



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Festo Announces New \$90 Million Investment, Bringing Unprecedented Growth in Advanced Automation Technology to Mason, Ohio**

*Through Successful Partnership with City of Mason, Global Leading Automation Technology Provider Will Almost Triple Existing Facility*

*Festo Also Announces Leadership Transition, Welcoming Dr. Nikolas Gebhard as Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Product Supply for North America*

(MASON, OHIO, April 10, 2018) – The City of Mason and Festo, a German-based global corporation specializing in advanced automation technology for more than 40 industries, today announced the company will expand its existing state-of-the-art Regional Service and Manufacturing Center in Mason by approximately 350,000 square feet, nearly tripling the company’s capacity in logistics, production and industrial training solutions offered through its Festo Didactic Learning Center, which serves manufacturing companies and colleges throughout the Tristate. Construction will be conducted in two phases and is expected to be completed by 2024. The company also plans to add 350 jobs in the fields of engineering, mechatronics, purchasing and material management, as well as production and logistics operations, over the next five years.

Festo, which maintains United States and North American regional headquarters in New York, first announced its move to Mason in 2013 with a \$50 million, 150,000 square-foot facility that opened in 2015 along the I-71 Innovation Corridor. Festo’s leadership team credits the strong foundation established with city, regional and state officials, as well as the opportunities the regional ecosystem provides in terms of talent, connectivity and innovation in Industry 4.0/Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), as the impetus to locate and expand here. This new investment is a next step in maximizing the 47-acre campus acquired by Festo to meet growing demands in the North American market.

“Strong market growth in the U.S. and other North American countries requires us to expand our capacity in logistics and production to ensure product and service excellence for our customers,” said Oliver Ring, Festo’s global senior vice president of supply chain and logistics. “We are pleased and proud to announce

this substantial expansion here in Mason, where our team feels welcome and at home. We look forward to a long future of collaboration and success with our customers and partners.”

“As we continue to grow in the U.S. and North America, this strategic investment in production, logistics and supply chain excellence will enable us to better supply our customers long term,” said Carlos Miranda, chief executive officer of Festo, North America.

“Digitalization trends around Industry 4.0 (IIoT) are driving fast-paced changes in the automation industry,” said Rich Huss, president and chief executive officer, Festo U.S. “To keep up with and meet our customers’ high expectations, this investment will allow us to increase local production and strengthen our regional supply chain long term.”

“While this may seem like a traditional economic development announcement on the surface, this investment represents far more,” said City of Mason Mayor Victor Kidd. “Our four-year friendship with Festo runs deep. Through its incredible generosity to our community and schools, Festo has redefined what it means to be a partner, helping to inspire curiosity in STEM education in our youngest residents.”

The City of Mason, REDI Cincinnati and JobsOhio are collaborating to create an incentive package for Festo. The expansion is contingent upon the approval of those incentives at the local level and from JobsOhio, which will be made public after review from the appropriate approval bodies.

“Festo’s expansion is an example of how talent, collaboration and commitment to innovation can help a global advanced manufacturing leader thrive in Ohio,” said JobsOhio Director for Advanced Manufacturing Glenn Richardson. “Festo has been a fantastic partner in Mason, investing in cutting-edge technology, creative training solutions and hundreds of new jobs for Ohioans.”

“Festo has a passion for transforming the way people work with their innovative technology solutions,” said Kimm Coyner, vice president of business development and project management at REDI Cincinnati. “Their increased investment in our region helps advance our leadership in IIoT. We are proud of our partnership, which has focused on strengthening our talent, including sponsorship of the City of Mason’s Innovation Week.”

### **Local Leadership at Festo Transitioning**

Festo also will mark a leadership transition at its Mason campus. Yannick Schilly, the chief operating officer and vice president of product supply for North America who successfully relocated and established Festo’s Regional Service and Manufacturing Center in Mason, will step down. Dr. Nikolas Gebhard was announced as Schilly's successor yesterday during the company's Town Hall Meeting. Gebhard has served

since 2012 in various positions at Festo in engineering and with the supply chain division. Schilly will stay on through June to ensure a smooth transition.

“After four successful years, I have decided to establish my own business venture here,” said Schilly. “Mason has become the perfect home to my Festo family, as well as my own family.”

“Having worked in Italy and Germany, I am excited about this investment and my new professional and personal challenge here in the U.S.,” said Gebhard. “After several months of close collaboration with the local Festo team in Mason, I now look forward to taking the Mason campus to the next level and to fostering the wonderful partnerships Festo has forged here. My family and I look forward to joining this community, which has already embraced our Festo family.”

### **Festo and City of Mason Provide Model for Strong Public-Private-Partnership**

Under Schilly’s leadership, Festo has worked closely with the City of Mason to foster a strong public-private-partnership that supports community education and talent development; inspires students of all ages to take an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields; and brings economic benefits to the technology ecosystem already present in the city and region. Festo served as a founding partner in launching the City of Mason Innovation Week in 2015 with its Bionic Learning Network, which illustrates how principles from nature provide inspiration and creative solutions to technical and industrial applications. Last year, Festo showcased its Mobile Mechatronics Lab, featuring the latest advancements in energy-efficient automation technology.

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### **About Festo**

Festo is a leading worldwide supplier of intelligent automation solutions including pneumatic and electromechanical systems, components and controls for process control and factory automation. Festo’s products and services are available in 176 countries. With approximately 20,000 employees in more than 250 branch offices in 61 countries worldwide, Festo’s sales exceeded \$3.5 billion last year. Actual figures for 2017 will be released in late April. Each year, Festo invests approximately 8 percent of its revenue in research and development. For more information, visit [www.festo.com](http://www.festo.com).

### **About Festo Didactic**

Festo Didactic is the world-leading equipment and solution provider for technical education. The company designs and implements learning laboratories, educational equipment and programs that train people to perform in highly dynamic and complex industrial environments. Festo Didactic’s Learning Center in Mason, Ohio, serves manufacturing companies and colleges in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, offering a wide range of industrial solutions training and qualifications related to Industry 4.0 (IIoT). The company worked together with Sinclair Community College to create an accredited two-year Mechatronics Apprenticeship Program to

help employers develop skills that are missing in the workforce today by combining theoretical education, hands-on training and on-the-job training. For more information, visit [www.festo-didactic.com](http://www.festo-didactic.com).

### **About the City of Mason**

Mason, Ohio, is an established hub for innovation and includes a business portfolio of advanced manufacturing, healthcare and technology companies. In the last three years, Mason has recruited more than \$615 million in new investment and brought more than 3,100 jobs to the city. As the largest city in Warren County and part of the Greater Cincinnati region, Mason's economic development mission is focused on attracting and supporting the growth of top companies and creating jobs in these sectors, while also leveraging partnerships to attract foreign direct investment. Mason is nationally recognized for its low cost of living, award-winning schools and its intentional culture of wellness. For more information about the City of Mason, visit [imaginemason.org](http://imaginemason.org) or [whymason.com](http://whymason.com).

### **About REDI Cincinnati**

The Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Cincinnati is one of JobsOhio's six regional economic development partners in the JobsOhio Network. REDI Cincinnati is the first point of contact for businesses interested in growing in or relocating to Greater Cincinnati, a three-state, 15-county region with 2.2 million residents and 120,000 businesses, including nine *Fortune* 500 companies. In 2017, Greater Cincinnati ranked sixth in the U.S. for new/expanded facilities among metros with one million or more residents.

### **About JobsOhio**

JobsOhio is a private, nonprofit corporation designed to drive job creation and new capital investment in Ohio through business attraction, retention and expansion efforts. JobsOhio works with six regional partners across Ohio: [Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth](#), [Columbus 2020](#), [Dayton Development Coalition](#), [REDI Cincinnati](#), [Regional Growth Partnership](#) and [Team NEO](#). Learn more at [www.jobs-ohio.com](http://www.jobs-ohio.com). Follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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