

Press release**Forum Building Technology**

Contact Inga Kelkenberg
Phone +49 69 6603-1549
E-Mail inga.kelkenberg@vdma.eu
Date August 27, 2025

Uncertainty slows down climate solutions

The building technology sector offers key solutions for the energy transition – yet it shrank by 4 percent in 2024. The issue isn't a lack of innovative technology, but rather a lack of political reliability in increasingly uncertain times.

Frankfurt, 27 August 2025 – The building technology industry is a key provider of solutions for energy efficiency, climate protection, and sustainable construction. Despite technical innovations, industry revenue fell by around 4 percent in 2024 to €20.9 billion. The approximately 1,400 companies in the sector were able to maintain their workforce of 11,000 employees almost entirely, despite challenging conditions.

"The technology and diverse innovations are available, and companies are ready. What's missing is planning certainty. In this legislative period, we finally need a clear political course – without stop-and-go," explains Harald Hotop, CEO of Kludi GmbH & Co. KG and Deputy Chair of the Steering Committee of the VDMA Forum Building Technology.

Stable Framework Conditions for Construction

The construction and building sector needs predictability – no funding freezes, no constant policy shifts, no new target benchmarks.

"Trust is built through continuity – not through bureaucratic loops or political frenzy," says Hotop. "For example, federal funding for efficient buildings must remain stable in terms of volume."

It is also crucial that the construction economy picks up again. The demand for new, affordable housing is enormous – but without clear political guidelines and reliable processes, many projects remain stuck in limbo.

Dr. Laura Dorfer, Managing Director of VDMA Valves and VDMA Sanitary Technology and Design, adds: "Reliable framework conditions are the foundation of every investment. Anyone looking to invest in the building sector today must know what they can count on – politically, economically, and legally."

A Strategy for Renovation

Energy-efficient renovation is stagnating: the current rate is 0.7 percent, while at least 2 percent annually would be necessary. VDMA Building Technology advocates for a renovation strategy based on continuity, integrating low-investment measures and further developing the Building Energy Act (GEG).

A Holistic View of Sustainability

Building technology encompasses much more than energy efficiency. It is essential for drinking water hygiene, indoor air quality, accessibility, safety, and digitalization in existing buildings. These dimensions must become integral parts of every future GEG amendment.

"Our appeal is clear," Hotop concludes: "The GEG must become an instrument for stability and innovation. The industry is ready to contribute to a climate-neutral future – if politics finally provides clear framework conditions."

Photos for the press release and a chart on exports can be found [here](#).

Do you have any questions? Michael Wolfram, Head of the VDMA Forum Building Technology, Tel. +49 30 306946-26, michael.wolfram@vdma.eu, and Inga Kelkenberg, VDMA Valves, Tel. +49 69 6603 1549, inga.kelkenberg@vdma.eu, will be happy to answer them.

The VDMA Forum Building Technology (VDMA Building Technology) was founded in 2012 and consists of the VDMA trade associations Air Handling Technology, Lifts and Escalators, Building Automation and Controls, Valves including Sanitary Technology and Design, Power Systems, and Pumps + Systems. It brings together the industry's expertise and gives building technology a voice in politics. With total sales of nearly €21 billion, around 111,000 employees, and 1,400 companies, VDMA Building Technology reflects the economic significance of the sector in Germany and Europe.

The VDMA represents 3600 German and European mechanical and plant engineering companies. The industry stands for innovation, export orientation and SMEs. The companies employ around 3 million people in the EU-27, more than 1.2 million of them in Germany alone. This makes mechanical and plant engineering the largest employer among the capital goods industries, both in the EU-27 and in Germany. In the European Union, it represents a turnover volume of an estimated 870 billion euros. Around 80 percent of the machinery sold in the EU comes from a manufacturing plant in the domestic market.