

# “FREEDOM TO CREATE YOUR OWN IDEAS”

Digitalization was not one of the first buzzwords that came to Tobias Lischka’s mind when he decided to join specialty chemicals group ALTANA in Wesel in 2019. But the IT expert from Moers quickly realized that chemistry and software go very well together.



*Tobias Lischka, Head of IT Application Services, ALTANA*

Wherever Tobias Lischka appears, the next software solution is not far away. As Head of IT Application Services, he is the central contact person for cross-divisional web applications and Software-as-a-Service services at ALTANA.

Particularly important aspects of his job are the development and implementation of creative problem-solving approaches. That he masters both of these things so well with his team may be due in part to his personal background: In addition to IT management, Lischka also studied marketing communications and gained experience in startups and international companies. His calm and focused manner— influenced by jujutsu training and lightened with a touch of humor—is likely one of the ingredients of his recipe for success.

What is essential, however, are his professional credo and the company’s corporate culture: “I see myself as an internal service provider who supports others in their specialized work,” he says, adding: “For me, innovation culture at ALTANA means having a great deal of freedom to create your own ideas. Good ideas are funded and seen through.”

Tobias Lischka mentions two highlights. His own workplace is located in one of the most modern office buildings in the Lower Rhine region. The completely networked, climate-friendly new building with an open spatial structure for collaborative work bundles all IT and digital projects along the lines of a competence center – designed, by the way, with the input of the people who work there now. And just a stone’s throw away, a globally unique high-throughput screening facility is in operation. With this fully automated, digital laboratory the BYK division reduces the amount of time needed for serial testing of coatings, adhesives, and plastics from the months that used to be the norm to just a few days.

Lischka says the two projects demonstrate that information technology is really understood and taken seriously in the ALTANA Group. Incidentally, this also applies to day-to-day IT: “When we introduce IT services, whether Miro or Microsoft 365, we do so dynamically and quickly. Which makes my job exciting and challenging,” says Lischka. He is currently working on the launch of a personalized Intranet based on SharePoint.

What does the future hold? He sees focal points as being the implementation of new, primarily cloud-based software solutions and accompanying services, as well as Big Data and cyber security. “The pace remains fast.” And the way he says this shows that Tobias Lischka is looking forward to what lies ahead.