



## **R+V Re Announces Changes in Business Leadership**

### **Three New Department Heads Mark a Planned Generational Change While Ensuring Underwriting Continuity**

**Wiesbaden, 28.01.2026** - R+V Re today announced a new generation of business leaders, appointing three long-standing employees from within its own ranks to head different underwriting departments. These promotions reflect the company's strong commitment to develop its leadership internally, drawing on extensive underwriting experience and deep market expertise.

Effective 1 February 2026, Jessica Dear will assume the position of Divisional Chief Underwriting Officer for Trade Credit, Surety & CPRI. On 1 April 2026, Falko Kontos will become Regional Chief Underwriting Officer North America / Head of Aviation & Space Worldwide. On 1 July 2026, Thomas Szech will take over as Divisional Chief Underwriting Officer Facultative / Special Lines.

“With these appointments we ensure continuity and stability within our leadership team”, said Holger Nieswandt, CEO of R+V Re. “We are proud to have filled all three positions with long-standing colleagues from within R+V Re. Their deep expertise, strong understanding of our culture and proven commitment to our clients will help us continue to grow our business in a stable and sustainable manner.”

Jessica Dear has been part of the R+V Group since 2007 and has held various roles in both primary insurance and reinsurance underwriting, most recently as Underwriting Officer in Trade Credit, Surety & CPRI. With her extensive experience and deep understanding of these markets, she is well positioned to further strengthen R+V Re's offering in these segments. In her new position as Divisional Chief Underwriting Officer Trade Credit, Surety & CPRI she will succeed Kay Scholz who left the company at the end of 2025. Under Jessica's leadership, R+V Re's strong and highly committed underwriting team will build on its long-standing client relationships and market expertise to further enhance R+V Re's product offering and level of service in these lines of business.

Falko Kontos joined R+V Re in 2009 as a pricing actuary after completing his degree in mathematics and actuarial science. In 2013 he assumed the role of P&C treaty underwriter for the North American market and has led the United States / Puerto Rico team since 2023. In his new position as Regional Chief Underwriting Officer North America/Head of Aviation & Space Worldwide he will succeed Peter Koob, who has played a key role in shaping R+V Re's underwriting approach across various territories, especially in North America, over the past 37 years. Peter will retire at the end of July 2026. Until then, he will ensure a well-planned transfer of knowledge and transition of client relationships.

Thomas Szech joined R+V Re in 2013 as a specialist for Casualty and has led the Special Lines team since 2021. He has successfully expanded the remit and capabilities of our special line experts and has also played a key role in establishing our cyber treaty reinsurance unit. In his new position as Divisional Chief Underwriting Officer Facultative / Special Lines he will succeed Harald Etdorf, who has headed the department since 2014. Harald will remain with R+V Re until his planned retirement at the end of 2028, with a particular focus on Casualty, ensuring a thorough transfer of responsibilities and knowledge in this line of business across the organisation.

“With Jessica, Falko and Thomas, we are appointing leaders who combine strong technical expertise with modern, collaborative leadership skills,” said Marina Sokolova, Chief Underwriting Officer of R+V Re. “At the same time, we are also building on the work of colleagues who have led our underwriting activities for many years. We are very pleased that Peter Koob and Harald Etdorf will continue to contribute their experience during the transition. This combination of continuity and fresh leadership perspective ensures the reliability and future-readiness that our partners can expect from us.”



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### **About R+V Re:**

R+V Re is a German reinsurer and forms part of the non-listed R+V Versicherung AG, which belongs to the Volksbanken Raiffeisenbanken cooperative financial network. Operating worldwide, R+V Re offers treaty reinsurance in all non-life lines of business as well as specialized solutions in aviation and space, credit and surety, and in cyber. Furthermore, R+V Re’s portfolio also includes facultative business. With gross written premium exceeding EUR 3.4 billion in 2024, R+V Re is one of the largest non-life reinsurers in the world.

**Website:** [www.rv-re.com](http://www.rv-re.com)

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