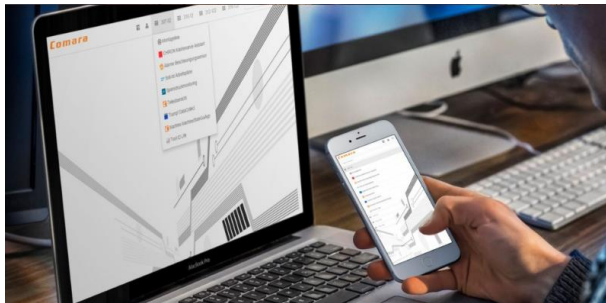


— Press release



Caption: The majority shareholding will soon be owned by Walter AG: At the headquarters of Comara GmbH in St. Georgen in the Black Forest, employees develop innovative software solutions for intelligent connectivity in the production environment. Image: Walter AG ]

## Walter expands its digital portfolio

Tübingen, 8th December 2016 – Walter AG gets on board with long-standing software partner Comara to create a new company under joint leadership. Mirko Merlo, President of Walter AG: "This is a key strategic step towards expanding our digital portfolio and further developing our company towards Industry 4.0." With the majority stake, Walter is consistently pursuing its development from a tool manufacturer to a provider of comprehensive production solutions. Comara has been working with Walter closely since 2012 and specialises in collecting, evaluating and using real-time data to connect machines ("connectivity"). Together with Walter, the company also develops software solutions for connecting all devices in the production environment: From machines and tools through to logistics and databases.

Walter AG is expanding its expertise with Comara and will therefore be able to connect tools with greater sophistication and optimise them using real-time data in future. Combined with the existing Walter Tool-ID, this will give rise to the production of "Smart Tools" in future. With "appCom", Comara offers machine manufacturers and industrial companies their own platform for individual "apps" – special software modules in the production environment. In collaboration with Walter, the aim here is to develop further solutions and make them

available to other machine and device manufacturers and to end users. A new business area for Walter with great future potential beyond tool optimisation.

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### **Walter AG**

Tübingen-based Walter AG was founded in 1919 by Richard Walter and is one of today's leading international metal-machining companies. Approximately 3600 employees around the world develop, manufacture and market pioneering machining solutions for turning, drilling, threading and milling. Numerous subsidiaries and sales partners guarantee the presence of solutions in the form of products and services throughout the process chain for customers in more than 80 countries worldwide.

### **Comara GmbH**

Founded in 2004, the company specialises in software solutions in the industrial production environment. Comara supplies renowned machine manufacturers, automobile manufacturers and technology leaders with its production assistance systems, process and machine data logging for real-time optimisation and solutions for the "Internet of Things". Comara GmbH has been majority-owned by Walter AG since October 2016.

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