

Infineon named as 'smoke-free business' in Carinthia

The regional health insurance company of Carinthia and state of Carinthia today (Tuesday) made Infineon Technologies Austria AG the first company in Carinthia to receive a 'smoke-free company' certificate (silver) as part of the Tobacco Prevention Strategy event during World Non-Smoking Day.

Villach – The 'smoke-free company' certificate is awarded for companies, concepts and measures which make a significant contribution to preventing the use of tobacco in companies. Businesses are presented with a bronze, silver or gold certificate for a period of 3 years, depending on the degree of the measures implemented.

Infineon Technologies Austria AG is the first company in Carinthia to receive the 'smoke-free company' certificate in the silver category. The company has been working intensively towards preventing tobacco use within the company for some time now. In addition to focusing on protecting non-smokers and the health of employees at the company, tobacco withdrawal offers are also provided in the form of motivational talks and group withdrawal courses which go beyond the legal requirements. Infineon Austria also addresses the topic at several different levels of the company and promotes non-smoking throughout the company through the design of its working environment and conditions, for example by banning smoking in all areas, installing smoking lounges on the company site, introducing smoke-free company cars, offering smoking withdrawal sessions with the company doctor and removing cigarette machines on the company premises.

"As a company, we are responsible for the health of our employees. We support them on their way to a healthier and specifically smoke-free lifestyle through a range of measures. The receipt of our 'smoke-free company' certificate in silver will motivate us to continue and further develop these successful tobacco prevention activities at Infineon Austria in the long-term," says Oliver Heinrich, Executive Board member at Infineon Technologies Austria AG, of the in-house importance of this issue.

"The working environment is a key factor when it comes to which framework conditions influence health. It is therefore all the more satisfactory to have companies focusing on employee health with their effective concepts and measures. Infineon Technologies Austria AG is a role model company when it comes to commitment in the tobacco prevention sector. It has succeeded in integrating this topic into its day-to-day operations in the long-term and in further developing the quality of its offering," say Deputy Director of the regional health insurance company of Carinthia Dkfm. Maximilian Miggitsch and Chairman of the regional health insurance company of Carinthia, Georg Steiner (MBA). Both are very pleased about the commitment being made to protect the health of Infineon employees.

"The clear aim of the measures implemented in Carinthia is to raise awareness within the population that smoking is not a socially acceptable vice but rather an addiction which can cause significant harm and needs to be taken seriously. Tobacco consumption continues to be one of the greatest avoidable causes of death across the world," says Carinthia's health advisor and Deputy Governor, Beate Prettner. The majority of an adult's life is spent in the workplace surrounded by colleagues, which is why corporate measures to raise awareness and encourage people to quit smoking are particularly effective here according to Prettner, who praises Infineon Austria's commitment to health in this regard and hopes the business will be seen as a role model for other companies.

Quitting smoking with the regional health insurance company of Carinthia

As the largest health insurance provider in Carinthia, the regional health insurance company of Carinthia looks after close to 434,000 claimants and as part of its health service, offers personal support with quitting smoking as well as 'quit smoking' groups across Carinthia through its tobacco prevention strategy. The regional health insurance company of Carinthia draws on long-standing experience in this regard. "Since 2006, any insured individuals wishing to quit smoking have been offered quit smoking support. Over 70 group courses and over 4,000 personal sessions have been held since then, helping the people of Carinthia on their way to smoke-free living," say Deputy Director of the regional health insurance company of Carinthia, Dkfm. Maximilian Miggitsch and Chairman of



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the regional health insurance company of Carinthia, Georg Steiner (MBA) about the 10 year anniversary of the regional health insurance company of Carinthia non-smoking programme.

Background: According to Statistics Austria (2014), 21.4% of Carinthians smoke every day and 6.8% occasionally

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