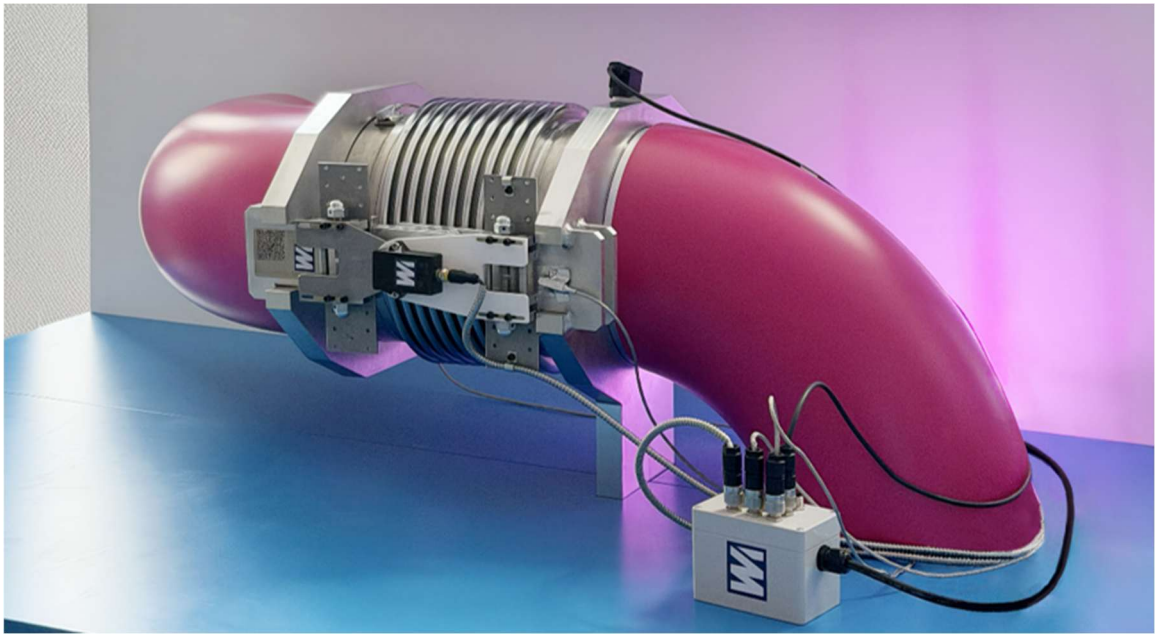
witzenmann
MANAGING FLEXIBILITY

Press Release

Pforzheim, 8 October 2026

wivra enables smart pipelines

Witzenmann has founded wivra GmbH, an independent deep-tech company specialising in the industrial digitalisation of pipeline systems. The business model is based on the SMART.WI. software developed by the technology leader. The spin-off is intended to enable the product to realise its full potential, offering all plant operators greater safety, reliability, transparency and predictability.



wivra measures pressure, temperature and movement directly at the expansion joint and provides real-time information on the condition of the pipework via the wivra.portal. (Image source: Witzenmann GmbH)

The starting point for the company's foundation is the SMART.WI. technology developed by Witzenmann. Using intelligent sensor technology, it provides a 24/7 real-time overview of the condition of pipework systems, enabling operators of industrial plants to monitor the condition of their systems continuously and to make reliable assessments of the remaining service life of their expansion joints.

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Always up to date – real-time data

wivra's 24/7 monitoring makes actual loads visible in real time, thereby providing customers with a truly reliable basis for decision-making. With its active monitoring, wivra is the first software in the plant engineering sector to enable a genuine predictive maintenance approach and a high level of reliability. Enormous cost savings are possible when the plant provides data-driven signals based on its actual operating condition, rather than being subject to rigid maintenance intervals. As unplanned downtime is essentially eliminated, the smart plant operates significantly more economically than pipe systems operating blindly.

Industry 4.0 needs asset management 2.0

When it comes to complex pipework systems for district heating or in the process industry, wivra bridges a crucial gap in digitalisation. Thanks to the smart technology, expansion joints installed in these systems become data-providing assets. Based on real operational data, more reliable investment and maintenance decisions can be made. Assumptions and time-consuming individual measurements are then a relic of the past. Furthermore, the wivra solution is universally applicable. Regardless of the component manufacturer, systems can be upgraded and become smart.

By leaving the Witzenmann incubator, wivra is becoming an agile brand

"We didn't just want to develop the technology; we wanted to give it room to unfold its full potential," says Daniel Rothfuss, Venture Lead at the newly established wivra GmbH. "Digital business models require speed, a customer focus and entrepreneurial freedom. That's why we made a conscious decision to spin off," adds Philip Paschen, CDO and COO of the Witzenmann GmbH.

The new business operates on the principles of a software and services company. Short development cycles, a strong focus on customer needs and the ability to attract digital talent in a highly targeted way are creating the conditions for rapid growth in a high-potential market. Witzenmann holds a majority stake in the software subsidiary wivra GmbH. The company's development is being supported by the Cologne-based venture builder valaeon.

At wivra, the focus until the end of the year is on further expanding its customer base. wivra GmbH will make its first public appearance alongside Witzenmann at HeatExpo 2026.

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The Witzenmann Group
Technology that connects. Perfection that moves.
We are your global technology leader for the safe transmission of media, and set standards worldwide. Manufacturers, suppliers and service providers in the building, mobility and industrial sectors around the globe benefit from our unique knowledge, outstanding engineering expertise and drive for perfection.

With our piping systems, metal hoses, expansion joints, metal bellows, pipe supports and vehicle components, we offer innovative product solutions and services – also for the key technologies of the future. Semiconductor manufacturing, the hydrogen economy or e-mobility: whatever the field, we are actively shaping the transition to a decarbonised world. Our solutions are reliable, efficient and sustainable, even in the most challenging applications.

We have one goal in mind: satisfied customers whose operations run smoothly and efficiently. With the world's most comprehensive and diverse product range, our family-owned company offers unparalleled solutions. And with around 4,400 dedicated employees in 16 countries, we are well prepared to support current as well as future customers – including you!

For more information, please visit: www.witzenmann.com

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About wivra
wivra is a subsidiary of the Witzenmann Group and, using its SMART.WI. technology, provides digital asset management for pipeline expansion joints in the energy and process industries. The company enables plant operators to carry out data-driven, predictive maintenance rather than reactive repairs following a failure. For more information, please visit www.wivra.com.

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Images and captions

Caption: Quick to install, manufacturer-independent and easy to retrofit even in existing installations – the wivra kit for pipe expansion joints.
Image source: Witzenmann GmbH

Caption: The wivra team (from left to right): Daniel Rothfuss (Venture Lead), Philipp Eliasmöller (Operations), Christian Looman (Technology Lead), Friedrich Schnürer (Sales), Torsten Wohlrab (Finance Lead), Nico Schlumpp, Csaba Freiberger (both Engineering)
Image source: Witzenmann GmbH

Caption: Philip Paschen CDO/COO Witzenmann GmbH
Image source: Witzenmann GmbH

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The wivra logo is available in various sizes and colour variations.
Image source: Witzenmann GmbH

Caption: Daniel Rothfuss, Venture Lead, wivra
Image source: Witzenmann GmbH

Image material can be downloaded here:
https://share.followred.com/index.php/s/aN82jeneHFk3H6w

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