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+++ Double victory for Bosch in MARGA finals +++

(Source: Bosch Facebook page, May 22, 2014)

Managing your own company and coming out on top against 45 teams from 16 competing companies – in the MARGA business simulation game up-and-coming management personnel have to demonstrate their entrepreneurial talents. This year two Bosch teams made up of trainees from the Junior Managers program participated with great success. Dirk and Martin report on the final round of the competition at the Schloss Gracht castle.



The finalists of Robert Bosch

MARGA is a business simulation in which participants manage a simulated company within an online management training exercise. After two qualification rounds, four finalists made it to the grand MARGA finals at the Schloss Gracht castle. This year Bosch was even represented with two teams, which meant that this time there was competition instead of teamwork between the various colleagues. *"After the two qualification rounds we exchanged experiences, but this came to an end during the finals,"* says Dirk with a smile.

The members of the two Bosch teams were well prepared for the competition, because they all participate in the Junior Manager programme, which focuses on management and decision-making skills. However, this did not necessarily provide them with an advantage, as Dirk explains. *"Our team didn't contain anyone with qualifications in management studies, so we had to teach ourselves the basics in this area."*



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The sprint for the finishing line! After six months hard work, in the final everything was at stake. Martin comments: *"We dedicated a lot of our free time to the business simulation. However, in return we learnt a lot, we had fun and made a number of new contacts."*



The team planning and discussing

Reaching agreement within the team wasn't always easy. This was due not just to diverging opinions, but also to different time zones. *"During the business simulation a number of team members were abroad, which meant that even in the finals the members of the team who were in China or in Turkey had to participate via video conference,"* Martin recalls.

At the award ceremony dinner the two Bosch teams were finally able to discuss their strategies and celebrate their success together.



During the gala dinner in the evening



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The satisfied second ranked winners



The first ranked winners

In spite of a number of difficulties Dirk and his team managed to gain second place. *"It wasn't always easy, with challenges ranging from virtual team leadership via time management right across to the necessary professional know-how."*

Martin and his team showed skillful entrepreneurial spirit and were delighted to be awarded first place. In recognition of their excellent performance, both MARGA champions will receive the opportunity to discuss their experience of managing a non-virtual company with the top management of BOSCH. It is now up to the trainees to apply what they have learnt in practice, and demonstrate their skills.