harmonize manufacturing processes and strengthen cross-divisional cooperation. This central database supports the continuous expansion and improvement of the standard solutions worldwide. A key requirement for success is the establishment of a global "Touchless Material Flow Network" that makes innovative solutions visible, promotes the implementation of these solutions, and enables targeted knowledge transfer between plants.

Schaeffler Group – We pioneer motion: The Schaeffler Group has been driving forward groundbreaking inventions and developments in the field of motion technology for 80 years. With innovative technologies, products, and services for electric mobility, CO₂-efficient drives, chassis solutions and renewable energies, the company is a reliable partner for making motion more efficient, intelligent, and sustainable – over the entire life cycle. Schaeffler describes its comprehensive range of products and services by means of eight product families: From bearing solutions and all types of linear guidance systems through to repair and monitoring services. Schaeffler is with around 110,000 employees and more than 250 locations in 55 countries, one of the world's largest family-owned companies and one of Germany's most innovative companies.

Kai Althoff, Chairman of BVL and CEO of 4flow (left), and Dr.-Ing. Marcus Bollig, Managing Director of the VDA (right) handed the VDA Logistics Award to Carlos Ramos-Hernandez, Senior Vice President Supply Chain Innovation & Technologies at Schaeffler AG (center left) and Thomas Kirchermeier, Senior Vice President Supply Chain Management & Logistics at Schaeffler AG. (Photo: VDA and BVL (Christian Lietzmann))

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