# Sustainability Report 2022

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WE SOLVE THERMAL CHALLENGES

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### Focus on the environment -What we achieved in 2022

### % **Energy consumption**

2022: 12.048.175 kWh





2022: 102,181 tCO<sub>2</sub>e 2021: 109,821 tCO<sub>2</sub>e





### Waste generation

2022: 530 tonnes 2021: 688 tonnes



2022: 6,702 cubic meters 2021: 7,362 cubic meters

# Our progress with sustainability



The start of the **development** of an ESG strategy

Systematic linking of our sustainability activities with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)





Investments in research and development to continuously enhance our innovative capabilities +17.8% (2022: EUR 4.5 million; 2021: EUR 3.7 million)

Employee turnover –11% (employee turnover rate 2022: 2.7%; employee turnover rate 2021: 3.0 %)





**Resource-conserving quality** assurance for VIPs by va-Q-check to lengthen service life

Proportion of suppliers committed to **meeting** the standards required by va-Q-tec **+5.7%** (2022: 88%; 2021: 83%)





### **1. Introduction**

### A. FOREWORD BY THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Dear readers,

As the Management Board of va-Q-tec AG, it is a special pleasure and concern for us to present our Sustainability Report for 2022.

Sustainability has formed an integral part of our corporate DNA since our company was founded twenty years ago. Accordingly, it has always been our ambition to be at the forefront of technological innovation in the area of thermal energy efficiency. Since then, our successful development has been based on bold visions, reliable services and customer-oriented solutions. Today, we are proud to be a global leader in this area. Our products and services enable our customers from a wide range of industries to operate more energy-efficiently, conserve valuable resources and at the same time use durable products.

The urgent challenges of climate change that face us make it clear how indispensable energy efficiency is for our future. It is not just a question of economic efficiency, but a compelling necessity for the protection of our planet and the well-being of future generations. Within this global context, energy efficiency has the power to slow the rise in global temperatures, reduce the consumption of precious resources and make a crucial contribution to the stability of our global ecosystems. For business, it also offers the opportunity to transition to more sustainable operations while reaping financial benefits.

Our vision is clear: we aim to be perceived as a leading cleantech company that sets the standard for energy efficiency and innovation in every aspect – be it in our own production or through the quality of our products. Here, our focus is not only on the short-term saving of energy through the direct use of our products. Rather, our goal is to provide continuous economic added value over the entire life cycle of our products. This enables our customers to optimize resource utilization in the long term and thereby save costs on a sustainable basis.

We have reached an important milestone in implementing our vision by further developing our sustainability strategy. Based on the main goals defined to date and with the involvement of internal stakeholders, we have started a structured process that systematically evaluates and strategically elaborates the impact as well as opportunities and risks arising from our business model. This is a clear sign of our determination to make concrete and measurable progress in our pursuit of sustainability.

We do not regard sustainability as an end in itself, but as a value that makes us fit for the long-term future. By putting our values and vision into practice in a structured manner, we aim to further contribute to ensuring that sustainability at va-Q-tec is not just an insubstantial buzzword – as is unfortunately all too often the case elsewhere – but is firmly anchored in every aspect of our business activities. For this reason, we are endeavoring to continuously optimize our business practices to minimize our environmental footprint while maximizing social and economic benefits. We are convinced that through our commitment to sustainability, social responsibility and strong governance, we can make a decisive contribution to

### B. REPORTING PERIOD AND SCOPE

This Sustainability Report covers the 2022 financial year from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. On a voluntary basis, va-Q-tec AG had prepared a report on sustainability aspects for the first time about the year 2021, which can be downloaded from the company's website.

Unless otherwise stated, this sustainability report covers va-Q-tec AG and its twelve subsidiaries (collectively referred to as the "va-Q-tec Group" or the "Group") with the German production and development sites in Würzburg and Kölleda as well as the international sales sites in Switzerland, Austria, France, the UK, the USA, Uruguay and Brazil as well as in South Korea, Japan, Singapore, India and China.

The data contained in this report are presented as far as possible for a comparative period of three years and have been collected and processed with the utmost care. The forward-looking statements published in this report are based on the information available at the time of the publication of this report. Statements regarding expected developments reprethe European Union's Green Deal and to achieving a green, inclusive and sustainable economy.

We cordially invite you to form a picture of our endeavors and successes on the following pages.

With sustainable greetings,

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Dr. Joachim Kuhn (CEO and founder)

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and Stefan Döhmen (CFO)

sent assessments by the Management Board of va-Q-tec AG and are for informational purposes only. The actual development of va-Q-tec may diverge from these expected developments. For this report, va-Q-tec AG also uses data that it must obtain from its suppliers. Statements in this report that refer to data from suppliers or other third parties are identified accordingly. va-Q-tec AG accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of such data.

### C. METHODOLOGY AND FRAMEWORKS

This sustainability report is based on the 20 criteria of the German Sustainability Code (DNK). As a cross-sector transparency standard for reporting corporate sustainability performance, the DNK provides a comprehensive framework for reporting on non-financial performance. va-Q-tec AG aims for a high degree of compliance with the DNK recommendations and will successively enhance such compliance in its future sustainability reports. Carbon emissions are determined in accordance with the UN Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG). This report by va-Q-tec AG has not been audited by an external auditor.



### 2. Sustainability at va-Q-tec

### A. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

### i) Our values, our vision

The compass for va-Q-tec's business success is the vision of being a leading cleantech company that sets standards for energy efficiency and innovation in thermal energy efficiency not only through its own production, but also through the products themselves. We develop high-performance thermal energy storage components as well as energy-efficient, thin vacuum insulation panels for insulation, combine them into passive thermal packaging systems, and offer matching services. In this way, we reliably help our customers in a wide range of industries to operate more energy-efficiently and to use long-lasting products. Further information about our business model can be found in the "Business model" chapter on pages 15 and 16.

### We strive to ensure that our products are not only energy efficient and environmentally responsible, but also provide long-term economic benefits to our customers by saving costs, optimizing resource utilization and maximizing lifetime value.

In its "Products" division, va-Q-tec develops, produces and sells high-performance vacuum insulation panels ("VIPs") for insulation as well as thermal energy storage components (Phase Change Materials – "PCMs"). In our "Systems" division, we offer passive thermal packaging, containers and boxes made from a combination of VIPs and PCMs that can maintain a defined temperature corridor in the range of –70 °C to +70 °C constantly for up to 200 hours without external energy supply. We are continuously working on innovative technologies, process innovations and new business models that can change or improve not only temperature chain logistics, but also thermal insulation in many industries, such as mobility and technology.

In order to consolidate and expand our leading role in the thermal insulation and TempChain logistics area, as well as to respond to the increasing challenges of climate change, we have always focused on innovations that offer benefits for customers. Above all, with our sustainable thermal packaging solutions, we aim to enable secure, temperature-stable supply chains and minimize the loss of vital, temperature-sensitive goods. The special focus here is on products from the pharmaceutical industry, such as biotechnology products and clinical samples. Responsible resource utilization is the core value that we share with our customers, both in terms of the production of our products and the efficient utilization of energy. In doing so, we take into account the entire life cycle of our products, from manufacture through to use and disposal, and place a particular emphasis on the aspect of total cost of ownership. We strive to ensure that our products are not only energy efficient and environmentally responsible, but also provide longterm economic benefits to our customers by saving costs, optimizing resource utilization and maximizing lifetime value.

Our value creation encompasses various stages, including purchasing and resource procurement, product development, production and consulting services, marketing and sales, customer service, as well as supporting corporate functions such as personnel, financial accounting, controlling and IT systems. Further information about our value creation can be found in the "Business model" chapter on pages 15 and 16 and in the chapter on "Sustainability aspects of the value and supply chain" on page 17. Information about how we manage risks arising from our value creation can be found in the chapter "Management of sustainability risks" on pages 35 and 36.

The linking our business strategy with our sustainability strategy aims to exert a positive impact on the world while ensuring long-term success for our company.

### Sustainability forms an integral part of our corporate DNA, so many aspects such as employee concerns and environmental issues are second nature for us.

We aim to take economic, ecological and social aspects into equal consideration and create sustainable added value for our stakeholders and society as a whole. Sustainability forms an integral part of our corporate DNA, so many aspects such as employee concerns and environmental issues are second nature for us. With this report and our strategy, we aim to make our actions and our success measurable and controllable. Our aim is to make our sustainability journey concrete and transparent. We have further developed our sustainability strategy in 2023 and are determined to make continuous progress. Based on the main goals defined to date and with the involvement of internal stakeholders, we have started a structured process that systematically evaluates and strategically elaborates the impact as well as opportunities and risks of the business model. By putting our values and vision into action, we aim to help make sustainability an integral part of our business in all areas.

### ii) Our focus topics

In preparation for our ESG strategy, at the end of 2021 we conducted a survey with an external partner among our all our divisional managers. They were asked to rank a number of issues according to their importance for the business success of va-Q-tec, the impact on the environment and society, and from the perspective of relevant stakeholders. The assumptions were made on the basis of the participants' experiences and the various dialog formats that we already maintain with selected groups. The basis for this survey was a catalog of topics based on international and national standards and frameworks, a peer group analysis and company-specific factors. After evaluating the criteria, the results were presented to the Management Board, which was given the opportunity to contribute its view on significance and impact. A total of eleven focus topics were thereby defined for va-Q-tec, which we have combined into the following four focus areas this year:

- **Employee issues:** Personnel development (education, training and further education); occupational safety; employer attractiveness
- **Product portfolio:** Customer satisfaction, product guality and innovation management
- **Sustainable supply chains:** Supply chain management, responsibility within the supply chain
- **Environmental issues:** Climate-relevant emissions / climate neutrality

As part of a structured stakeholder engagement process, relevant stakeholder groups are to be involved in the coming year, giving them the opportunity to specify their expectations and wishes for va-Q-tec.

### iii) Stakeholder engagement

In preparation for a structured stakeholder engagement process, we conducted a so-called "stakeholder mapping" in the first half of 2023 with the aim of systematically identifying and prioritizing stakeholders.

According to the definitions by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and AccountAbility, we understand stakeholders to be all persons and groups that are affected by or can influence our business activities. A total of 17 groups were identified that meet this definition. In order to prioritize these, capture their different meanings and identify strategic approaches for stakeholder dialog, they were assessed from different perspectives. A total of 16 individuals from the Supervisory and Management boards as well as from the Personnel, Controlling, Legal, Purchasing, Production and Finance departments as well as Sales, Marketing, Corporate Communications, Innovation Management, Business Development and Investor Relations of va-Q-tec AG participated in the evaluation process. The evaluations were recorded anonymously in order to enable an objective and honest assessment and to minimize potential influences.

Based on the answers, the stakeholders were positioned in the area of conflict between importance, degree of affectedness and influence on va-Q-tec with the following result:





Following the prioritization of stakeholders as part of the stakeholder mapping, we plan, firstly, to control the intensity of our communication activities accordingly. Secondly, we intend to develop an effective stakeholder engagement strategy. The findings from this process are translated into a materiality analysis and an ESG strategy that should already comply with CSRD/ESRS requirements. On this basis, we can improve our sustainability performance in a targeted manner and individually adapt the content of our communication activities to the stakeholder groups.

- 1) Employees
- 4) Customers
- 5) Suppliers
- 9) Banks & bondholders
- 3) Supervisory Board
- 6) Shareholders, institutional investors/retail investors
- 10) Proxy advisors (rating agencies, ESG rating agencies)
- 8) Analysts
- 12) Government, local politics & regulators
- 7) Auditors
- 2) Applicants
- 13) Public & society (local community, local residents)
- 11) Capital market, regional & trade media
- 15) Research institutions
- 14) Educational institutions: universities and colleges
- 16) Interests in startups
- 17) NGOs/associations

\*Results as of 16 May 2023

The following table shows the current dialog offerings and topics for the individual stakeholder groups:

stakeholder group	Dialog offering	Topics
Employees	Personal dialog with managers as well as the personnel department, intranet, staff information; staff meetings; community events	Work-life balance; employer attrac- tiveness; personnel development; innovation management; compliance; occupational health and safety
Customers	Personal communication with sales and product managers, digital com- munication, dialog offerings on the website and by phone, service center; satisfaction survey	Product and service portfolio; inno- vation management; customized solutions; customer service and maintenance; quality assurance
Suppliers	Regular communication	Supplier security; responsibility within the supply chain; supply chain management; quality assurance
Banks & bondholders	Direct dialog (by telephone, email, conferences, roadshows), financial and sustainability reports, Annual General Meeting, press releases, further individual discussion formats	Business model and strategy, business development, reporting, compliance with cove - nants/agreements, planning and risk management
Supervisory Board	Direct dialog (meetings, by phone, email)	Business model and strategy, business development, reporting, compliance with cove- nants/agreements, planning and risk management
Investors	Direct dialog (by telephone, email, conferences, roadshows), financial and sustainability reports, Annual General Meeting, press releases, further individual discussion formats	Business model and strategy, business development, reporting, compliance with cove- nants/agreements, planning and risk management
Analysts	Direct dialog (by telephone, email, conferences, roadshows), financial and sustainability reports; press releases	Business model and strategy, business development, reporting, compliance with cove- nants/agreements, planning and risk management
Government, local politics & regulators	Regular communication at federal level as well as at municipal and regional level	Regulatory changes; legislative initiatives; sector developments
Applicants	Website, trade fairs, personal talks	Work-life balance; employer attractiveness; personnel development
Auditors	Regular communication in the context of the preparation of financial statements	Business development; reporting, compliance with cove - nants/agreements, planning and risk management

Public & society	Media work; website; multipliers; events	Promotion of culture and sport in society; promotion of training; employer attractiveness	
Media	Press releases, press events	Business model and strategy; business development; technological innovations	
Research institutions	Joint research projects	Development of innovative and efficient insulation solutions	
Universities and colleges	Joint research projects	Development of innovative and efficient insulation solutions	
Associations/NGOs	Communication within regional and supra-regional networks, support of joint initiatives	Business models and strategies; sector developments; technological innovations	

### iv) Goals and measures

In 2023, we are continuing the process of reviewing, defining and making measurable our goals and target horizons. The first strategically relevant goals we have set ourselves are:

Category	Focus topic	Commitment	Section in this report
E	Climate-relevant emissions	Reduce energy consump- tion as a percentage of revenues by 1.5 % compared to the 2019 baseline.	рр. 24–25
		The target is to save 20,000 kWh through the heat/cooling management in the CHP. Furthermore, an additional 20,000 kWh is expected to be generated through a baseload analysis or shutdown of the Inpow facilities.	
		The target is to reduce the volume of waste to < 99.7% compared to 2020.	
S	Customer satisfaction, product quality	The target is a satisfaction rate of at least 90 %.	рр. 37–38
S	Occupational safety	The target is to reduce the number of occupational accidents to zero and to keep the sickness rate below 4.5 %.	рр. 29–30
S	Employer attractiveness	The target is to keep the employee turnover rate constant at 3.0 %.	рр. 27–28
G	Supply chain management, responsibility within the supply chain	The aim is to create a Code of Conducts for suppliers and business partners.	pp. 17, 35, 38

We will specify and supplement the objectives for the remaining focus topics in the context of a further strategy workshop and of the planned CSRD-compliant materiality analysis.

1 <sup>№</sup> ₩¥₩₩₩₩	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 EDUCATION	5 EENDER EQUALITY	6 CILEAN WATER AND SANITATION
	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 NOUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED REQUALITIES		12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 UPE IND	16 PEACE JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### v) UN Sustainable Development Goals

Today more than ever, companies are motivated to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda in the sense of "Shared Values". In order to fulfil our responsibility, we first familiarized ourselves with the individual goals and operationalization options in line with the recommendations of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the SDG Compass.

As a next step, we will define priorities, goals and measures in the coming year in order to further sharpen and specify our sustainability strategy. Through this approach, we aim to make our contribution to sustainable development while generating new business opportunities that are in line with our corporate objectives. In this process, we are guided by the following principles:

- Mitigating risks to people and the environment along our value chains.
- Enlarging our sphere of influence in order to make a positive contribution.

We are committed not to conduct "SDG washing" in this process and not to focus only on the goals that are easiest to achieve or to emphasize only our positive contribution. We will also be transparent about our negative impacts and limitations for our stakeholders. In the manufacturing sector, the greatest opportunities lie in the areas of production and products, especially in SDGs 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and 13 (Climate action).

### SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure



va-Q-tec contributes to SDG 9 (especially target 9.4) by developing innovative and sustainable insulation solutions for a wide range of industries and applications. Our solutions help other

industries operate more sustainably and make better use of resources. In the area of district heating networks, for example, heat loss can be reduced by up to 60 % by vacuum-insulating pipes with the so-called Ecoflex VIP, which va-Q-tec develops and manufactures in cooperation with its partner Uponor. In production, we make sure that we utilize resources optimally, such as by extending the life of our products and by utilizing recycled materials. Our products save valuable energy in many areas thanks to their efficient technology: in the transport of pharmaceutical products, in refrigerators and freezers, in buildings, in technology & industry as well as in automobiles and aircraft.

We contribute to the innovation aspect of SDG 9 by promoting scientific research (Goal 9.5), such as by conducting research ourselves (we already hold more than 220 patents and invest significantly in research and development every year – see also page 37) and by supporting the young research scientists of tomorrow.

In the context of SDG 9, we are currently unable to make a significant contribution to developing or emerging countries, as we have designed our production processes and supply chains to be as secure and resilient as possible.

### SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production



SDG 12 aims to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. va-Q-tec can also make a contribution in this context. Firstly, we rely on innovative technologies and recycled

materials to reduce resource consumption. Secondly, we are working to reduce the amount of waste in the packaging sector by offering efficient and environmentally responsible packaging solutions.

The reduction of food waste represents a further important aspect of SDG 12 (Goal 12.3). Above all, this includes the innovative packaging solutions we offer that help to keep food fresh for longer and thereby reduce food waste.

We have optimized our processes so that we generate as little waste as possible (Goal 12.5) and also use recycled material to some extent. Our products also have a longevity of up to fifty years, which helps to reduce waste.

Moreover, we raise our employees' awareness of environmental and social issues as part of our ISO-certified environmental management system. In this way, we contribute to Goal 12.8 within the scope of the possibilities available to us.

#### SDG 13 - Climate action



As a manufacturing company, we actively work to reduce, substitute and offset our carbon emissions in order to minimize negative impacts on the climate. We are already climate neutral,

and in the future we aim to further reduce our carbon emissions overall as well as the share of offset emissions in order to contribute to an even greater extent to carbon reduction. We are also committed to researching and developing new climate-compatible technologies and materials to make our products even more sustainable. In addition, we work closely with our customers to jointly promote a greener and more climate-compatible economy.

#### vi) Responsibilities

The position of an ESG officer within the va-Q-tec Group, which was planned for 2021, has been postponed in favor of an interdisciplinary positioning of the topic within the company's different divisions. The Finance, Controlling, Marketing and Corporate Communications, Investor Relations and Personnel departments were also involved in the development of the sustainability strategy. CFO Stefan Döhmen holds overall responsibility for the topic of sustainability within the va-Q-tec Group. As a former CFO at various companies and as Chair of the Audit Committee of va-Q-tec AG, Supervisory Board member Winfried Klar follows current developments in the area of sustainability reporting and its auditing, and actively contributes this expertise to the Audit Committee of va-Q-tec AG.

At management level, those responsible for the business areas, including Research and Development, as well as the Personnel, Legal/Compliance, Purchasing, Investor Relations/Corporate Communications, Finance and Controlling departments, are all involved in a leading role in the topic. On a continued ad hoc basis to date, this interdepartmental team has been dealing with current sustainability issues and developments as well as opportunities and risks associated with sustainability, developing proposed measures, supporting implementation at the respective locations and documenting progress. In the future, these meetings are to be transformed into a structured process.

### **B. BUSINESS MODEL**

va-Q-tec is a leading global supplier of highly efficient products and complete solutions in the area of thermal energy efficiency and TempChain logistics. Sustainability lies at the core of the business model, as the products and services - in other words va-Q-tec's insulation solutions – help customers from a wide range of sectors to operate more energy-efficiently and to utilize durable products. With the efficient thermal logistics solutions of the TempChain portfolio, va-Q-tec helps customers from the healthcare sector to achieve temperature stability in the production, transport and storage of temperature-sensitive life science products. The Group's offerings in its Products, Systems, and Services divisions are also deployed in thermal logistics for food, the refrigerator and food industries, technical applications such as boilers and piping, the construction industry, and the mobility sector.

### va-Q-tec's business model leverages the opportunities arising from the growing social awareness of climate protection and energy efficiency.

In the "Products" division, va-Q-tec develops, produces and sells energy-efficient, thin vacuum insulation panels ("VIPs") for insulation as well as thermal energy storage components (Phase Change Materials - "PCMs") for the reliable and energy-efficient storage of thermal energy. VIPs are high-performance insulation panels that function according to the vacuum principle as a thermal insulator and are consequently particularly suitable for space-saving and energy-efficient thermal insulation. They insulate around ten times better than conventional insulation materials of the same thickness. The PCMs contain gels made from harmless materials such as paraffins or salt solutions. The different gels can absorb, store and release thermal energy between -70 °C and +70 °C.

In the "Systems" division, the Group develops, produces and sells passive thermal packaging, containers and boxes by combining VIPs and PCMs, which can constantly maintain a defined temperature range for up to 200 hours without the supply of external energy.

In its "Services" (Serviced Rental) division, the Group operates a fleet of rental containers and boxes with which temperature-sensitive logistics chains (TempChains) can be securely maintained worldwide. For this purpose va-Q-tec has built up a global partner network consisting of airlines, forwarders and service partners. Furthermore, va-Q-tec provides accompanying services in the area of preconditioning, preparation and shipment preparation of thermal packaging systems for renowned customers.

### Non-financial aspects, opportunities and risks of the business model

va-Q-tec's business model leverages the opportunities arising from the growing social awareness of climate protection and energy efficiency. The real added value for the economy offered by product energy efficiency was already identified as a competitive advantage by the founders of va-Q-tec when they formed the company. While the topic of sustainability received little attention at the time, the need for energy-efficient solutions has steadily increased in recent years in light of the increasingly obvious consequences of climate change and rising energy prices. This development will continue in the future and with greater momentum. This will lead to significant business opportunities for va-Q-tec in the long term. By using innovative and environmentally compatible VIPs, va-Q-tec enables efficient insulation in various applications, such as in refrigerators and freezers, medicine transport, automobiles and aircraft, buildings, as well as technology and industry. Increasingly stringent regulatory requirements facing manufacturers of products in the aforementioned sectors also offer opportunities for va-Q-tec. For example, many household appliances such as hot water tanks

for heating systems are subject to the "Ecodesign Directive", which requires energy efficiency to be indicated by means of a labelling system in energy efficiency classes. Through the use of VIPs, hot water tanks meet the specifications for the highest energy efficiency classes. Low energy efficiency classes are increasingly being excluded from Europe's internal market, so that in future demand for VIPs is likely to increase beyond the premium market and into the mass market. va-Q-tec reports in detail on these opportunities in the Opportunities and Risks report of the 2022 Annual Report on pages 48 to 58.

For example, in the thermal energy efficiency area va-Q-tec's offering can reduce heat loss in hot water networks by up to 60 % or increase the range of electric vehicles by up to 12 % through insulation with VIPs.



In the TempChain sector (temperature-controlled supply chains), va-Q-tec also contributes to energy and carbon savings through the use of the purely passive high-tech packaging systems, as the use of carbon-intensive dry ice can be dispensed with in the currently common temperature windows between -70 °C and +70 °C. In addition, passive solutions do not require power supply. Furthermore, the efficient boxes and containers reduce temperature deviations to a minimum, as a consequence of which medicines or food no longer become unusable.



va-Q-tec has received several awards for its sustainable solutions, including the German Environmental Award in 2018, the German Founder's Award in 2019, TOP 100 Innovator of the Year in 2020, the Financial Times' "Tech Champion" in 2021, and the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2022.

By calculating a so-called Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) for our series products in the TempChain area and by writing a recycling statement, we create for ourselves an advantage over our competitors. We thereby not only know the emissions of our products over the course of their utilization, but can also use this data for product optimization. With the va-Q-lite, for example, we reduced the PCF by using new materials. We can amortize the higher production costs by extending the life of the products and recycling their raw materials. Taking sustainability aspects into consideration also represents an opportunity for va-Q-tec in this sense.

In addition to opportunities, however, sustainable change also entails risks for va-Q-tec. In order to strengthen va-Q-tec's resilience, we also manage non-financial risks arising from climate change, resource scarcity, globalization and demographic change, which are outlined in greater detail in the following sections. Research and development is of central importance for va-Q-tec. Innovation leadership represents a clear competitive advantage and opens up business opportunities for va-Q-tec. For this reason, we invest substantially in this area every year in order to constantly enhance our innovative capabilities. In this context, va-Q-tec also relies on research partnerships with various companies, universities and institutions with the aim of developing new and sustainable solutions for the thermal insulation industry. In addition to the further development of products and systems, services also form part of such efforts. Further information about research and development as well as quality and innovation management can be found in section 2.1.2 of the 2022 Annual Report, and in this report on pages 36 and 37.

### C. SUSTAINABILITY ASPECTS OF THE VALUE AND SUPPLY CHAIN

va-Q-tec takes sustainability aspects into consideration primarily in the stages of the value chain that are situated within the company: from the development of VIPs and PCMs and their production, through to consulting services, sales and marketing, as well as customer service. Only raw materials and less than 0.2 % of components are purchased. Most of these derive from suppliers in Germany and, to a very minor extent, from other European Union countries and OECD countries such as South Korea, Israel and Japan.

#### **Product development**

Product development takes place at the German sites in Würzburg and Kölleda. In the development area, social aspects as well as governance aspects are of central importance for va-Q-tec's direct actions. These relate particularly to workforce issues and compliance with applicable rights as well as the protection of confidentiality of information. Detailed information about employee issues can be found on pages 26 to 30, and we report on governance on pages 33 to 39. Ecological aspects are indirectly elementary in product development, as one focus of development activities is on optimizing products while taking environmental aspects into consideration. Detailed information about our optimization measures in product development is presented on pages 16 and 21.

### Production

VIPs and PCMs from va-Q-tec are produced exclusively in Germany at the company's Würzburg and Kölleda sites. Environmental and social as well as governance aspects are directly relevant to production. Of particular importance are the topics of environmental and energy management, resource efficiency, as well as water and waste management. To these are added issues relating to the workforce, process, plant and transport safety, as well as compliance with legislation, corporate guidelines and quality standards. Further information about these topics can be found on pages 19 to 25 (environmental and energy management, resource efficiency and water and waste management), 26 to 30 (employee issues), 29 to 30 and 36 to 37 (process, plant and transport safety) and 34 and 36 to 37 (adherence to laws, corporate guidelines and guality standards).

#### **Consultancy** services

va-Q-tec offers customers thermal consultancy services to develop the right solution for their specific requirements. As our experts work together on a cross-departmental basis, va-Q-tec combines comprehensive technical know-how and a wealth of experience in relevant application areas. In the consultancy area, workforce issues and compliance with applicable rights as well as the protection of confidentiality of information are consequently of central importance. Detailed information about employee issues can be found on pages 26 to 30, and we report on governance on pages 33 to 39.

#### Sales and marketing

The core of the sales and marketing activities is to raise awareness in va-Q-tec's target sectors about the unique selling propositions of its products and services, and especially about their environmentally and climate compatible features. Targeted awareness campaigns and information about the energy efficiency, reusability and recyclability of the products are intended to encourage customers to opt for sustainable solutions from va-Q-tec. In this context, va-Q-tec attaches great importance to transparent and fact-based communication in sales and marketing. This includes clearly demonstrating the company's sustainability efforts and the real and demonstrable benefits of our products and services. va-Q-tec is of the opinion that its commitment to honesty in marketing promotes trust among its customers and enables continuous development in order to create true sustainability in business. Detailed information about dialog with business partners and customers

can be found in the "Stakeholder engagement" section on pages 8 to 11.

### **Customer service**

In the area of customer service, va-Q-tec offers customers training in the proper and secure use of our products. Proper handling, storage and maintenance of the products can maximize efficiency and service life. va-Q-tec also offers repair and maintenance services. Instead of simply replacing defective products in their entirety, va-Q-tec focuses on repairing and reusing components whenever possible. By extending product life, resource consumption is reduced and waste is avoided. Detailed information on the topics of product quality, repair and recycling can be found on pages 23 and 36 to 37.

#### Supply chain

For the production of VIPs and PCMs, we source raw materials as well as components from a diversified network of 157 suppliers (2021: 168) within the EU and from other OECD countries in order to ensure a secure and resilient supply chain. For va-Q-tec, however, sustainability in the supply chain extends beyond secure and resilient structures and includes further environmental, social and governance due diligence. More detailed information about the supply chain can be found on pages 35 and 38.

### **Environmental issues**





### 3. Environmental issues

As a manufacturing company, the following environmental issues are of particular importance to va-Q-tec:

- Environmental and energy management
- Waste management
- Climate change mitigation
- Resource efficiency
- Water management

In order to be able to control services in this area, va-Q-tec relies on certifications, standards and frameworks:

- **Greenhouse Gas Protocol:** All greenhouse gas emissions were recorded together with an external partner on the basis of the internationally recognized GHG (Greenhouse Gas) Protocol standard. The company's emissions footprint is issued in so-called CO2e and thereby includes all climate-relevant greenhouse gases, not just the carbon emissions themselves.
- Climate-neutral company:



Thanks to the secure data basis of the GHG Protocol, va-Q-tec was the first supplier of temperature-controlled packaging solutions as well as a producer of high-tech insulation materials to achieve climate neutrality for its production sites for the year 2020. The entire Group has been climate-neutral since 2021. Offsetting of remaining emissions is achieved through by promoting environmental protection projects in Uruguay.

**Verified Carbon Standard:** We use the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) to promote the environmental protection projects in Uruguay. This is an internationally recognized standard that verifies and certifies emission reduction projects. The VCS ensures that projects meet stringent criteria in terms of measurability, verifiability, additionality and durability.

ISO certifications: Since 2014, va-Q-tec has a certified environmental management system (ISO certification ISO 14001:2015). This international standard confirms the environmental management system by which va-Q-tec improves its performance for the benefit of the environment, fulfills legal and other obligations and achieves environmental goals. Furthermore, va-Q-tec's energy management system has been certified according to ISO 50001:2018 since 2013. The aim is to systematically enhance the efficiency of energy management, energy efficiency and energy savings.



va-Q-tec organizes processes within the company in accordance with these guidelines. va-Q-tec is working hard to continuously improve its structures and processes, not least in order to successfully manage its steady growth and to be able to meet high demands in relation to products and customer service at all times and without compromise. Production safety for employees and the environment as well as ensuring high energy efficiency and low emission intensity are self-evident requirements for all processes.

### A. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The ISO 14001-certified environmental management system records all processes, materials and services within the company and evaluates them in terms of their sustainability performance. Accordingly, va-Q-tec's investment, planning and realization processes also take ecological and social sustainability criteria into consideration as well as the requirements of good corporate governance. The environmental management system thereby covers the activities of va-Q-tec AG in Germany comprehensively and completely. Two environmental audits are conducted at va-Q-tec every year. va-Q-tec has also integrated a company suggestion scheme within its product development and environmental management area.

va-Q-tec always prepares a sustainability analysis of (new) products over their entire expected useful life and optimizes in potential and requisite areas. This also includes the calculation of the Product Carbon Footprint (PCF), in other words, all emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases that arise during the entire life cycle of the products. Careful attention is paid to the use of sustainable building materials and to minimizing the volume of materials used. In addition, va-Q-tec is increasingly focusing on digitalization and innovation in order to (1) reduce energy demand, greenhouse gas emissions and material requirements, (2) incorporate the most sustainable technology currently available, and (3) enhance the benefits of products and related services for customers.

### **B. ENERGY CONSUMPTION**

va-Q-tec sources part of the energy required for its manufacturing and office operations through the use of a photovoltaic system at the Kölleda site, as well as from a combined heat and power (CHP) system at the Würzburg site. Purchased electricity is sourced externally as 100 % "green electricity" – in other words, it is derived from renewable sources. The respective coordination activities are realized by the energy officers in cooperation with the environmental officers.



In 2022, total energy consumption at the German sites decreased from 12,445,002 kWh in 2021 to 12,048,175 kWh. This is mainly due to lower consumption of natural gas (2022: 7,187,763 kWh; 2021: 7,446,786 kWh) and electricity (2022: 4,235,594 kWh; 2021: 4,452,233 kWh). The main drivers of this change are the introduction of shutdown plans when production facilities are at a standstill, measures to reduce the stand-by operation of technical equipment and a new server and WLAN management system. Energy consumption as a percentage of revenues reduced by 0.6 % in 2022 compared to the previous year and by 32.8 % compared to 2019. Despite the reduction in energy consumption in relation to revenues compared to 2021, va-Q-tec fell short of its defined reduction target in the reporting period. For 2023, however, we expect to reach our reduction target again and to continue the positive trend of the past years at an even faster rate.

#### Volume of energy consumed\*

kWh	2022	2021	2020
Fuel (gasoline and diesel) for the fleet	553,188	545,983	210,103
Heating oil	0	0	0
Natural gas	7,187,763	7,446,786	6,914,653
Electricity	4,235,594	4,452,233	3,581,431
of which from renewable energies ("green electricity")	4,235,594	4,452,233	0
Total volume of energy consumed	12,048,175	12,445,002	10,706,187
Total energy consumption by the parent company va-Q-tec AG	11,423,357	11,999,614	10,420,611
Total revenues of the parent company va-Q-tec AG (in EUR)	72,278,000	75,269,000	49,363,000
kWh/EUR	0.158	0.159	0.211
Improvement compared to the 2019 base year	32.8 %	32.3 %	10.2 %

\*Locations and operations in Germany. The highest energy demand at va-Q-tec occurs in production.

### The goal is to reduce energy consumption by 1.5 per cent of revenues based on the 2019 levels (total energy consumption by the parent company va-Q-tec AG: 10,328,810 kWh; total revenues of the parent company va-Q-tec AG: 44,028,000 EUR; kWh/EUR: 0.235).

Of the total of 4,235,594 kWh of electricity consumed by va-Q-tec in 2022, 1,934,525 kWh was generated at the sites themselves, which corresponds to a share of around 46 %. Self-generated solar power accounts for 4.2 %, i.e., 81,022 kWh (2021: 3.7%, i.e., 72,312 kWh). With the help of a base load analysis or shutdown device of the InPow plant, va-Q-tec achieved savings of 23,638 kWh compared to 2020 and thereby exceeded its own target of 20,000 kWh p.a. In addition, the use of the heat and cold management system installed in July 2021 in the combined heat and power plant (CHP) at the headquarters in Würzburg enabled a saving in gas consumption of 251,585 kWh in 2022. To optimize energy efficiency, va-Q-tec has had an energy management system certified in accordance with ISO 50001:2018 since 2013.

### **Electricity generation\***

kWh	2022	2021	2020
Electricity generated by CHP	1,934,525	1,932,635	1,643,900
Solar power generated by va-Q-tec	81,022	72,312	77,338

\* Solar power is generated with the company's own photovoltaic system, and electricity and heating energy are generated with gas-fired combined heat and power (CHP) units.

The target is to save 20,000 kWh through the heat/cooling management in the CHP unit. Furthermore, an additional 20,000 kWh is expected to be generated through a baseload analysis or shutdown of the Inpow facilities.



### C. WASTE GENERATION AND RECYCLING

Waste generation at the German sites decreased by 22.9 % to a total of 530.1 tonnes in 2022, which was significantly lower than the previous year's level (2021: 687.71 tonnes). With cumulative revenues in our Products and Systems divisions at a level comparable to the previous 2022 year, we achieved this significant reduction in waste through targeted improvement measures, such as in production. This enabled us to reduce the volume of scrap, especially of the valuable raw material silica, while boosting the proportion of recycled (scrap) material in our panels. In

2022, approximately 10 % of newly manufactured panels were made from recycled material. In addition, we optimized the use of expensive auxiliary materials such as paraffins or solvents, so that the volume of waste to be disposed of separately was reduced even more than our total waste volume – from 10.90 tonnes in 2021 by 63.8 % to 3.95 tonnes in 2022. Furthermore, we reduced the waste that can be recycled by the recycling centers, such as cardboard packaging, from 61.20 tonnes in 2021 to 40.44 tonnes in 2022 by improving the use of packaging materials at a comparable production level.

#### Waste volumes\*

Tonnes	2022	2021	2020
Total volume of waste	530.1	687.71	486.89
of which: Volume to be disposed of separately	3.95	10.90	10.40
of which: Volume that can be recycled	40.44	61.20	49.90
Scrap by number of units	2.3 %	3.1%	3.4 %

\* Waste is sorted according to material groups as correctly as possible and handed over to disposal companies for further professional utilization. Part of the waste is also used or recycled by va-Q-tec itself. Hazardous waste is disposed of properly and is generally sent for thermal recycling.

### The target is to reduce the volume of waste to < 99.7 percent year-on-year.

Technical equipment in va-Q-tec's administration area is generally utilized far beyond its average useful life by means of appropriate upgrading, after which it is sent for professional recycling.

### Environmentally responsible recycling at the end of the life cycle

The VIPs are characterized by their durability of up to fifty years. The VIPs' materials can also be collected and recycled. The core board, the microporous silica powder, is a valuable raw material that can be reprocessed after recycling, such as into a new vacuum insulation board. The same applies for glass fiber and polyurethane. The film of the vacuumized envelope cannot be reprocessed for new products, but can be thermally recycled as fuel. The material of the cold packs is always fully recycled as a matter of principle.

### D. CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

In addition to recycling and alternative energy sources, the comprehensive climate protection strategy also includes monitoring and offset measures. va-Q-tec invests in international climate protection projects (certified by the Verified Carbon Standard) to offset the emissions caused by its own activities. Only projects that meet the highest standards and create sustainable benefits for the environment and the affected communities are supported.

### E. WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Water utilization at the German sites decreased to 6,702 cubic meters in 2022 (2021: 7,362 cubic meters). This positive trend is mainly driven by more detailed measurement of water utilization and by the fact that no water was consumed due to construction measures in 2022.

#### Water utilization\*

Cubic meters	2022	2021	2020
Volume of the total amount of water utilized	6,702	7,362	5,152
of which: Volume of water bound in products	50	50	n.a.

\* va-Q-tec withdraws the required water volumes from the public mains and can discharge wastewater into the public sewer system.

To enable responsible utilization of available resources, va-Q-tec actively focuses on the repair and maintenance of defective VIPs. The quality and service life of VIPs depends on the core material, the barrier film and, above all, the internal gas pressure. This led va-Q-tec to develop the worldwide patented quality control system va-Q-check<sup>®</sup>. This enables the internal gas pressure of each VIP to be checked within seconds. The control system can also be used by clients to ensure that the VIPs are not damaged. If defects are identified, the damaged VIPs can be specifically repaired or replaced. As a consequence, the entire container or box does not have to be disposed of.

### F. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

All greenhouse gas emissions at the German sites were recorded in cooperation with NatureOffice. Compared to the previous 2021 year, the carbon footprint in the 2022 reporting year was improved. Total greenhouse gas emissions decreased from 109,821 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021 to 102,181 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022. A stronger reduction in Scope 3 emissions – in other words, indirect emissions that arise along the value chain – counteracted an increase in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.

#### Greenhouse gas emissions<sup>1</sup>

Tonnes/tonnes CO2e equivalent (CO,e, market based) <sup>2</sup>	2022	2021	2020
Scope 1 (direct emissions) <sup>3</sup>	2,668.28	2,396.90	1,299.39
Scope 2 (indirect emissions) <sup>4</sup>	794.40	504.93	618.72
Scope 3 (indirect emissions, upstream and downstream) <sup>5</sup>	98,718.33	106,816.61	78,400.83
Total greenhouse gas emissions (CO,e)	102,181.01	109,821.17	80,318.95
Emissions in relation to operating output (CO,e / EUR)	0.00091	0.00090	0.00095

<sup>1</sup> Locations and operations in Germany. Global business activities lead to a comparatively large number of flights taken.

<sup>2</sup> This net impact analysis was prepared on the basis of the standard for quantifying and managing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) published by the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. The Corporate Standard of the GHG Protocol requires the inclusion of all Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. Scope 3 emissions are calculated in accordance with the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard of the GHG Protocol. Compliance with these globally recognized standards allows for eventual external verification as well as qualified offsetting of GHG emissions.

<sup>3</sup> Scope 1: Direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources owned or controlled by the company. The net impact analysis includes all Scope 1 emissions that arise from stationary or mobile combustion. Emissions from volatile gases are also included.

<sup>4</sup> Scope 2: Energy-related indirect greenhouse gas emissions arising from the generation of purchased electricity, steam or heating/cooling consumed within the company and generated directly by the producer. The net impact analysis includes all Scope 2 emissions that derive from the use of electrical energy.

<sup>5</sup> Scope 3: Other indirect greenhouse gas emissions deriving from the company's activities but from sources not owned or controlled by the company. Scope 3 upstream emissions are reported in full unless otherwise stated. Downstream Scope 3 emissions are not included in the net impact analysis.

List of Scope 3 activities included: Category 1 – Purchased goods & services, Category 2 – Production inputs and non-current assets, Category 3 – Upstream energy-related emissions, Category 4 – Upstream transport, Category 5 – Waste generation, Category 6 – Business travel, Category 7 – Employee travel, Category 8 – Rented or leased property, plant and equipment, Category 11 – Use of products, Category 12 – Recycling of products

List of excluded Scope 3 emissions with reason for exclusion: Category 9 – Downstream transport and distribution: downstream transports were not included due to their negligible relevance. Category 10 – Further processing of products: the further processing of products is not relevant. Category 13 – Leased property, plant and equipment: no leasing of property, plant and equipment occurs. Category 14 – Franchises: franchises do not exist. Category 15 – Investments: investments and shareholdings do not exist.

va-Q-tec aims to continuously reduce its direct and indirect emissions. In addition, va-Q-tec offsets some emissions by supporting the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) certified "Weyerhauser" project in Eastern Uruguay. The project will reforest various forest areas formerly used for grazing, mainly with native species such as eucalyptus and pine. The project corresponds to 5,554  $CO_2$  certificates, thereby offsetting the emission of 5,554  $tCO_2e$ . As a consequence, va-Q-tec overcompensates for its direct emissions (Scope 1) as well as its indirect emissions in the form of purchased electricity, heat and steam (Scope 2).

#### "Weyerhauser" project in eastern Uruguay

As it is not possible to reduce all emissions to zero despite efficiency improvements and further environmental protection measures, va-Q-tec offsets the remaining part of its emissions through environmental projects. The project va-Q-tec is promoting as part of its compensation service is located in eastern Uruguay. It covers a total area of 18,191 hectares and consists of several forest areas that were formerly used for grazing cattle herds and were heavily utilized as a consequence. This offsetting entails va-Q-tec reforesting an area of around 50 hectares. In order to now renaturalize the soil and the forests, mainly native tree species are planted.

Further information about the project can be found at the following link: <u>https://www.natureoffice.</u> <u>com/klimaschutzprojekte/waldschutz-auf-</u> <u>forstung/Weyerhaeuser-uruguay</u>

### Employee issues





### 4. Employee issues

Due to demographic change, va-Q-tec, too, is affected by the shortage of skilled workers. In order to counter this risk, the company focuses on enhancing its attractiveness as an employer and on retaining talent through a working environment that unites all employees according to one vision: taking responsibility for people and the environment!

The following topics are of great importance for the business activities of va-Q-tec:

- Employer attractiveness
- Equality and diversity
- Education and training
- Health and occupational safety
- Respect for employees' rights

So-called Social Performance Teams at the Würzburg and Kölleda sites, which are elected by all employees every three years, take care of employee issues. These teams can be consulted on issues of all kinds, including on an anonymous basis, and act as an intermediary between the workforce and the Management Board. Regular reports to the Management Board on current topics raised by the workforce promote constructive cooperation. In addition, personnel managers regularly report to the Management Board on workforce issues. Jointly agreed measures are shared with all va-Q-tec employees in the form of employee information, notices and circulars.

### A. EMPLOYER ATTRACTIVENESS

## Top 2022 Company

In 2022, Kununu awarded va-Q-tec its "Top Company 2022" award, as we achieved an above-average employer rating based on over 50 anonymous employee reviews. The development and promotion opportunities, the team spirit and the flexible working

hours were particularly praised. We achieved this title again in 2023 on the basis of meanwhile over 90 evaluations.

The company's low employee turnover rate of 2.7% in 2022 (2021: 3.0%) is a further indication of successful cooperation and the pleasant working atmosphere at va-Q-tec. The employee turnover rate for the manufacturing sector in Germany most recently stood at 17.1, according to the latest labor market report of the Federal Employment Agency.<sup>1</sup>

In order to counteract the effects of labor and skills shortages, va-Q-tec systematically invests in retaining existing employees and in building up and expanding its attractiveness as an employer. In order to achieve this goal, va-Q-tec has implemented a number of measures, such as:

- Company pension scheme
- Numerous company training courses
- Flexible working hours and part-time programs
- Study-related work at the company
- Canteen with free fruit and drinks
- Leasing offers for bicycles
- Employee events

In addition, va-Q-tec's good networking within the region and intensive contacts with Julius Maximilian University in Würzburg and Würzburg-Schweinfurt Technical University, such as in the context of research projects and project work, play a significant role. At present, va-Q-tec also supports eight employees as part of professional degrees such as master's degrees in the areas of craftsmanship and laboratory management.

To systematize the improvement of satisfaction, va-Q-tec conducted an employee satisfaction survey in the production area for the first time during the course of 2022. The results have been evaluated and we are currently examining which goals, key figures and measures can be derived from this for va-Q-tec.

### B. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

va-Q-tec is an employer where employees can develop their skills regardless of race or ethnic origin, gender, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual identity. For this reason, the topics of diversity and equality are also very important for va-Q-tec.

Accordingly, va-Q-tec aims to offer all employees a working environment that is free of discrimination on the basis of the aforementioned characteristics in accordance with Germany's General Equal Treatment Act (AGG). Accordingly, in job advertisements va-Q-tec always addresses persons of male, female and diverse gender.

In cooperation with a regional organization, va-Q-tec also integrates people with disabilities into the company. The integration of these employees is accompanied by Mainfränkische Werkstätten. In 2022, 6 individuals with disabilities initially worked at va-Q-tec, and 7 individuals as of March 2022 (2021: 8). On the basis of all of the Group's employees, va-Q-tec employs people from 31 different nations (2021: 31). Women accounted for 28 % of the total workforce in 2022 (2021: 30 %), while women accounted for 20 % of all managers below the Management Board level in 2022 (2021: 19 %). As a consequence, va-Q-tec stands slightly above the most recently published national average for the manufacturing sector for 2021, with a share of women of 26 % overall and 18 % among managers.

va-Q-tec has two Management Board members, Dr. Joachim Kuhn and Stefan Döhmen. Due to this small number, the Supervisory Board has set the ratio of proportion of women on the Management Board at 0 %. For the first level below the Management Board, the ratio of proportion of women was set at 10.0 %. As of 31 December 2022, the proportion of women at the first management level below the Management Board stands at 10.5 %.

The Supervisory Board set for itself a proportion of women at 16.7%, corresponding to one in six members. This quota is met with the current composition of the Supervisory Board.

Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated at va-Q-tec. Related complaints can be reported anonymously via letterboxes at the company's respective locations. Without exception, all reports are taken seriously and suspected cases are consistently followed up. Proven cases of discrimination result in legal action under labor legislation, including termination of employment. Three complaints of discrimination were made during the reporting period (2021: three).

### Fair pay as the basis for a fair working environment

The central principle of va-Q-tec's personnel policy is equal pay for equal performance – regardless of aspects such as gender, age, religious affiliation or origin. To this end, a job architecture with a pay structure was introduced in 2023. This groups all employees into (pay) levels based on their activity and creates a greater level of transparency and fairness throughout the company. In particular, it also aims to achieve equal treatment of employees at the two central production and development sites in Kölleda and Würzburg.

<sup>2</sup> German Federal Statistical Office (2023), press release "Weniger als ein Drittel der Führungskräfte in Deutschland waren 2021 Frauen", https://www.destatis.de/DE/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/Zahl-der-Woche/2023/PD23\_10\_p002.html

### C. EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

va-Q-tec is convinced that specific, systematic promotion contributes to satisfaction among employees and that a well-trained workforce at the same time creates a resilient basis for the company's longterm success. For this reason, we attach great importance to personnel development. In addition to classic vocational training and in-service training courses, va-Q-tec ascribes great importance to individual employee development. Regular development meetings between employees and managers with the definition and documentation of individual performance and development goals are mandatory. The Management Board and managers are available for employee discussions within an appropriate framework.

In the 2022 financial year, the personnel department initiated the "va-Q-academy" e-learning project, which went live in July 2023. va-Q-tec thereby makes relevant topics available to all employees worldwide in the form of online training. These include e-learning, classroom training and much more. The range of topics is wide, from language courses to communication and leadership training. With the va-Q-tec Academy IT-based system, examinations as well as automated proof of participation in a training or further education event are also possible. The company also plans to implement a new high-quality learning culture with the help of the system.

### D. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

As a manufacturing company, va-Q-tec attaches great importance to its employees' safety and health, as potential accidents when handling machinery can have serious consequences for employees' physical integrity. In turn, these can also have negative financial consequences for the entire company – such as due to interruptions in production due to employee absences. As a consequence, regular risk assessment of operating equipment and the implementation of occupational safety measures are essential and are



practiced consistently. In 2021 and 2022, approximately 150 new risk assessments were conducted in Würzburg and Kölleda. Our occupational health and safety measures also include the appointment of an occupational health and safety officer for the German sites, who coordinates and monitors compliance with statutory requirements, as well as a company doctor. Safety officers are deployed in the production areas under the direction of the occupational health and safety officer in order to monitor the proper and safe realization of all processes and the professional operation of all machines. These specialists meet once a month for discussions with the company doctor.

In addition, the company offers its employees regular examinations by a company doctor, and also organized a vaccination campaign during the coronavirus pandemic. This initiative was received positively, with the rate of coronavirus vaccination within the company amounting to over 90 %. In December 2022, a Health Day was also held for the first time, giving employees at the Würzburg and Kölleda sites the opportunity to find out more about nutrition and sports topics. This day marked the start of the "va-Qcare" company health management system, which we introduced together with our health partners, health insurer AOK and Lebensfreude Gesundheitsmanagement. All health-related measures are decided upon and coordinated by a steering committee involving both internal and external participants. The measures are intended to support the following points, among others, with the aim of productivity and competitiveness at va-Q-tec:

- Maintaining our employees' working and performance capacities
- Enhancing employee satisfaction
- Retention and preservation of knowledge and expertise within va-Q-tec
- Reduction of sick leave at va-Q-tec
- Minimizing occupational accidents at va-Q-tec

The number of occupational accidents increased to 11 in 2022 (2021: 10). Among other factors, this reflects the large number of newly recruited employees. In relation to the total number of employees and hours worked, the accident rate for 2022 amounts to 15.1% (2021: 12.4%). The number of employees on sick leave increased to 7.1% in 2022 (2021: 4.5%). The increase in the number of employees at va-Q-tec is in line with the general trend in 2022. For example, the average sickness rate in statutory health insurance in Germany in 2022 amounted to 5.6%, which was significantly higher than the previous year's level (4.3%).

#### **Occupational accidents and sick leave**

Occupational accidents and sick leave	2022	2021
Number of occupational accidents	15	10
Number of occupational accidents as a percent- age of all employees	14.3	12.4
Number of employees on sick leave as a percentage of all employees	7.1%	4.5%

### E. RESPECT FOR EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS

Respect for employee rights is a top priority for va-Q-tec's personnel department and Management Board. In particular, va-Q-tec also guarantees the workforce the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining. As a consequence, since 2017 va-Q-tec has been certified according to the requirements of the SA 8000 labor standard of the international non-governmental organization "Social Accountability International". The SA 8000 is based on the relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations, and defines minimum requirements for the working and social conditions of employees, workers and temporary workers of internationally active companies. These apply to va-Q-tec AG as well as to its subsidiaries worldwide. To ensure compliance with these rules, audits are conducted twice every year. The certification as well as the audits are conducted by the technical inspection association TÜV Süd. The current certificate is valid until 2024, following comprehensive recertification in 2021.

# Corporate social responsibility (CSR)





### 5. Corporate social responsibility (CSR)

va-Q-tec benefits from the attractiveness and good infrastructure of the regions where the company operates. In order to return this positive contribution to the company's value, we are involved in promoting culture, sport and social institutions in a variety of ways. We have planned an annual fixed budget in proportion to our Group revenues in order to thereby enhance the regions' long-term attractiveness. Consequently, va-Q-tec is not only an attractive employer, but also plays an active role in social life.

In the area of culture, va-Q-tec supports various art and cultural projects that help to promote cultural diversity and creative exchange. For example, the company sponsors the Würzburg Mozart Festival, which offers top-class concerts and cultural events every year, as well as the Würzburg Africa Festival. va-Q-tec is also actively involved in sport and supports various sports clubs and projects, especially in the area of promoting young talent. The focus here is predominantly on promoting sports that encourage a healthy lifestyle and contribute to active leisure time. As a sponsor of the s.Oliver Würzburg basketball club, the company also promotes young basketball talent. In addition, va-Q-tec supports some individual top athletes.

Moreover, va-Q-tec is involved in social institutions and supports non-profit organizations and projects that work to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged people. In this context, the company works closely with local partners and initiatives to ensure sustainable and long-term support. For example, va-Q-tec is committed to the "Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe" foundation and thereby supports projects to improve education and health in developing countries. The company also works with local charities such as the Würzburg-based association "Kinder unterm Regenbogen" (Children under the Rainbow), which supports children and families with serious illnesses. In addition, va-Q-tec sponsors the "Open Day" of the Würzburg animal shelter and thereby supports animal care and adoption.

A further area of va-Q-tec's social commitment is the promotion of MINT education – in other words, the imparting of knowledge in mathematics, information technology, natural sciences and technology. With the company's roots in the University of Würzburg, this undertaking also reflects a close connection to the company's location.

### **Political donations**

In 2022, as in the previous year, va-Q-tec did not make any political donations or financially support any political parties or candidates. The company pursues neutrality in political affairs and is committed to an independent, democratic and fair political landscape. We aim to maintain this neutral position within the context of a democratic decision-making process in the future.

### Governance





### 6. Governance

### A. COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT

Good corporate governance ensures that va-Q-tec acts in accordance with its corporate values, complies with all legislation, and averts damage that may arise from reputational and compliance risks.

As a consequence, both legislation and honest business principles form the basis of va-Q-tec's governance. How these laws and principles are to be implemented in the day-to-day work of employees and managers is defined by the Code of Conduct and a Compliance Manual, both of which are available for all employees in German and English.

Monitoring compliance with legislation and corporate policies is the responsibility of the Chief Compliance Officer (CCO), who has direct access to all processes and procedures in Germany. At the foreign subsidiaries, controlling is the responsibility of the respective managing directors. Clear reporting channels are in place within the company to report suspected incidents or violations of compliance regulations. The compliance situation is regularly assessed and discussed by the Supervisory Board to ensure that all the company's activities are in line with applicable legislation and regulations.

Regular training is provided to ensure that all va-Q-tec employees and business partners adhere to the company's high compliance standards in relation to all these issues. In particular, all new employees are also trained in the compliance guidelines at the start of their employment. We have also established a Group-wide anonymous whistleblower system through which any suspected or actual violation of laws or of our corporate policies can be reported.

va-Q-tec endeavors to promptly investigate any violation of relevant laws or regulations and to take appropriate measures to ensure that such conduct is not repeated. In addition, va-Q-tec strives to work closely with government agencies in order to ensure that applicable laws and regulations are fully and correctly implemented.

### Corruption cases, fines and violations of the Code of Conduct

Corruption cases, fines and violations of the Code of Conduct	2022	2021
Corruption cases or fines for non-compliance with legislation and regulations	0	0
Number of reported violations of the Code of Conduct	2	n.a.
Sanctions due to violations of the Code of Conduct (termination of employment)	2	n.a.

### B. MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY RISKS

For us, risk management means dealing systematically with risks. In order to be able to meet this requirement, va-Q-tec has a continuously developing and formalized risk management system (RMS) in addition to the existing internal and external control system. Our risk management is based on three main points: (I) a risk-aware corporate culture, (II) a formalized risk management system, and (III) an internal control system. Further information can be found in the 2022 Annual Report, page 48 et seq.

In order to also be able to manage and monitor our non-financial risks, we are planning to introduce an ESG risk framework as part of our sustainability strategy, which will enable us to effectively assess, monitor and manage non-financial risks along our entire value chain.

In our opinion, risk awareness that is translated into practice is one of the most efficient tools for dealing with risks. If our employees consciously perceive risks and deal with them in a professional and business-oriented manner, the probability of potential risks materializing and thereby causing damage is reduced. Accordingly, we also attach great importance to open and transparent dialog within the workforce (for more information, see the "Stakeholder engagement" chapter on pages 8 to 11) as well as raising awareness of the topic among employees in the context of training courses (for more information, see the "Compliance management" chapter on page 34). Moreover, internal and external risks for all segments and subsidiaries are systematically surveyed, measured, steered, managed and reported to the Management and Supervisory boards with the risk management system. In this context, the RMS is based on a reporting process, two biannual risk inventories and risk assessments during the course of the year. As part

of the risk inventory, the respective decision-makers and experts within the specialist areas appraise all significant risks. Identified risks are measured according to their potential loss, taking event probabilities into account. In addition, the specialist areas are required to identify and report new risks as part of risk appraisal during the course of the year.

For the long-term success of corporate governance at va-Q-tec, it is crucial that existing and newly added risks be handled in such a manner to enable them to be managed actively, and to incur as few losses as possible. For this reason, requisite measures against significant risks are taken and controlled in a timely manner. The Management Board is responsible for appropriate risk management and risk controlling within the company. The Supervisory Board monitors the effectiveness of the internal control system, the risk management system and compliance.

As an internationally active company, va-Q-tec is exposed as part of its normal business activities to credit, liquidity and market risks, among others. In order to also be able to manage and monitor our non-financial risks, we are planning to introduce an ESG risk framework as part of our sustainability strategy, which will enable us to effectively assess, monitor and manage non-financial risks along our entire value chain.

We already recognize that extreme weather conditions can affect our production sites, threatening the reliability of our supply chains. However, our risk analysis will not only reflect environmental risks, but also operational, social and technological risks. In the governance area, we focus particularly on regulatory risks. Furthermore, we evaluate our supply chains in relation to environmental and social risks. We also continuously review our corporate culture and consider the need to introduce further policies to ensure our company values and standards. We have conducted an overarching analysis of our risks recorded to date and identified the following, overarching themes and task areas for our ESG risk framework:

- Quality of data collection
- Early, accompanying monitoring
- Communication

To optimize the quality of data collection, we will cross-check the material risk factors we have identified with existing primary data, such as data about our suppliers, materials utilized, or our own operations, in order to effectively manage non-financial risks.

In order to be able to assess the effectiveness of our governance, we will also take into consideration the findings on the probability of risk occurrence, the financial and societal impact as well as the degree of reversibility of the impact identified in a materiality analysis in our analysis and report on the basis of appropriate KPIs.

### C. SUSTAINABLE COMPENSATION STRUCTURES

At va-Q-tec AG, transparent, performance-based and sustainable compensation structures form an important component of responsible corporate governance. To ensure that managers and employees participate directly in the company's success, compensation reflects the Group's achievement of certain financial ratios.

The compensation scheme is intended to promote the implementation of the corporate strategy as well as the sustainable and long-term development and growth of va-Q-tec AG. To this end, the right incentives are to be set for increasing the company's earnings and revenue growth as well as further relevant strategic issues aimed at the company's sustainable development and growth. The compensation of the members of the Management Board consists of performance-unrelated and performance-based components. The performance-based elements include short-term variable compensation (SVC) and long-term variable compensation (LVC). In order to ensure that the compensation structure is geared towards the company's sustainable and long-term development and growth, the share of the LVC's target amount in the total target compensation

exceeds the SVC's share. In addition to key financial performance criteria, which include key figures for measuring the va-Q-tec's success, performance and profitability, the SVC also applies an individual non-financial performance criterion.

In determining the Management Board's compensation, the company also follows the recommendations of the German Corporate Governance Code (DCGK). Moreover, the Supervisory Board conducts an annual review the appropriateness of the Management Board's compensation, comparing the trend in Management Board compensation with the trend in the compensation of the first management level as well as with the trend in the compensation of the overall workforce. In the appropriateness review in the 2022 financial year, it was determined on the basis of target achievement that the Management Board's compensation is appropriate.

The target agreements and compensation for the Management and Supervisory boards are set out in a detailed and transparent compensation report on the <u>www.va-Q-tec.com</u> website within the "Investor Relations" section under "Corporate Governance/Compensation".

### D. QUALITY AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT

Quality is a top priority at va-Q-tec - indeed, the "Q" in the company name stands for "quality". Our products are generally used in sensitive industries and in areas with exceptionally high demands in terms of performance and resilience. That our products and services should reflect a persuasive level of quality is consequently crucial for customer satisfaction as the basis for the successful growth and development of our business. Accordingly, we at va-Q-tec rely on the highest standards in quality management. We are committed to the continuous improvement of our processes and products in order to always offer our customers the ideal solution. Quality management according to ISO 9001 plays an important role in this context. We have been certified according to this internationally recognized standard since 2013 and consistently implement its requirements. In annual internal and external audits, we review our quality management processes and ensure that they meet the highest standards. Recertification takes place every three years.



Our processes and procedures are clearly defined and documented in a manual, the so-called "va-Q-tec map", to ensure a high level of transparency and traceability. We rely on

a process-oriented approach that focuses on continuous improvement. Our quality management also forms an integral part of our sustainability strategy. Further information about this topic can be found in the "Sustainability strategy" chapter on pages 7 to 14. In this context, we rely on resource-conserving production methods and environmentally responsible materials to ensure our products' sustainability. Detailed information about these topics can be found in the "Water and resource conservation" chapter on page 24 and in the "Waste generation and recycling" chapter on page 23.

In addition to the quality of our work, our innovative capabilities are a further essential factor for va-Q-tec's successful development and growth in the long term. Our focus on innovations that offer bene-fits for customers has formed a central part of our activities since the company was founded and is firmly anchored within our sustainability strategy. As a consequence, we focus on consolidating and further expanding our leading position in innovation and technology in the thermal insulation and TempChain logistics areas. Accordingly, va-Q-tec invested EUR 4.5 million in research and development in 2022 (2021: EUR 3.7 million). This corresponds to a 4.0 % share of consolidated revenues (2021: 3.6 %).

Research partnerships exist with the Fraunhofer Institute for Silicate Research ISC, the Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV, the Forschungsinstitut für Wärmeschutz e. V. München (FIW) and the Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg. Some projects are funded by the EU due to their international significance. In 2022, we received EUR 175 thousand in funding for the further development of vacuum insulation technology (2021: EUR 296 thousand). To round off our range of services, we also work with a number of companies such as the Energy Technology Cluster of Bayern Innovativ GmbH, Bay-StartUP GmbH, Linn High Therm GmbH and the Zentrum für Digitale Innovationen Mainfranken (Mainfranken Center for Digital Innovations). In addition, va-Q-tec is a member of energie-cluster.ch, Gütegemeinschaft PCM e.V., Fördergemeinschaft für das Süddeutsche Kunststoff-Zentrum e.V., Nachhaltigkeitsabkommen Thüringen, PolymerMat e.V. Kunststoffcluster Thüringen, and VIPA International in Brussels.

va-Q-tec secures its technical knowledge with a total of more than 220 patents and industrial property rights as of 31 December 2022. In 2022, 17 property rights were filed (2021: 24), of which 14 were patent and 3 utility model applications (2021: 22 and 2, respectively).

We received recognition for our efforts in the product innovation area in 2022 when we received an award from the magazine "Technische Isolierung" ("Technical Insulation"). Our innovative vacuum insulation panel va-Q-steel, which was developed especially for use at extremely high or extremely low temperatures, was awarded the title "Product of the Year 2022".



We also assess how successful our work is on the basis of the value of the goods about which complaints are filed, as well as the satisfaction of our customers. In total, 218 complaints were filed and qualitatively assessed by our quality management team in 2022. The value of goods for which complaints were filed decreased to a total of EUR 234,672 compared to the previous 2021 year, when 172 complaints were filed about goods with a value of EUR 251,580. As a consequence, the average value of goods for which complaints were filed also decreased to EUR 1,076 (2021: EUR 1,462). Among other measures, we achieved this progress by creating a position in the quality assurance area for complaints management at the end of 2021. With revenues in the Products and Systems divisions of EUR 57,343 thousand, this leads

to a complaints ratio in relation to revenues  $^3$  of 0.41 % in 2022 (2021: 0.43 %).

In order to measure the satisfaction of our customers, we conduct an annual customer satisfaction survey, which gives us an objective view of our company's performance. This is performed as part of a standardized online survey of our top 100 customers, the results of which are then compared with the targets

Customer satisfaction and complaints\*

defined by va-Q-tec. This leads to specific instructions for action to various specialist departments in order to continuously improve our corporate performance.

In 2022, we received 33 responses, with a customer satisfaction rate of 88.2 % (2021: 90 % with 21 responses). As a consequence, we fell just short of our target of a satisfaction rate of at least 90 %.

Customer satisfaction and complaints*	2022	2021
Customer satisfaction rate	88.2 %	90.0 %
Number of complaints	221	173
Average value of goods for which complaints were filed, in EUR	88%	69 %

\*All complaint processes recorded and concluded by quality assurance in the respective financial year.

### E. SUSTAINABILITY IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

va-Q-tec's commitment to effective governance and compliance encompasses not only its own business, but also its business partners and suppliers. The company has established mechanisms for reporting suspected cases or violations and expects business partners and suppliers to conduct themselves in compliance with the law and with integrity.

In 2022, around 71% of the materials were sourced from 82 suppliers in Germany (2021: 73%). A total of 24% of the materials were purchased from suppliers in other European countries (2021: 22%), with the remainder being purchased from partners in OECD countries such as South Korea, Israel and Japan.

For foreign suppliers, we require compliance with the international supplier code of the Responsible Business Alliance.



va-Q-tec requires corresponding declarations of commitment or carries out on-site audits every two

years at important suppliers, which are defined on the basis of various factors such as priority of purchased parts or purchasing volume.

In 2021, no audits were conducted at suppliers due to contact and travel restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic. These were replaced by voluntary commitments by suppliers. In 2022, six audits were conducted. As far as human rights compliance is concerned, suppliers are also subject to regular audits in accordance with SA 8000 standards. In 2022, 88 % of suppliers had committed to meeting our required standards (2021: 83 %). If suppliers inform us that they do not wish to commit to complying with our standards or if we do not receive a corresponding voluntary commitment despite repeated requests, this has a direct bearing on our respective supplier rating.

As in the previous year, no material breaches of these obligations by our business partners were evident in 2022. In the event of material violations, these are to be discussed by the Management Board together with the Supervisory Board, whereby va-Q-tec reserves the right to terminate the business relationship with the business partner in compliance with applicable legislation and current contracts.

### F. IT SECURITY AND DATA PROTECTION

In procurement, production planning, sales and in almost all other areas, the collection of relevant data and the analysis of data in order to optimize processes is playing an increasingly important role. Given this, the stability and security of the information and communications technology (ICT) deployed are of great importance. Accordingly, overall responsibility for IT security and data protection also lies with the Management Board of va-Q-tec AG. An external data protection officer and an internal data protection team are responsible for operational processes in day-to-day business. va-Q-tec's entire data protection organization forms part of the company's internal Information Security Management System (ISMS).

To defend against cyber-attacks and ensure the security of the entire ICT infrastructure, va-Q-tec again implemented numerous measures in the 2022 reporting year. Such measures include annual penetration and vulnerability tests carried out by external service providers. The results showed a high security level of the systems deployed by va-Q-tec, but of course also lead to the remediation of test findings through correspondingly targeted measures. The ongoing updating of protective devices and continuous testing to detect vulnerabilities are necessary to continue to prevent unauthorized access to systems and data at va-Q-tec in the future.

Extensive training is also provided to ensure a high level of employee awareness of IT security issues. In addition to the mandatory post-employment briefing for new employees, annual events to refresh employee knowledge and awareness of IT security issues, enduser policy and data protection are also provided. In the year under review, every employee also completed an IT security awareness training course.



For data protection, va-Q-tec has developed appropriate guidelines, directories, contract templates and other regulations to ensure compliance with legal requirements and standards. Data protection and the sensitive handling of personal data provided to the company are of extraordinary importance in order to ensure that relationships of trust with va-Q-tec's stakeholders remain intact. All documents relating to data protection are reviewed, adjusted and updated on a regular basis. In addition, as part of internal data protection audits by the data protection officers, random checks are carried out to ensure that the Internet and company email facilities are used in accordance with the rules.

Thanks to this holistic concept, no unauthorized data access or reportable data protection breaches were identified at va-Q-tec in 2022, as was already the case in 2021, and no reports were submitted of breaches of data protection rules.



### 7. Glossary

### AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard (SES)

AccountAbility's AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard (SES) is a universally applicable framework for designing, assessing, implementing and communicating high-quality stakeholder engagement.

### German Sustainability Code

The German Sustainability Code (DNK) is a crosssector transparency standard for reporting corporate sustainability performance. It was last extended in February 2022 to include an additional reporting option on the EU Taxonomy. To comply with the DNK, companies prepare a statement on 20 DNK criteria and the supplementary non-financial performance indicators.

#### German Corporate Governance Code

The German Corporate Governance Code (DCGK) forms the statutory basis for the management and supervision of listed companies in Germany and approves internationally and nationally recognized standards of good and responsible corporate governance in the form of recommendations.

### Diversity

Diversity refers to the conscious handling as well as the acceptance and equality of different people in companies, regardless of, for example, ethnic origin, skin color, age, gender, nationality, religion, ideology or sexual orientation.

### ESG

E = Environment, S = Social, G = Governance. ESG refers to non-financial factors that investors utilize in order to screen potential investments. They also refer to a particular company's sustainability impacts and contributions, and associated risks for the company. Companies are increasingly expected to report on ESG factors.

#### **Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol)**

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol) is currently the most widely used standard for measuring greenhouse gas emissions. The development of the GHG Protocol is coordinated by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

### **Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)**

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) originates from a 1997 initiative by CERES, a US-based investor initiative, and the Finance Initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme. The GRI is an international standardization organization for sustainability reports. It is internationally accepted and represents the de facto standard for sustainability reports worldwide.

### International Labour Organization (ILO)

The International Labour Organization is the oldest specialized agency of the United Nations. It was founded in 1919. The aim of the ILO is to define globally valid labor and social standards.

### Phase Change Material (PCM)

Phase change materials absorb heat during melting and release it again during crystallization/freezing. This allows the required storage temperature to be maintained for the duration of the transport. Heat or cold entering the transport container is absorbed by the PCM during the phase transition from solid to liquid and vice versa. This ensures temperature stability for over 120 hours.

#### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals for sustainable development. They were published under the title "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (also referred to in brief as the "Agenda 2030"). The call for companies to participate derives primarily from the international community of states, in Europe primarily from the EU member states and the EU Commission, from individual initiatives such as the UN Global Compact, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WB-CSD), as well as from investor groups, and is reflected in legislation and corresponding standards.

### Vacuum Insulation Panels (VIPs)

Vacuum insulation panels (VIP) are developed and manufactured by va-Q-tec. They meet the highest standards in terms of thermal protection, including in extreme environmental conditions. A vacuum insulation panel insulates up to ten times better than conventional thermal insulation materials. One centimeter of vacuum insulation provides the same thermal insulation as ten centimeters of Styrofoam.

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