

Press Release

PLUTA attorney Dr Wehner maintains business operations of forwarder Bruno Schmidt based in Minden

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By order dated 11 July 2025, the Local Court of Bielefeld appointed Dr André Wehner, a specialist attorney for insolvency and restructuring law, as provisional insolvency administrator for Bruno Schmidt GmbH & Co. KG. The freight forwarder based in Minden and Hamburg currently has 38 employees and three trainees. The family business, now with its fourth generation at the helm, is continuing to operate without restriction at both locations under the direction of managing director Mr Jochen Schmidt and in close coordination with the provisional insolvency administrator, Dr Wehner from PLUTA Rechtsanwalts GmbH.

The company had to file for insolvency on account of liquidity problems, as it was no longer able to properly service its outstanding liabilities. Its financial challenges stem from a number of factors, including increasing competitive pressure and a resulting decline in sales paired with escalating costs in the logistics sector. "I am currently in the process of gaining a comprehensive overview of the company's economic and legal circumstances as well as the precise causes of the

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About PLUTA

PLUTA assists companies facing legal and financial challenges. The firm provides support for reorganisations and transactions and helps companies to restructure and maintain their operations in crisis and insolvency situations. If necessary, PLUTA restructuring experts may also assume leadership roles in other businesses. Since the company was founded in 1982, PLUTA has constantly grown and today has a staff of approximately 500 employees in Germany, Spain and Italy. More than 290 business and management experts, attorneys, business lawyers, tax consultants, public auditors, certified accountants, economists, banking and bookkeeping experts, engineers and insolvency administration specialists, many with multiple qualifications, ensure practicable and economically sound solutions. PLUTA is one of the top restructuring companies, as demonstrated by rankings and awards from INDat, JUVE, The Legal 500, Who's Who Legal, brand eins, Wirtschaftswoche and Focus. Further information is available at www.pluta.net.

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insolvency. At the same time and based on the insights gathered, I am reviewing all restructuring options to preserve the company,” said PLUTA restructuring expert Dr Wehner. The aim is to find a viable and sustainable way forward for the business and the employees. “The company is continuing to operate while this process is underway. All orders are being handled properly. The wages and salaries of the employees are guaranteed up to the end of August 2025 thanks to specific substitute benefits provided under German insolvency law,” added Dr Wehner.

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First potential investor expresses an interest

Already this week, the provisional insolvency administrator has arranged initial discussions with a potential strategic investor who has expressed an interest in a possible takeover. “My team and I will now initiate a structured investor process,” added Dr Wehner. The provisional insolvency administrator is being supported in the PLUTA restructuring team by attorney Mr Leon Linz and others.

Bruno Schmidt GmbH & Co. KG has its headquarters in Minden, Westphalia, and a branch in Hamburg. The long-standing company was founded back in 1893 in what was then Arnswalde (present-day Choszczno, Poland). Over time, it has come to specialise in national and international transports, with a focus on partial and full loads. Within Germany, the company operates regular scheduled freight transport services between the Rhine-Ruhr region and northern Germany. It also runs daily services between Minden and Hamburg. Internationally, Bruno Schmidt GmbH & Co. KG operates in Switzerland and other

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neighbouring European countries (Austria, Luxembourg and Denmark) as well as further afield. It can also handle specific dangerous goods shipments and provide warehouse logistics services.

“With our staff, customers and many years in the industry, we have excellent foundations that we can and want to build on. We have had to take this course of action so that we can now find a solution under court proceedings that will keep our long-standing business operating into the future. Working together with provisional insolvency administrator Dr Wehner, we will do everything within our power to bring about a sustainable long-term solution for our business and staff,” said Mr Jochen Schmidt, managing director of Bruno Schmidt GmbH & Co. KG.

The company currently has a fleet of 16 trucks (tractor units), multiple semitrailers/trailers and a light commercial vehicle. In addition to its main base in Minden, it also operates a non-independent branch in the Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

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