

ESSENTIALS

The customer magazine of EschmannStahl GmbH & Co. KG

1/2014



**NEW
OPPORTUNITIES**



Dear reader,

Elections, annual reports and the football world cup have something in common: it's the results that count. Politicians, executives and athletes are held accountable to that. Opportunities, whether technical, financial, physical etc. are the basis for good results. It is also crucial, how the opportunities are utilised.

In this issue, we focus especially on new opportunities with high customer benefit and value. Because the same holds true for our customers. Results count. This may be heat treatment of a complex component in a short period of time (pages 8 to 10) or laser-hardening of a 30 t tool. No matter what goal one defines: good quality and customer benefit arise from the interplay of opportunities, knowledge and experience.

Enjoy reading.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MK', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Your Markus Krepschik (Managing Director)

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Intelligent Machines?

The future of industry lies to some extent in the closer integration or interlinkage of man and machine. The German government is actively promoting this trend in the form of its “Industry 4.0” initiative. One related trend is 3D-printers, which already play an important role in the fabrication of prototypes.

The next step is about to be taken – increasingly inter-linked production lines and machines, which actively provide humans with information, are triggering a fourth industrial revolution. The next step involves not only manufacturing processes themselves being automated, but the robots and machines involved in these manufacturing processes as well. They are acquiring intelligence, at least supposedly.

Humans act as recipients of information and machine-to-machine interfaces. In high-wage environments they are morphing from mere machine operators into experts with skills and experience and into decision-makers. Items, such as machines and robots, share information and make this information available to humans – the so-called “Internet of Things”. Generally speaking the impact of the computer as a sole source of information

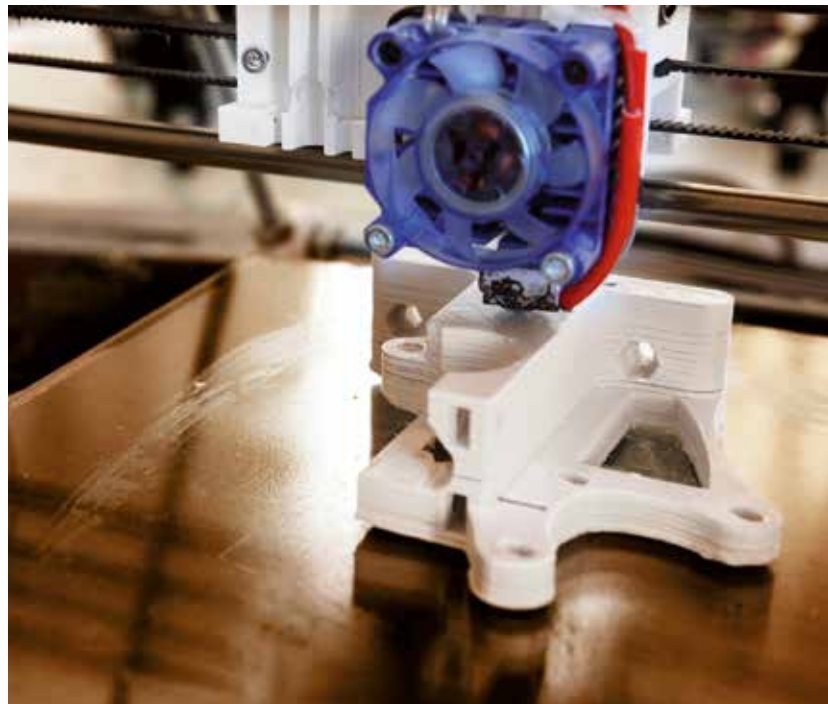
in the Internet of Things is diminishing and it is being complemented by intelligent objects. At home this could be a refrigerator that reorders milk by itself when stocks are low.

Avoiding downtimes – optimising use of raw materials

RFID (radio-frequency identification) demonstrates how objects constitute a valuable information channel. A chip is responsible for relaying different information, e.g. the temperature, GPS position and status of a component. A familiar example from everyday life is the tracking of parcels, information for which is in part supplied via this technology. Parcel recipients can call up information in realtime as to the location of their shipment. In contrast to conventional track-&-trace systems, the RFID transponder on the parcel continuously reports its position without staff having to manually log the goods at each specific station. The flow of information originates from the object itself. In industrial applications terms an intelligently interlinked component can, for example, independently report when its wear limit has been reached or when required raw materials need to be reordered. That reduces downtimes and optimises inventory.

Intelligently managing process chains

Given the demand for increasing customisation of products and flexibilisation of manufacturing capacities, networked, highly automated manufacturing ensures the competitiveness of companies operating in high-wage environments. So that all processes run smoothly, manufacturers need to rely on timing and product quality even more as the degree of automation at autonomous production units increases.



3D printers: prototyping at low costs

What has already been in full swing for a while now is the transformation of process chains in conjunction with 3D-printers. These facilitate the custom production of prototypes and products in single-item or small batches at low cost. In Industry 4.0 terms this is enabling previously complex and centralised production processes to be decentralised. Users involved in die-making are pioneers in this respect. Entire value chains are changing. Providers such as EschmannStahl help at the start of this chain to ensure that processes run smoothly, by delivering quickly and on time, for example. ■

First

industrial revolution
launched by the introduction of hydro- and steam-powered mechanical production facilities

Second

industrial revolution
launched by the introduction of division-of-labour-based, electricity-powered mass production

Third

industrial revolution
launched by the use of electronics and IT to further automate production

Fourth

industrial revolution
based on cyber-physical systems

From Industry 1.0 to Industry 4.0

Since its inception in the late 18th century, industrial production has been undergoing a development process that keeps on taking leaps forward triggered by momentous inventions. Following on from the first mechanical loom in 1784, the first production line in 1870 and the first PLC in 1969, which acted as catalysts for the first, second and third industrial revolutions respectively, the fourth phase is currently getting underway – triggered by the increasingly close interlinkage of man and machine.



The Exact Hardness

The 100% acquisition of the Eifeler Group's tool technology division by voestalpine Edelstahl GmbH is set to broaden the company's product and service portfolio. Tool steel processors and users are set to benefit from new laser hardening options.

"Above a certain size of tool, standard hardening methods are not cost-effective. Laser hardening is a true-to-contour, precision method of optimising only those locations subject to particular wear and tear and is therefore considerably less expensive for certain applications. Brief, localised heating of the surface minimises component warping", Volkmar Dumm, Product Manager at EschmannStahl, explains.

Like flame and induction hardening, laser hardening is a surface hardening method. Here a laser beam with an adjustable focal spot size treats defined functional surfaces, to specifically enhance their durability properties. The hardening process as such is very quick and there is no need for post-process tempering.

For users in the injection-moulding business that means in practice that the tool's cutting surface is laser hardened in order to increase the material's wear resistance and compressive strength precisely at those critical points. That prevents contour indentation caused by moulding compound residues or premature mould wear and avoids undesirable ridges on the product, e.g. on the lipping of PET bottles.

Material and surface treatment for enhanced properties

The properties of the EschmannStahlgrades, **ESPRIMUS SL** and **ESAKTUELL 1200**, in particular can be enhanced by laser hardening. **ESPRIMUS SL**, for example, can achieve a surface hardness of up to 60 HRC. As a comparison, the material 1.2343 only attains 54 HRC when laser hardened. **ESAKTUELL 1200** also has advantages compared to standard grades. This EschmannStahlgrade has been specially designed to meet mould-making requirements and is characterised by a greater degree of hardness and a high degree of pitting immunity compared to DIN-normed grades. Laser hardening can increase the surface hardness of the material by an additional 14 HRC. With hardened separation edges the tools deliver permanent high component quality.

Shorter process

The actual laser hardening process only takes a few seconds. Since the operator can predetermine the laser beam's pathway using state-of-the-art CNC-controlled systems, the laser can also precision-harden complex, small-scale geometries. All surfaces that can be reached by the laser can therefore be hardened. The laser beam working angle should ideally be 90 °C. Compared with other methods laser hardening involves considerably less heat input into the workpiece. The thermally impacted zone is very small and thermal distortion remains low. When moving across the zone to be hardened the laser beam heats the material up very quickly to 800 to 1100 °C in specific locations. After just a few seconds above the austenitisation temperature the hardening zone is cooled directly by the surrounding cool material – the so-called self-quenching process. A very fine-grain, tough martensitic layer is formed. Uniform cooling off from the inside

outwards minimises material tension. Since there is also considerably less risk of cracks than with other edge-hardening methods, post-process tempering of workpieces is not required. The toughness of the base material remains even after hardening. Volkmar Dumm

“Optimal material strength”

summarises: “The range of applications is wide – tools weighing up to 32 t can be handled. Based on our range of metallurgy expertise, we are in a position to provide customers with specific and sound advice as regards the choice of material and surface finishing.”

Advantages and Applications

- Zones subjected to wear can be precisely hardened true to contour
- Hard surface, tough core
- Low thermal impact
- Reduction of component warping
- Low post-process machining costs
- Short hardening process (e.g. tempering is not required)

Typical applications include sealing and separation edges on injection moulds, sprue zones, sliders and guides, cutting edges, surfaces exposed to wear etc. ■

www.eschmannstahl.de

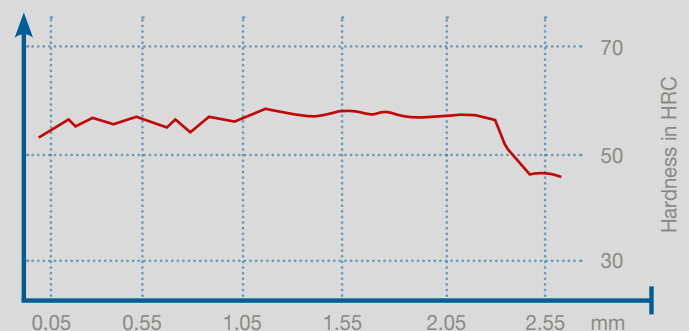
www.eifeler-lasertechnik.de

Hardness profile **ESPRIMUS SL** (laser hardening 1010 °C)



Source: EschmannStahl

Hardness profile **ESAKTUELL 1200** (laser hardening 940 °C)



Source: EschmannStahl

"These New Dimensions Are Exceptional"

At an on-site visit to the new heat-treatment facility, Operations Manager Thorsten Lambart talks about his responsibilities as head of one of Germany's largest vacuum heat treatment centres. The key issue is short lead times at maximum quality.



Thorsten Lambart, Head of heat treatment (on the left in the Photo)

A new building, new machinery, proven processes – Thorsten Lambart is in his element during the tour.

"I and the entire team have been well-practised with heat-treatment technology and the attendant processes for many years. What's new is the range of opportunities we have nowadays. We can handle heavier and more complex components than previously in shorter times. These new dimensions are exceptional. Given an expansion of technical capacity and staff resources, we are able to deliver

quicker and react flexibly to time-critical enquiries. Because what ultimately matters is being able to enhance users' ability to add value." The background to these improvements is new heat treatment capacities. One of Germany's largest vacuum heat treatment centres has been built in Dusseldorf. This is where small 10 kg blank blocks and 4 t die-cast tools and a great deal in-between are hardened.

High-tech environment

Passing through the building with its brand new equipment and facilities, from the office area onto the shop floor, one thing is abundantly clear – Thorsten Lambart is a perfectionist. There is a lot of activity, but everything is clean, well-lit and tidy – a high-tech environment from the hardening furnaces to the water treatment facility. There is nothing lying around here.





Loading of a hardening furnace



The Team (left to right): Markus Krepschik (Managing Director), Daniel Susdorf, Thorsten Lambart, Christine Wolf, Dirk Pommer, Lars Ewert, Özgür Usluoglu. Not pictured: Eduard Hungele and Andreas Trojan.

Unique dimensions

High availabilities

Qualified service

"Whenever something is finished, immediately leaves the plant again. This is after all no warehouse here", he emphasises.

In the background a member of staff is loading a new job into the large hardening furnace. This enables customers to have components with a net load of up to 4.5 t treated. Thorsten Lambart is conscious of increasingly more stringent requirements. "Our expertise is in demand especially if very large or very heavy components or complex geometries are involved.

We know what is happening within the steel during the treatment process – from the surface to the core. What is important is specific optimisation of material properties and that has to be reproducible."

"Heat treatment is a matter of trust"

Proper handling

Members of staff at this location have therefore been trained accordingly – the entire team possesses metallurgy skills, applications know-how and experience of heat-treating tools and components. That includes knowledge about how to handle components properly. ➔



“Heat treatment is a matter of trust. We are aware of our responsibility, especially if filigree parts or components, which have already had a lot of value added, are involved, such as complex, heavy-duty die-cast tools. Many products are one-offs. We therefore handle them with the requisite care”, Thorsten Lambart maintains. Process reliability and a related understanding of what

“Think outside the box”

quality is also includes various hardness testing options and full documentation of results.

Have always been involved with metal

The current head of the heat-treatment facility has always been involved with metal throughout his career. He previously worked in the blade/knife industry and joined EschmannStahl in 2008. “In my job it is important to keep an eye on the big picture at all times. What properties/features are required? What is the condition of the material? What options do I have? Here my superbly expert team is a key factor”, Thorsten Lambart emphasises. Apart from attending to day-to-day business, what also matters is thinking outside of the box, trying things out and introducing new programmes.

His responsibilities include keeping his field sales colleagues up to date from a technical perspective, to enable them to give customers the best possible

advice. Regular training to enable them to become professional steel and thermal treatment consultants is provided from a single source and actioned by just one contractor. Furthermore the capacity increase enables the company to contract-treat extraneous material, which it now offers as an additional service.

Enhancing processes optimally

At the other end of the building the company’s logistics partner is collecting finished parts. Thorsten Lambart takes the opportunity to explain: “We have always been very fast as far as tool steel delivery lead times are concerned. Customers regularly confirm this to us. Having such short heat treatment lead times is a key component in helping to enhance users’ processes as best we can. Our process reliability and well-rehearsed logistics form a good basis for this.” ■

Detailed technical specifications:

Vacuum hardening:

2 x 800 kg (600 x 900 x 600 mm)
1 x 1,500 kg (900 x 1,200 x 900 mm)
1 x 4,500 kg (1,200 x 2,100 x 1,650 mm)

Tempering:

4 x 800 kg
3 x 1,500 kg
2 x 4,500 kg



The extended capacities with new hardening and tempering furnaces enable quick process times.

New Website

The new website is online. On time for the second half of the year, eschmannstahl.de features a modern look and an intelligible navigation structure.

Everything at a glance – EschmannStahl's new website is clearly laid out and solutions-focused. The emphasis is on products and capabilities and the website enables customers, suppliers and staff to access the relevant information and specific offerings easily.

"We regarded it as important to highlight our areas of expertise and thus to provide our customers with information quickly and clearly", EschmannStahl's Managing Director, Markus Krepschik, explains. "We have achieved this objective in an effective manner by featuring a new page and navigation structure that clearly illustrates what the company, our products and capabilities are all about."

Clear division between areas of expertise

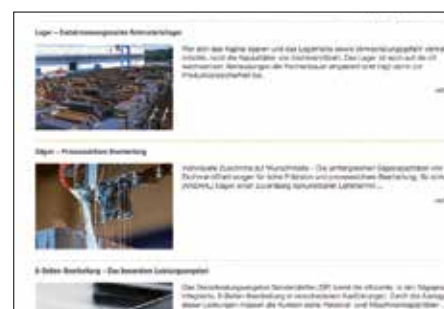
The new look enables the website to dovetail with EschmannStahl GmbH & Co. KG's new corporate design and forms a clearly structured entity together with the product and service brochures (see report in ESSENTIALS 02/2012). The three groups of capabilities, which have been clearly flagged by the use of symbols and colour distinction, now enable people to get their bearings quickly online too.



Up-to-date information

EschmannStahl News, which feature prominently on the Home page generate greater transparency. In this section EschmannStahl will now communicate information about the company, innovations and external activities and commitments at regular intervals online throughout the world. The ESSENTIALS magazine continues to be available on the new website as a downloadable PDF.

www.eschmannstahl.de



Well-informed: the new website is guided by optimal usability and clearly focuses on products and capabilities.

High-Tech on All Channels

The hotrunner solutions specialist, EWIKON, takes its own approach – in terms of delivering optimum injection moulding product quality. How the relevant ideas are generated and what benefits they provide in practice, is explained by CEO, Dr. Peter Braun, during ESSENTIALS' visit to Germany's hotrunner capital, Frankenberg.



EWIKON



Established in: 1979

Corporate headquarters: Frankenberg, Germany

EWIKON employs around 260 people worldwide. The company's only manufacturing facilities are located at its corporate headquarters. Subsidiaries in Great Britain, Japan and China as well as representative offices and commercial partners in Europe, North and South America and Asia ensure global service provision.



It's high-tech as far as the visitor's eye can see. Even the entrance area at EWI KON Heißkanaltechnik GmbH shows that its employees live for technology. Neatly arranged exhibits of the company's own products and of finished items made using EWI KON's products demonstrate that this business always keeps the process chain big picture in mind.

That impression is reinforced with every conversation and by the tour of the production facilities. "From experience we do certain things differently. Whilst that may be somewhat more elaborate than standard methods, the results however validate our approach", is how Dr. Peter Braun describes the company's philosophy. One of these particular solutions is the method used to heat the hotrunner nozzles. This does not involve superimposed units but precision-milled contours into which special heat conductors are inserted at a later stage. This direct method of heating delivers a high level of performance and ensures a uniform temperature profile along the entire length of the nozzle.

Optimisation of flow technology

The use of so-called "element technology" on manifold systems is unique. Special direction and distribution elements without sharp edges or dead spots on critical areas of the melt flow channels facilitate smooth melt flow and rapid colour change. This ensures full balancing of the flow channels and therefore uniform filling of the cavities, even when multi-cavity systems are involved. "This technology is one of our standard solutions. The quality of the products benefits enormously from this

technology", Dr. Peter Braun explains. EWI KON produces these elements separately using a specially developed method, installes them at the designated points and secures them in place.

Hot halves for short project lead times

"We also focus on users' processes as well as on finished products. Hot halves enable customers to reduce their project lead times and simplify commissioning of their hotrunner systems – on-site adjustments are barely required, especially if complex multi-cavity valve gate applications are involved", Dr. Peter Braun emphasises. The 'hot half' is a mould half with integrated hotrunner system and full wiring.

Basis for reliability

These hotrunner technology system solutions are all designed and made exclusively in Germany. Around 240 employees work at corporate headquarters in Frankenberg in the R&D, production design, manufacturing and sales departments. The technical centre features injection moulding machinery from various manufacturers, enabling practical testing to be conducted. Dr. Peter Braun explains: "We have experienced straight-line growth during the last few years. This is as a result of our portfolio of successful products as well as of the high degree of employee loyalty at this location. Many employees start as apprentices and later end up in positions of responsibility. We actively promote this process of continuous learning. This enables us to lay the foundations for delivery reliability to customers and integrating high-tech into our products." ■



Heiko Stahl (left), Head of Logistics at EWIKON and EschmannStahl Area Sales Manager

“Not Everybody Can Do that”

EWIKON has purchased tool steel from EschmannStahl for more than ten years – with increasing volume. Apart from materials to make pressure pipes, the hotrunner solutions specialist also benefits from in EschmannStahl’s SP (Special Plates) service. In this interview Heiko Stahl, Head of Logistics and responsible for purchasing at EWIKON, describes what he believes distinguishes this partnership.

ESSENTIALS: Mr. Stahl, for what sections of the EWIKON product portfolio do you use materials from EschmannStahl?

In contrast to many of our competitors we manufacture most of our pressure pipes from the material 1.2343. This is a point of difference in the market, as tempered steels are mostly used. Here we take a different approach. Our hotrunner components are frequently used to process glass-fibre- or mineral-reinforced plastics. A greater degree of hardness and wear resistance are required, plain and simple. We also use the SP (Special Plates) service for our hot halves.

ESSENTIALS: Why exactly?

The raw material is delivered to us in precisely the condition we require to machine it. In this respect we can rely on its predefined straightness. The material's straightness and precision enables us to action the process as we need to – with the required tolerances.

ESSENTIALS: How do you, as Head of Logistics, ensure that processes go smoothly? After all you need to trust your supplier.

We get the plates from EschmannStahl cut to the right height and length and fine-milled. We then handle hardness testing, deep-hole drilling and add the fitting depths. Our processes therefore interlock perfectly. The other key factor for me as far as logistics are concerned is of course delivery lead time. If you bear in mind that a complete hot half takes around five weeks to make, we have to be able to rely on the appropriate short delivery lead times for the plates. Once the design engineering phase has been completed, we need to have the material available at short notice. That works with EschmannStahl – and indeed in the case of plates with particular dimensions. Not every company can do it that flexibly.

ESSENTIALS: As an innovative business, EWIKON is anyhow dependent on flexible suppliers. How do you involve EschmannStahl in your product development process?

Of course our innovations are created entirely in-house – we have an effective R&D department for that purpose and a skillset related to hotrunner and injection moulding technology that has been accumulated over decades. But of course we involve suppliers from a certain point onwards. For example we conduct analyses in EschmannStahl's laboratory facilities to ensure material quality. When we intend to innovate, we speak with our partners. Which new materials or technologies are available for us to use? We ensure together with our suppliers that toolmakers and injection moulders are able to react to new market requirements.

For example that could be flame retardancy regulations that specify the use of certain chemicals. In conjunction with additives such as glass fibre, these impact the steel in a major way. As far as such challenges are concerned, we know we can rely on our partners.

ESSENTIALS: Mr. Stahl, many thanks for talking to us! ■



Dr. Peter Braun, CEO of EWIKON in conversation



Multi-cavity hot halves, made by EWIKON



EWIKON CEO Dr. Peter Braun (far left) and Head of Logistics Heiko Stahl (2nd from left) explain the special features of their products.

A Passion with Impediments

Frank Scheibelhuth, occupational safety officer at EschmannStahl, is the proud owner of a 1994 Porsche 911. To fulfil his dream he had to work hard and scrape his savings together.

Why Porsche specifically? "Porsche was simply THE brand. Its shape particularly appealed to me", is how Frank Scheibelhuth describes his passion for the sports-car. It all started in 1992 when he saw a 944 on the roadside as he was travelling to Hagen in the Ruhr region. It was to be his first Porsche, but he only briefly had the pleasure – flying sparks on the rear bumper caused a fire and the car completely burned out.

It took more than ten years before Frank Scheibelhuth opted to buy another Porsche – again a 944, which he entirely restored. He fulfilled his grand dream of owning a 911 a few years later when a good opportunity presented itself. "On 6 July 2010 I took the plunge. My wife and I sold the 944, our other car and the motorbike in order to

be able to afford the 911", Frank Scheibelhuth recounts. He found a 911 that appealed to him straightaway. He had taken a shine to the engine in particular.

Restored step by step

He initially matched the vehicle exactly to his requirements and altered a few details. So for instance he replaced the gear knob and had the slightly defective soft-top repaired. Yet he wasn't entirely satisfied. To be



Frank Scheibelhuth used his home garage as the repair shop.



He prepared the car for the paint job precisely.



able to undertake more modification work he converted his garage into a repair shop. Here he stripped the 911 right down to the body shell, especially to repaint it. "It looked great, but I wasn't satisfied. I am just a very picky person", Frank Scheibelhuth admits. These days the vehicle gleams in a certain shade of red.

Kick-off on New Year's Eve

Whilst his neighbours were making preparations for the midnight celebrations on New Year's Eve 2012, he locked himself into his garage and started to dismantle his 911 component by component – with a feeling of apprehension. Because Frank Scheibelhuth sensed that concealed accident damage might be revealed. "There were inconsistencies in my 911's log book dating back to 1994. I was really curious about what I would find."

And indeed he discovered accident damage on the right side of the front section – repair costs totalled 20,000 Euros. After a certain amount of back-and-forth with his insurers, the trained vehicle mechanic took the bull by the horns and did all the work by hand. That included sanding off, dent removal and sealing.

Short-lived enjoyment

After all the preliminary work had been completed, the car was ready for its new coat of paint. Once it had been painted Frank Scheibelhuth installed a large number of new original components, e.g. seals, clips, leather straps and anti-stone-chip-guards. The finishing touches were applied on Easter Saturday 2013 – at least that is what he thought. When taking the car for a spin in August that year he lost control on the motorway and hit the crash barrier – on a rain-soaked, slippery silent-tarmac road surface. "All that painstaking work was for nothing. Yet fortunately my insurer paid up and I was able to have the car repaired and restored", Frank Scheibelhuth recounts. Please note that is "have repaired", because he did not want to go through all the effort of an overhaul job a second time. The 911 has again been in optimum condition since December 2013.

Shared pleasure

After all those long hours in his garage at home, Scheibelhuth wanted to drive his 911 and compare notes with other enthusiasts. Groups of Porsche enthusiasts meet regularly throughout Germany, yet there was no such group in the Bergisches Land around Gummersbach. Scheibelhuth took matters into his own hands and established the 'Porsche Freunde Bergisches Land (Porsche Friends Bergisches Land)' club, initially with little prospect of success. Many believed 'you won't get anyone from the Bergisches Land to join a club like that, they are too stubborn', Frank Scheibelhuth recounts. "But I tried it anyway – and managed to make headway. We now have 85 members that meet up regularly for a meal and to take the cars for a spin." Every conceivable profession is represented from elderly care nurse to sales director. Participants even come from as far afield as Cologne, Bonn and the Ruhr region. "It's because of the great atmosphere – we are a grounded bunch. We talk about Porsche but even more about all and sundry." ■



A colourful bunch: the 'Porsche Freunde Bergisches Land'



"Safety is Mandatory – Not Voluntary"

The avoidance of accidents is key: that is what Frank Scheibelhuth, occupational safety officer at EschmannStahl, aims to ensure by taking various kinds of action. Success proves him right.

ESSENTIALS: Mr Scheibelhuth, you work as an occupational safety officer at EschmannStahl. What are your responsibilities in this function?

The activities which I perform as part of my job are numerous and very varied. I draft documentation; I provide occupational health and safety training to new members of staff and advanced training to all other employees. Furthermore I draft instructions – for example how to handle aerial work platforms, cranes and saws. Here I am in constant contact with the management board. The issue of safety is of major importance at a steel processing business. I am the interface for all safety issues – and for other business units and Eschmann Textures as well.

ESSENTIALS: How did you get to do this job? What has been your career path to date?

I originally trained as a vehicle mechanic and then did a course of advanced training to become a certified machine tool technician. After relocating during the course of my first job I joined EschmannStahl in 2005. After a while when the post of occupational safety officer became vacant, I applied. This topic has always interested me. Anyhow during the course of my career I have always paid particular attention to workplace safety. Some people would claim I am fussy. I got the job and have been doing it for more than five years.

ESSENTIALS: During this time what have you actually managed to achieve to improve safety at EschmannStahl? What successes has all this action delivered?

Prevention is priority No. 1. We implement a range of comprehensive prevention measures by training staff how to conduct themselves on company premises, in specific work areas and when operating machinery. We ensure by conducting regular inspections of machinery and providing regular advanced training that safety arrangements and knowledge are always up to date. This has all helped to reduce the incidence of accidents in our company. The action we have taken has resulted in a drop of 75% in accidents during the past few years – a great validation of our joint efforts.

ESSENTIALS: How does this manifest itself amongst individual members of staff?

Here we are all on the same page. For occupational health and safety is after all not voluntary, but mandatory. Last year we provided training for new and advanced training for existing first-aiders. New cut-protection gloves for example are a simple way of ensuring safety. We have not yet achieved our objective, because that is zero accidents across all departments and divisions – but we are already very close.

ESSENTIALS: Mr Scheibelhuth, thank you very much for talking to us! ■

IN BRIEF

EschmannStahl staff at the Cologne Corporate Run

First the most important news: All of them managed it. Dressed in the brand new EschmannStahl running shirts, 28 members of staff from various departments competed in the Cologne Corporate Run on 15 May. Together with around 6,000 other participants from large and small companies based Cologne and the surrounding

area, the colleagues completed the six km course around lake 'Fühlinger See'. "Even more people actually wanted to take part", relates Ulrike Geschwinde, Assistant to the Management Board at EschmannStahl and herself a race finisher. "They will then compete the next time. What was great was that colleagues from a range of different departments were represented and raced together." Incidentally EschmannStahl's fastest competitor was Benjamin Knüchel.

The Cologne Corporate Run is not just about sport and having fun. The organiser donates 1 Euro per competitor to charity. Factoring in additional donations, a total of 11,000 Euros was raised. Given the success of this initiative, the next race is already planned. Even more members of staff want to compete in the City Challenge in Gummersbach in September. Here too the company will sponsor the running shirts and the participation fees. ■



28 members of staff from various departments completed the six km course. All EschmannStahl's competitors were dressed out in a sponsored black running shirt.

Fakuma 2014

From October 14th to 18th, the city of Friedrichshafen will host the international trade fair for plastics processing. Fakuma, today a "prominent meeting place for the industry, with international charisma", as the organiser states it, EschmannStahl can be found in the "Rothauschalle" (A1-1407).

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PREVIEW ESSENTIALS 2/2014

Planned Topics

Be surprised: 2/2014 is our 10th issue featuring the new design. For this occasion, we thought out something special.



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