

News Release

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Karl-Ludwig Kley Joins Verizon Board of Directors

Darmstadt, Germany, November 5, 2015 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, today announced that its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Karl-Ludwig Kley (64), has been elected to the Board of Directors of Verizon Communications Inc., the largest wireless carrier in the U.S. by retail connections and revenue, with immediate effect.

Verizon's Board of Directors is responsible for the direction of the management team, which conducts the company's business. The Board oversees the management of risks inherent in the operation of Verizon's businesses as well as the implementation of its strategic plan. All directors stand for election every year. The addition of Karl-Ludwig Kley brings the total board membership to 13.

"I'm very much looking forward to joining a board whose directors are guided by the highest standards of corporate governance and who are truly committed to acting in the best interest of the company and its shareholders," Kley said. "I strongly believe that a board reflecting a range of viewpoints, backgrounds and expertise is best positioned for successfully directing Verizon and I'm happy that I can add to that diversity another European perspective."

Karl-Ludwig Kley has been Chairman and CEO of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany since 2007. During his tenure, he has orchestrated the largest transition in the company's almost 350-year history from what used to be a company with a diverse portfolio in pharma and chemicals into a specialized high-tech company in the areas of healthcare, life science and performance materials. Today the company holds leading positions in fertility treatments, process solutions for the biotech industry or



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liquid crystals. The company last month announced that Karl-Ludwig Kley will hand over the helm to his deputy, Stefan Oschmann, in April 2016.

Prior to Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Karl-Ludwig Kley was Chief Financial Officer at Deutsche Lufthansa for eight years and joined the German airline's supervisory board in 2013. He is Deputy Chairman of the supervisory board of BMW, the world's largest maker of luxury cars, and member of the supervisory board of Bertelsmann, Europe's biggest media company. In addition, he is vice president of the German Chemicals Association (VCI) and member of the steering committee of the Federation of German Industries (BDI).

For a full CV and picture of Karl-Ludwig Kley click [here](#).

About Verizon

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE, Nasdaq: VZ) employs a diverse workforce of 177,900 and generated more than \$127 billion in 2014 revenues. Verizon Wireless operates America's most reliable wireless network, with 110.8 million retail connections nationwide. Headquartered in New York, Verizon also provides communications and entertainment services over America's most advanced fiber-optic network, and delivers integrated business solutions to customers worldwide. For more information, visit www.verizon.com/news/.

For Verizon news release visit <http://www.verizon.com/news>. For Verizon's corporate governance framework visit <http://www.verizon.com/about/investors/board-framework>.

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About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 40,000 employees work to further develop technologies that improve and enhance life – from biopharmaceutical therapies to treat cancer or multiple sclerosis, cutting-edge systems for scientific research and production, to liquid crystals for smartphones and LCD televisions. In 2014, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 11.3 billion in 66 countries. Founded in 1668, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company. The founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed corporate group. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, holds the global rights to the Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, name and brand. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the company operates as EMD Serono, EMD Millipore and EMD Performance Materials.