

# Statement by the Management

Dear simple system business partners,

as an independent platform, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of business ethics and value open communication with both our existing and future business partners. The basic framework of our cooperation, particularly in regard to our neutrality, shareholder structure and the handling of sensitive data, is summarised below.

## Neutrality, shareholder structure and handling of sensitive data

- simple system GmbH & Co KG operates the eProcurement platform "simple system", through which vendors and customers can enter into a business relationship with each other. As an independent platform operator, we provide the technical platform for the sale and purchase of goods and services between vendors and customers. simple system is committed to absolute neutrality towards all platform participants without exception.
- The sole shareholder of simple system is Hoffmann SE, Europe's leading system partner for quality tools. Hoffmann SE considers simple system to be a 100% neutral subsidiary and does not exert any influence on the operational business of the platform, apart from its strategic business orientation and strategic financing. In particular, there are no special rights or advantages for the shareholder compared to other platform participants – especially with respect to their function as a vendor on the platform. Like all other platform participants, Hoffmann SE is bound by all legal requirements as defined in our vendor contracts, general terms and conditions, and data protection agreement through which simple system guarantees the highest level of data security and confidentiality regarding sensitive data.
- As an eProcurement platform operator, data and information are some of our most valuable assets. Therefore, simple system is extremely serious about data security, trust and confidentiality. We are aware of this special responsibility and consider it one of the most important obligations for us as a company along with each of our employees to ensure security and confidentiality regarding any information about our vendors' and customers' platform activities. Any information about prices, orders, and contractual relationships are exclusively accessible to the contracting parties themselves – unless it is publicly accessible. simple system is responsible for the confidentiality of this data.

If you have any further questions on the topics of neutrality, shareholder structure, and the handling of sensitive data, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your personal contact person as well as the management are available for an open discussion at any time.

Your Managing Directors of simple system



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