Dr. Jochen Koeckler is Chairman of the Managing Board of Deutsche Messe AG. He was appointed to the Board on 1 April 2012 and took over the chairmanship on 1 July 2017. In his executive role, he is responsible for the business units “Industry, Energy, Logistics” with the trade fairs in these industries and “Digital Business & Transformation” and Services. Koeckler is also responsible for the divisions Hosted Trade Fairs, Hosted Events & New Trade Fairs, HR, Auditing, Protocol and the Strategic Program Management. In addition Koeckler oversees the subsidiaries event it, Elektro Messehaus Hannover GmbH, Messe Energie GmbH, Deutsche Messe Technology Academy GmbH and Deutsche Messe Beteiligungsgesellschaft (DMB) as well as spring Messe Management GmbH and Messe-Gastronomie Hannover GmbH.

On graduating from high school and completing his compulsory military service, Koeckler commenced his university studies in agricultural economics and policy, gaining a doctorate from the University of Bonn in 1999. His doctoral thesis, undertaken as part of an international EU research project, was on the development of an agricultural policy information system to quantify the anticipated impacts of EU accession, with specific reference to the Hungarian agriculture sector.

In 1999, Koeckler commenced employment with the German Agricultural Society (DLG), where he served in various roles, including Managing Director of the Exhibition Department and, from 2008 to 2012, Deputy CEO. During his tenure at DLG, he was responsible for organizing the Society’s trade fairs worldwide. Under his leadership, the AGRITECHNICA show in Hannover became the world’s biggest trade fair for agricultural technology. In addition to overseeing this two-yearly trade fair in Hannover, Koeckler was responsible for national-level DLG trade shows in Poland, Russia, China and the USA. Dr. Koeckler left DLG to take up his role on the Managing Board of Deutsche Messe in April of 2012.

With 2018 revenue totaling about 310 million euros, Deutsche Messe ranks among the world’s Top 10 tradeshow producers. In 2018, Deutsche Messe planned and staged 113 trade fairs and congresses in Germany and around the world – events hosting a total of roughly 37,000 exhibitors and attracting some 3.5 million visitors. The company’s event portfolio includes such world-leading events as HANNOVER MESSE (industrial technology), LABVOLUTION (lab technology), didacta (education), DOMOTEX (carpets and floor coverings), INTERSCHUTZ (fire prevention, disaster relief and safety & security), and LIGNA (woodworking, wood processing, forestry). With approx. 1,200 employees and a network of 58 sales partners, representatives and branch offices, Deutsche Messe is present in about 100 countries.

Koeckler holds the following external board memberships and honorary posts: Member of the Managing Board of Foerderkreis der Deutschen Industrie e. V. (Society for the Promotion of German Industry) and guest member of the Presidential Board of BDI (Federation of German Industries),
Chairman of the Managing Board of GDG – Gemeinschaft Deutscher Großmessen e. V. (Association of Major German Exhibition Organizers), Chairman of the Supervisory Board of event it AG and miovent AG, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Deutsche Messe Technology Academy GmbH, Supervisory Board member of Hannover Marketing & Tourismus GmbH (HMTG), Advisory Board member of Hannover Airport, Member of the Board of Trustees of Maedchenchor Hannover (Hannover Girls’ Choir), Member of the Board of Directors of AUMA – Ausstellungs- und Messe-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft e. V. (Association of the German Trade Fair Industry), Member of the Advisory Board of Industrie-Club Hannover e.V.