**Press release** November 18, 2026

## SCHUNK spin-off for humanoid robot hands becomes TACTILIA Robotics

**SCHUNK Humanoid Robotics GmbH, founded in January 2026, now operates as TACTILIA Robotics GmbH. Humanoid robots can see and think, but cannot yet reliably grip. TACTILIA, based in Munich, is bringing a modular, robust, and flexible robotic hand to the market.**

Since its founding at the beginning of the year, the tech spin-off from SCHUNK has advanced the development of its robotic hand platform and built the necessary structures at the new location in Munich. The new name TACTILIA is derived from the Latin “tactilis”, meaning “tactile”, and refers to the sense of touch and physical contact. Thus, the name represents the decisive moment: the contact between the robot hand and the object. TACTILIA is headed by CEO Dr. Markus Netzer. Together with Kristina I. Schunk, CEO of SCHUNK, he gave the starting signal for the company to trade under the new name at the SCHUNK headquarters in Lauffen am Neckar.

### The hand as the key to automation

Humanoid robots are taking great strides in seeing, understanding, and moving. However, they still frequently encounter limitations when gripping and handling objects. This is where TACTILIA comes in: the company develops robot hands for industrial applications that can securely grip and precisely position a wide variety of components and objects. The hands can be used regardless of the robot type, from humanoid robots and cobots to mobile manipulators.

“The robotic arm has changed the industry. The robot hand will do the same. We want this technology to come from Europe,” says Dr. Markus Netzer, CEO of TACTILIA.

The development focuses on a modular robotic hand that automates a wide range of tasks in production and logistics. It combines modern manufacturing technologies, mechanical systems, sensor systems and actuators with physical AI and software. Development, training, and validation are consistently geared towards real industrial requirements.

“Robotic hands open up new automation possibilities, especially for tasks that previously required a lot of manual skill. To generate real benefits, they must be simple to integrate and reliable in continuous use. That’s what TACTILIA focuses on,” says Timo Gessmann, CTO of SCHUNK.

## Independent with a strong foundation

TACTILIA operates as an independent company while simultaneously leveraging the strengths of SCHUNK. This includes the 15 SCHUNK CoLabs worldwide, where the robot hand is tested in practical situations together with customers and further developed for specific applications.
“With TACTILIA, we are giving a highly specialized team the entrepreneurial freedom to quickly bring high-performance robotic hands into industrial applications. It benefits from our many years of experience in gripping and automation technology and our deep understanding of the requirements of our customers in different industries. Our goal is a robotic hand that proves its worth in practice,” says Kristina I. Schunk, CEO of SCHUNK.

The company is located in the Arabellapark in Munich. The decision to choose Munich was deliberate: the city offers a strong environment of universities, research institutions, and robotics companies, as well as access to excellent talent. This creates important preconditions for further team building, growth, and technological development.

## About Dr. Markus Netzer

Dr. Markus Netzer has been CEO of TACTILIA since November 1, 2026. Previously, he was Vice President Manufacturing at Rolls-Royce Solutions in Friedrichshafen, where he was responsible for high-precision manufacturing with more than 300 employees. In previous positions, he gained international management experience in production planning and manufacturing optimization. Dr. Netzer received his doctorate from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in the field of artificial intelligence in production. He teaches Production Management at Aalen University.

## About TACTILIA Robotics

TACTILIA was founded in January 2026 as a tech spin-off of SCHUNK SE & Co. KG and initially operated as SCHUNK Humanoid Robotics GmbH.
Based in Munich, the company develops a modular robot hand platform for industrial applications with humanoid robots, cobots, and traditional industrial robots. Its CEO is Dr. Markus Netzer.
**tactilia-robotics.com**

**About SCHUNK – global technology pioneer for the manufacturing industry**

As a global technology pioneer in toolholding and workholding, gripping technology, and automation technology, SCHUNK has been creating productivity gains for its customers and partners in industry with its portfolio of components, engineering expertise, and machines – for more than 80 years. To this end, 3,700 employees worldwide at 10 plants and 34 wholly owned national companies work together with sales partners in 75 countries. Through close partnerships with its customers and collaboration in innovation networks, SCHUNK develops cutting-edge technologies for numerous industries, including automotive, electric mobility, life sciences, aerospace, and electronics.

**schunk.com**

## Captions:



SCHUNK Humanoid Robotics becomes TACTILIA Robotics. The SCHUNK spin-off based in Munich is developing a modular robotic hand for a wide range of production and logistics tasks, building on SCHUNK's strong foundation.

From left: Timo Gessmann, CTO SCHUNK, Kristina I. Schunk, CEO SCHUNK, and Dr. Markus Netzer, CEO TACTILIA

Image Source: SCHUNK SE & Co. KG

*Start_TACTILIA_Robotics_11_2026.jpg*

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Kristina I. Schunk, CEO SCHUNK, and Dr. Markus Netzer, CEO TACTILIA, officially launch TACTILIA Robotics at SCHUNK headquarters.

Image Source: SCHUNK SE & Co. KG

*SCHUNK_TACTILIA_Robotics_11_2026.jpg*

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