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Innauguration of the new factory in Wertheim

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Zollner AG produces with traceability system

**Space-saving world novelty** ...page 23

Clever EPP packing for flat screens

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*2005 was a good year for the Kurtz Group. But that is not our prime interest now. Now our priority is to fulfil the ambitious goals we have set for 2006, or – better still – to improve on them. The race is on!*

But quite apart from fulfilling and over-fulfilling our planned goals, a number of other matters of central importance are being tackled this year. First and foremost, the members of the Group have to keep one another better informed. The Hammer Innovation Programme (HIP) presented in the last issue now has to be implemented in practice. The first projects are now up and running and the ongoing process of improvement is being accepted by all staff, as is shown by the impressively large number of suggestions being made. This is inevitably leading to the development and implementation of innovations. The new hand-soldering tools range i-CON has met with lively interest on the markets, and the whole field of soldering machines is continuing to boom as never

before. A new generation of blockmoulds is being developed in Altaussee which will certainly cause a stir when its day comes. In the field of foundry machines we are set fair to achieve a record volume of orders, and as for particle foam material machines, we simply move from one highly interesting customer-specific special construction to another. Nor is life exactly quiet at the foundries. The capacity of our historic plant at Hasloch is being increased considerably, primarily in the KURTZ speciality field of hand-moulded short-run castings up to 5 tons. After having seriously considered building up a second production plant in a low-wages country, we finally decided – after mature deliberation and much helped by concessions made by our staff

– to continue to keep our production in Germany. The inauguration of the new MBW factory in Wertheim was a fitting event to accompany MBW's ten-year anniversary celebrations.

All in all, a multitude of positive signals for the Kurtz Group and for Germany as a location in which industry can flourish. As we have noted: The race is on!

The articles in the present issue of Kurtz News contain abundant evidence of these positive signals and will provide our readers – lying at ease, perhaps, under a cloudless sky – with a few glimpses into the world as we see it. Wherever you are, we wish you sunny and enjoyable summer holidays.



*In the picture, from left to right: Dipl.-Ing. Markus Rosenthal, Dr.-Ing. Rolf Hallstein, Dipl.-Ing. Rainer Kurtz, Dipl.-Kfm. Bernhard Kurtz and Dipl.-Ing. Walter Kurtz at the HIP info panel.*



## *Walter Kurtz celebrates his sixtieth birthday* A life devoted to internationalization and machine construction

*On May 19th, managing partner of the Kurtz Group Dipl.-Ing. Walter Kurtz celebrated his sixtieth birthday.*

*Dipl.-Ing. Walter Kurtz with his wife Ursula*



**By Thomas Mühleck**

After successful completion of his studies in foundry engineering, he entered the family firm on January 1st, 1974. Although Walter Kurtz's studies had been in the field of foundries and casting, his principal interests from the very beginning of his career were machine construction design and the internationalization of the business group. As a result he played an important role in the building up and expansion of the particle foam material machines sector. Today the Kurtz Group is a world market-leader in this field with a market share of over 20 percent.

Walter Kurtz was quick to recognize that the greatest opportunity for growth in the machine construction sector lay in internationalization. From 1978 to 1981 he was a frequent traveller overseas, building up Kurtz's North American market and founding a North American branch, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Further new foundations were to follow: Hong Kong (1986), Italy, France, South America, and South Africa (1990).

These were in their turn followed by further foundations in Asia. He also acquired a worldwide network through the takeover of a competitor firm in Austria.

For 15 years now, Walter Kurtz has been editor-in-chief of the Kurtz Group's magazine Kurtz News, a publication now read with pleasure and interest by customers, staff, and interested members of the public alike.

His expertise and knowledge are not only in demand in his home business group. Walter Kurtz is active in the VDMA (Verband Deutscher Maschinen- und Anlagenbauer), sitting on the committee for the rubber and plastics machines sector; he is a member of the publicity committee of the IK (Industrieverband Kunststoffverpackungen); he is chairman of the VDI-K advisory board for foam materials, is a guest teacher to the students of Prof. Shouting Hou at the Jin Ling University in Chung Chun, China, and was made a "Knight of Plastics Technology" in 1991.

Most recently, Walter Kurtz was elected to the board of the newly founded EPP-Forum e.V..

On the non-profit-making side, he makes it a priority to continue as an active member of the Wertheim Rotary Club, which he had a part in founding; a few years ago, he founded Rotaract for up-and-coming members. Walter Kurtz has for a number of years supported international artists by mounting exhibitions under the motto "Art and Culture at Kurtz" in the Kurtz Group's administrative building at Wiebelbach.

Walter Kurtz is always the first to emphasize that his successes in the professional sphere would never have been possible without the support of his family, and particularly of his wife Ursula, to whom he has been married since 1982.

Walter Kurtz is particularly proud of his four children, Magdalena, Stina, Eva-Maria and Maximilian, and of his two grandchildren Luca and Isaac.

## India – Fascination, Astonishment, Admiration

# Art Exhibition at Kurtz

By Walter Kurtz

Despite a number of events held in the area at the same time, around 200 visitors came to the opening of the new art exhibition in the stairwell of the administrative building in Wiebelbach on April 1st.

Fascination, astonishment and admiration are the words that come to mind when we consider India. The intensification of business contacts with this up-and-coming country prompted us to invite Indian artists to provide us with an insight into contemporary Indian art in a joint exhibition.

With the support of our Indian business partner, the company K.K.Nag and the Nag Foundation, we have succeeded in gaining four highly-interesting artists from different artistic backgrounds: Vidya Dengle, Shyamolie Varma, Shrikant Kadam and Murli Lahoti.

Murli Lahoti is a freelance artist and has already won numerous awards for his wide-ranging works. At a young age, Lahoti travelled throughout India collecting impressions of nature, culture and tradition. Even today, Lahoti still gains experience with the relevant themes in many places.

The youngest of the four artists is Shrikant Kadam. He is a lecturer at the College of Fine Arts in Pune and has already received over 15 awards for his work. His works have been widely exhibited in India, among other locations in New Delhi and Mumbai and are also greatly acclaimed in the USA, Indonesia and Germany.

Vidya Dengle teaches art in Pune. After seven exhibitions in India, she is now

exhibiting her work abroad for the first time. Alongside painting, Vidya Dengle also has a close involvement with music. She is a passionate violinist and blends the two art forms by incorporating elements of music into her paintings.

For some years now, Shyamolie Varma has been intensely dedicated to painting. Since her childhood she has been a passionate artist and presented a selection of her works in Paris during her modelling career. Asked where she learned painting, she responded: "It is a God-given gift. My works come from the heart."



In the picture, from left to right:  
Vidya Dengle, Murli Lahoti,  
Shrikant Kadam, Shyamolie Varma

Up to the time of our next dispatch of a KURTZ shape moulding machine to India in July, the works will be on display in our administrative building, to the delight of visitors and possible buyers.



Picture: Photocase

Taj Mahal, Agra, India. Mausoleum which the grand mogul Shah Jahan built in commemoration of his main wife who died in 1631.

## India – no white elephant

By Walter Kurtz

India's increased business activity has encouraged Kurtz to set its sights on the subcontinental market: three of our business sectors were exhibitors at trade fairs in India this year.

The foundry machines were demonstrated in operation at a show in Pune. A great number of enquiries were made by firms from the currently expanding Indian automobile industry. The KURTZ information stand had many visitors and our staff were able to return to Germany having made a number of valuable contacts.

The particle foam material machines business sector was represented at PLASTINDIA in Delhi, with a machine that has already been sold to an Indian customer. 200 contacts may not seem

a rich harvest, but surprisingly enough a number were from South-East Asia and the overall quality was high. Some related to concrete projects and have in the meantime resulted in orders.

The third business sector to exhibit in India was soldering technology, with the ERSA team collaborating with their present Indian agents Bergen Associates Pvt. Ltd. on an impressively mounted stand at COMPONEX/electronic India in Delhi. This resulted in a multitude of interesting contacts and also in a number of actual orders, particularly in the field of rework systems.

In spite of considerable competition from our lower-price Asian colleagues, machines from Germany clearly continue to hold a place of their own in Indian industry.





**The Kurtz Group is**  
*First results of the  
 innovation programme have now come in*



**By Rainer Kurtz**

*The beginning of this year saw the initiation of the Kurtz Group's Hammer Innovation Programme, HIP for short (see also Kurtz News 28, page 6).*

*The goals of the programme are to ensure innovative leadership in all business sectors, to secure jobs, and to maximize customer satisfaction.*

The first results of the programme have now come in and offer concrete evidence that the concept is proving successful. To take one example related to personnel, the first reports show that the personnel development concept is enabling personnel managers to work in a considerably more professional manner, and that there have been significant improvements both in relations between staff and their superiors and in openings for further training.

The monthly HIP info-events ensure that all staff are now kept up-to-date with information about how business is going and the state of projects in hand.

The "continual improvement process" (KVP, standing for "kontinuierlicher Verbesserungsprozess") is likewise now in full

swing. There is already clear evidence that the whole company team has been won over to participation in the improvement process. There has been an exponential increase in the number of HIP suggestions and HIP projects as against last year, showing that the Kurtz Group now stands to benefit from fundamental positive changes.

In order to put these highly promising HIP projects into practice, four members of staff have been freed up to act as HIP coaches. Professional support is being given by Porsche Consulting, who are currently engaged in training the coaches and installing the HIP processes.

The goal is to raise levels of customer satisfaction, quality, and availability and

promptness of delivery by using the management philosophy "Kaizen" developed more than 50 years ago by Toyota. Central to this philosophy is the principle of making great progress by taking many small steps. Rather than waiting around for the grand inspiration or some miraculous positive intervention, the important thing is to take many small steps quickly. It is more important to "do something" than to indulge in empty talk about what "could be done".

The newly introduced bonus system will enable staff to benefit from these measures by giving the just rewards for their part in making their company a more successful business enterprise.

All this goes to show how "hip" the Kurtz Group has now become!

## Electronic recording of operating data Optimised capacity planning and control

**By Jürgen Stahl**

An electronic operating data recording system (BDE) is currently being introduced in the Kurtz Group. MBW Metallbearbeitung Wertheim GmbH started in April as the pilot factory.

The primary objective of this project is to carry out feedback of production times to production orders at short notice and with considerably less manual work. The quick feedback of the completed work processes is an urgent prerequisite in order to optimise capacity scheduling in the individual factories. With these measures, the processing time can be reduced and the adherence to delivery dates to the customers can be increased.

The focus of the software selection was mainly placed on the integration into the SAP R/3 ERP system. In the system, data are transmitted from the PP module (production planning and control) to the BDE system via an interface and also collected again by it.

Data such as work processes from released production orders, personnel data, cost centres and workplaces are sent by SAP directly to the BDE. All the coming/going time data as well as the reported processes are transmitted from the BDE to the SAP system. The shift plans of the individual employees are also transmitted via the personnel data. In this way, BDE system „knows“ when it must deduct break times for the employee.

In everyday business, the employee has the task of reporting his activity via the BDE terminal. Thanks to the number of feedback terminals distributed in production, the movement times for the individual employees have been minimised. They now report each start of process and end of process on the terminal. Activities not relevant for production such as cleaning or a machine fault are booked on specific production orders for the collection of overheads.

The processes are booked in the dialogue with the employee. The employee identifies himself on the terminal with his Ledgeic reader. The feedback number of the process is read in via a barcode scanner and thus does not have to be entered manually. For this, the layout of the production papers was amended and supplemented by the print-out of the barcode for the productive start at MBW.

In the run-up to the system start, the customary clock cards were replaced by so-called Ledgeic readers. These „Euro-sized“ key rings are coded to the time paper number of the employee in the human resources records.

*After the successful introduction at MBW, the change for the entire KURTZ GmbH took place in July.*



*Manual work reduced and capacity scheduling optimized: possible with BDE.*

**Full order-books  
at KURTZ foundries**  
40 % growth on previous year

## From zero to 1,200 tons

*KURTZ iron foundry supplying  
DECKEL MAHO*

By Ulrich Munz

At the right time at the right place: In December 2005 KURTZ presented its foundries for the first time in Pfronten, giving a special account of the iron foundry's expansion that focused on its present additional capacity of around 6,000 tons per annum for large gearing and machine construction.

As DECKEL MAHO Pfronten will be experiencing growth of over 30 per cent in 2006 as against 2005 and is searching the market for additional casting capability, this was a definite case of a happy supplier-customer encounter.

The enterprise from Pfronten has a very interesting history. Founded in 1920 by a small group of five fine mechanics, it at first produced high-quality mathematical and drawing sets, slide-rules, and other precision instruments. In 1950 MAHO produced the first multi-purpose milling and drilling machine (the SK 250), which had a formative influence on how the enterprise was to develop in the future.

In 1970 MAHO began to concentrate exclusively on the production of milling machines. In 1981 there was a shift of focus to CNC milling and drilling machines, machining centres, and flexible manufacturing cells. The fusion of DECKEL and MAHO in 1993 was followed by a severe worldwide crisis in the machine construction field, which in its turn led to the fusion of DECKEL MAHO AG with the Bielefeld company GILDEMEISTER AG.

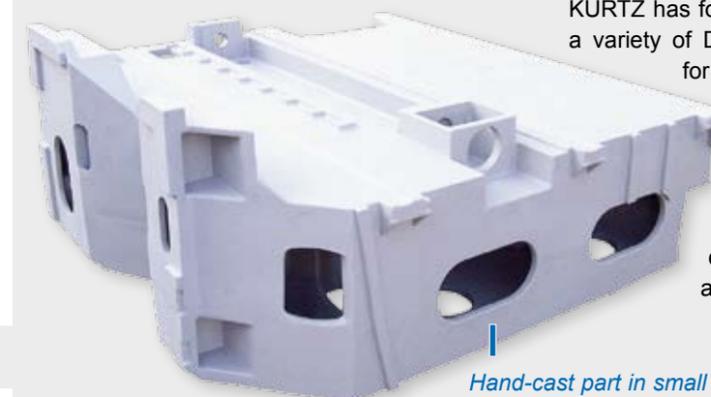
Progress from that point on was onward and sharply upward, not least as a result of the revolutionary new developments: the P line of products (1996), for example, and new high-power horizontal machining centres. Turnover at Pfronten multiplied by a factor of five, and the staff doubled in size to over one thousand.

The acquisition of such a well-known customer as DECKEL-MAHO is exceptionally good news for the KURTZ iron foundry. We are now making it a priority to support the growth of this world-famous enterprise with top-quality cast products – at the right time and at the right place.

*Our iron foundry's excellent reputation for **quality** and **keeping to deadlines** made it easy for the customer to make swift decisions:*

A first step involved the casting of two basic machine frames for the 80 and 125 construction series (see picture). Serial production started in May with one cast part per day (2.8 or 4 tons in weight), with expectations of an annual volume of around 1,200 tons of nodular cast iron-60. The subsequent stages were clarified and defined at the outset, guaranteeing positive future developments in the business relationship.

KURTZ has for a number of years used a variety of DECKEL-MAHO machines for mould construction and for machining, and has thus built up in-depth knowledge of the precision, reliability and servicing levels that a chip-cutter expects from an innovative machine tool.



*Hand-cast part in small series – machine bed with a weight of four tons.*

### *Growth especially with serial hand-cast parts up to five tons*

By Ulrich Munz

The first half of 2006 saw the German economy enjoying a distinct general upswing. But the upswing enjoyed by the three KURTZ foundries (grey and nodular cast iron, low-pressure gravity die casting, aluminium and nonferrous metal sand casting) was in a quite different category from the 1.8 to 2.1 per cent GDP growth predicted by the IFO-Institute (German institute for economic research). So far this year, our iron foundry has achieved a tonnage growth rate of over 40 per cent on 2005. The aluminium foundries are heading for turnover growth of around 30 per cent.

*What have been the causes of this gratifying development?  
How can we keep the growth rate up at this level?*

On the marketing side, we have deliberately structured our current range of products and services in accordance with target sectors and target products.

KURTZ will be an exhibitor at the ALUMINIUM trade fair in September in Essen, and at the MATERIALICA-Munich in October.

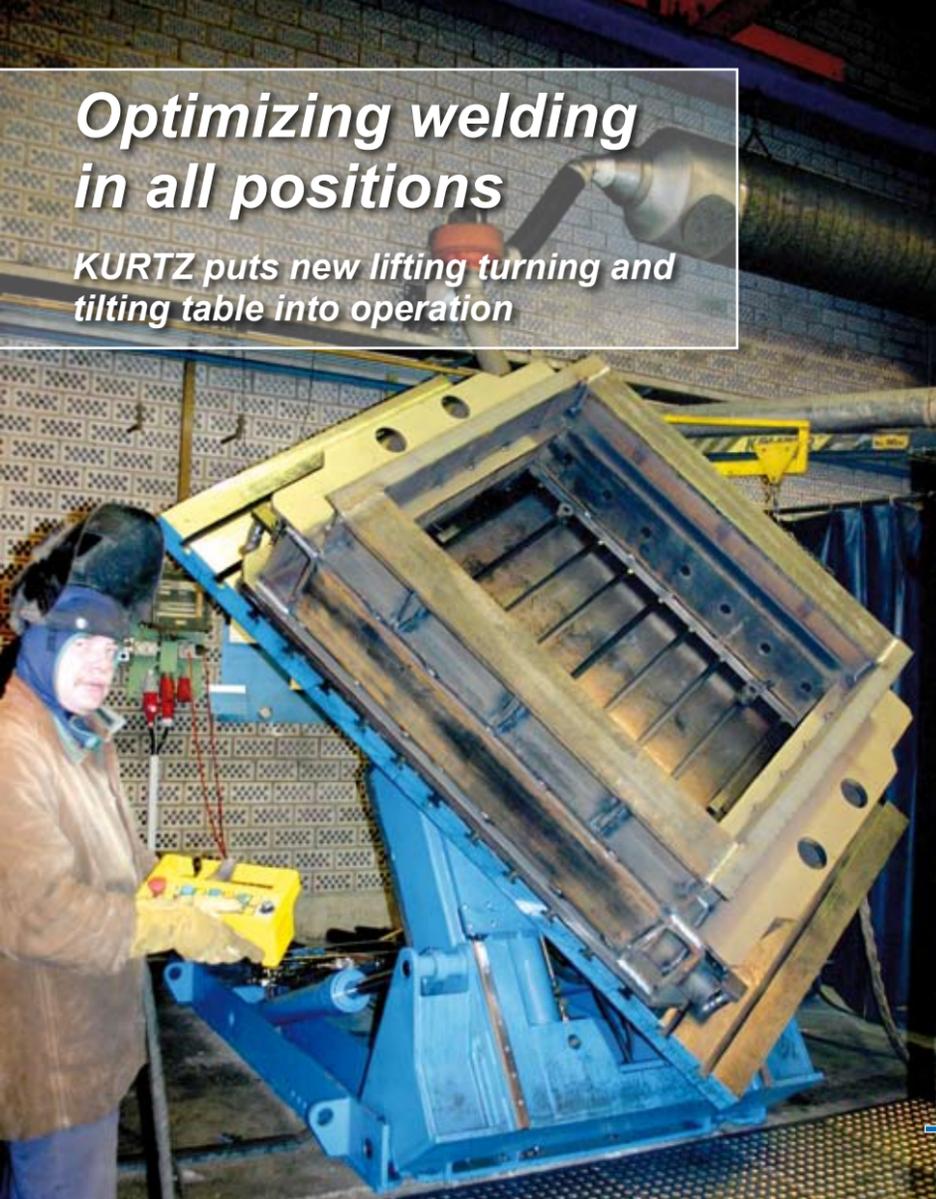
At the iron foundry our sales canvassing concentrates not only on products cast in the moulding shop of up to 80 kg weight but also on serial hand-cast pieces between 300 kg and five tons.

Typical product families come from the fields of wind power (driving shafts between 2.1 and 4.4 tons – three cast parts per day), of heavy motor construction, and of machining and printing machinery.

@ **More online:**  
[www.kurtz-gesagt.de/29/article1](http://www.kurtz-gesagt.de/29/article1)

## Optimizing welding in all positions

KURTZ puts new lifting turning and tilting table into operation



By Siegfried Aulbach

Investing in a lifting turning and tilting table – more conveniently known as a “manipulator” – has brought two important advantages to KURTZ in the field of welding. Firstly, it is ergonomically speaking the best possible tool and thus optimizes the quality of the welded parts. And secondly, the new machinery saves time: about 10 or 15 minutes for a press frame, for instance. And as a further secondary benefit, it brings about a significant safety increase for the worker turning the large-size heavy press frames.

The manipulator has a 2500 X 1500-mm clamping plate with T-slots. When set vertically it can take a load of up to three tons.

The workpiece is clamped securely in a horizontal position and can be moved on three axes. Computer stored clamping plans for the manipulator guarantee an extremely high level of repeating accuracy.

When the machine is operated in the vertical position, use can be made of a pit in the works floor that can be opened and closed quickly by means of lightweight moveable panels.

*Ergonomics, quality and efficiency – the new “manipulator” in the welding department.*

## A whole new dimension in chip removal

Tool costs reduced by the Walter system

By Stefan Dreßler

KURTZ is setting new standards in milling chip removal. Following a variety of not entirely successful machining experiments on the machining centre, KURTZ is now achieving excellent results with a new acquisition, the F4042 Xtra-Tec edge and groove cutter made by Walter AG Tübingen, used in combination with a ScrewFit receiving system. The first attempts at chip removal in St52 brought with them a number of pleasant surprises:

*Machine and workpiece vibrations are now a thing of the past.*

The inaccuracies in chip removal that caused problems in the past have been eliminated by the special high-quality ground surface and angle of the turnable

cutter plate. The tool life was extended and notable reductions in tool costs were achieved.

The Xtra-tec F4042 also has significant advantages – such as a higher cutting performance, increased rate of feed, and lower power consumption – over the turnable cutter plates used hitherto.

The milling cutter is designed for a maximum number of different applications. It has rhombic, double-edged cutting plates with highly efficient cutting geometry, guaranteeing the best possible cutting performance and lowest possible power consumption. An extremely quiet, low-vibration operation ensures the

best possible surface quality and the longest possible tool life. A cutting edge angle of exactly 90 degrees prevents the formation of waste deposits on the face being produced, thus reducing the number of working steps. All this makes the F4042 into an edge cutter that is suitable for an infinite variety of applications across the whole field of metal-machining.

It is suitable not only for use as a roughing but also as a smooth-finishing cutter for steel, cast iron, and nonferrous metals. Thanks to its extraordinary versatility, it is also in many instances possible to do without the smooth-finishing cutter that is otherwise so often indispensable.

## KURTZ iron foundries certified by Germanischer Lloyd

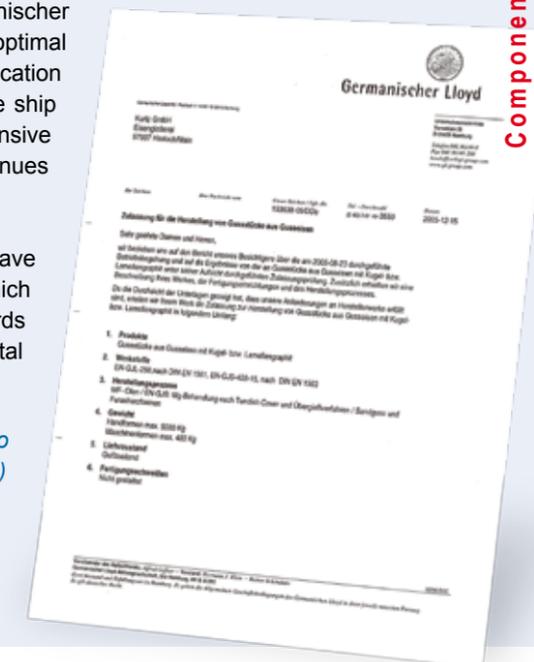
By Peter Sielaff

Working as it does to protect human life, the environment, and material goods, Germanischer Lloyd is obliged to work to the highest standards of safety and quality. This leads to optimal synergies between machine construction, shipbuilding, and computer and communication technology during the construction of a new ship and after construction when the ship takes to the waters. Germanischer Lloyd has gone through several particularly intensive periods of growth since its foundation in 1867. The international trade boom continues unabated and shows no signs of waning.

Close contacts between the KURTZ iron foundry and MAN-Augsburg since 2004 have resulted in a steadily growing volume of orders. There are any number of fields in which it is important to maintain high quality standards and to ensure that these standards are clearly documented, but in the field of shipbuilding these things are absolutely vital and have to be pursued uncompromisingly.

*This is why the KURTZ iron foundry has been concerned to add a further element to its credentials (hitherto ISO 9001:2000 and the TÜV certificate for high-pressure vessels) and has now been granted the certificate of approval of Germanischer Lloyd.*

Naturally enough, this certificate will be used to pursue further “catches” in the form of customers and orders in the maritime sector.



## Quality assurance becoming even more clear-sighted

Aluminium foundry working with new X-ray “glasses”

By Hans-Christoph Bodenburr

KURTZ ALU has always had a special radioscopic system (commonly referred to as an X-ray appliance) used to achieve quality assurance through radiological checks. Until recently the MU20 system had done excellent service at the works, but it has now

been superseded by a new and highly modern installation. The main reasons for moving on to the new system were today’s constantly rising quality demands and our determination to maintain a steady upward curve in the quality of our castings.

The new BOSELLO X-Ray radioscopic system S.R.E. 100 has now been in operation at the aluminium foundry since early this year. The dedication and expertise of our staff resulted in an entirely smooth changeover to this innovative equipment.



### Technical Data:

X-ray radioscopic system for aluminium cast components

Parameters for the cast parts being checked:  
Maximum weight: 60 kg  
Maximum size: 600 mm x 900 mm (width x height)

C-bow and mechanism for moving the test piece on an aluminium rotary table with a rotation unit of 500 mm (the five axes can be remote-controlled and are programmable).

Testing programmes: unlimited  
Testing positions per programme: 50  
BHT IP 8000 image-processing system

# Hong Kong-Marathon 2006

## Impressions, Emotions, Successes

*The Hong Kong Marathon was founded in 1997 as a way of celebrating Chinese recovery of sovereignty: symbolically, the route straddles the old border and the race is staged as a magnificent spectacle. It is now not only Hong Kong's biggest competitive event of the year but also a notable date in the international sporting calendar.*

By Heidi Staub, Stanley Kwan, Yoki Chow

This year the marathon began on the famous Nathan Road in Tsim Sha Tsui and continued through Western Harbour Tunnel through to Golden Bauhinia Square in Wanchai (where the ceremonial handing over of sovereignty took place in 1997). 2006 saw a record-breaking number of runners taking part: 40,000 registered starters from over 60 countries. Among the 40,000 were three staff members from Kurtz Far East and Kurtz Zhuhai: Avis Chan, Heidi Staub, and Stanley Kwan.

Participants have the choice of three different races: the full marathon

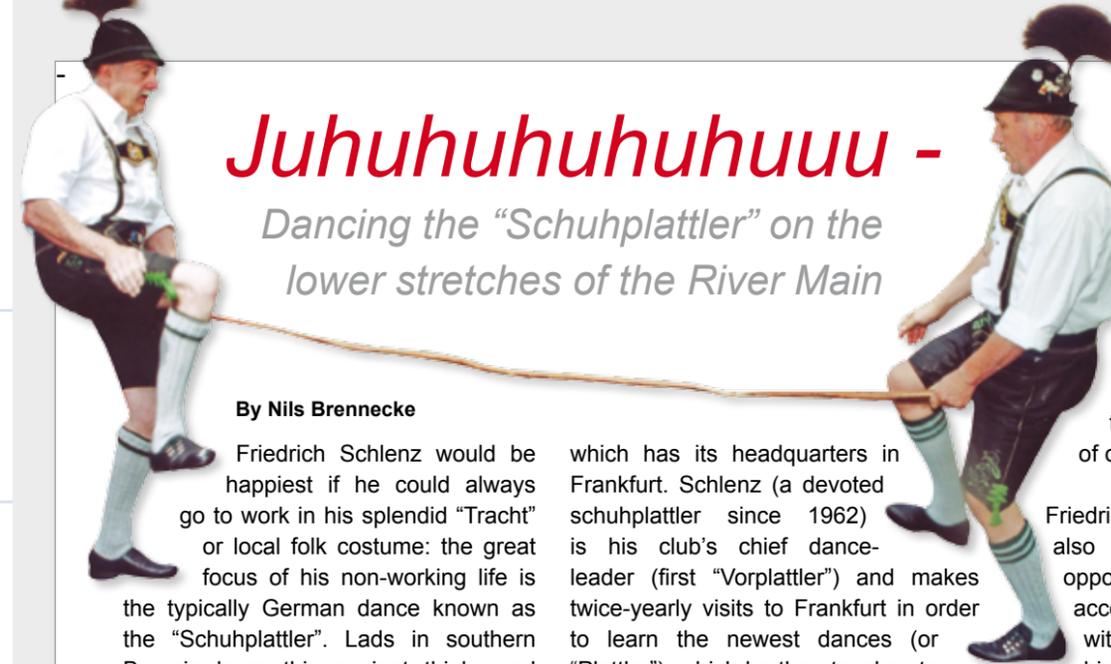
(just over 42 km or 26 miles), the half marathon (21 km or 13 miles), and a third route over ten kilometres in length (on which the Kurtz staff members were all finishers). "I was immediately in favour when Avis suggested that we should run," enthuses Heidi Staub from Kurtz Zhuhai Manufacturing Ltd, "as it has always been one of my great ambitions to run a half marathon one day."

By then, however, there was not much time left for the Kurtz team to train. Instead, they concentrated on getting into the right frame of mind. "We all agreed we should go out for a good

German 'Weizenbier' on the evening before the race," says Heidi Staub with a smile, "an isotonic one, of course." They had a more difficult time convincing Stanley Kwan that he should take part but they succeeded in the end – and he didn't regret this bold decision: "I took the whole business especially seriously, as I didn't want to let the team down by being the only non-finisher. Luckily, the marathon was scheduled to take place after the Chinese New Year, so I could use the holiday period to get into shape. I trained every day for two weeks and so I was well prepared when the great day arrived. And I really enjoyed being out there running in the cool morning air with such a great horde of other participants."

Yoki Chow from Kurtz Far East Ltd. was sadly unable to take part this year, but she acted as a coach for her friends and worked hard cheering them on from the crowds along the way. "There was great mutual support between all members of the team both before and during the race. Although we only did the ten-kilometre race, I was still concerned that some would not make the finishing post. During the race I heard on the News that many starters had suffered injuries, which increased my worries. So I was particularly happy to see all our team finish safe and sound. We are going to run again next year, and want to crack the 2007 half-marathon course."

Heidi Staub and her colleagues in China.



## Juhuhuhuhuuu - Dancing the "Schuhplattler" on the lower stretches of the River Main

By Nils Brennecke

Friedrich Schlenz would be happiest if he could always go to work in his splendid "Tracht" or local folk costume: the great focus of his non-working life is the typically German dance known as the "Schuhplattler". Lads in southern Bavaria learn this ancient thigh- and heel-slapping dance as soon as they are out of the cradle, but elsewhere the schuhplattler is something of a rarity. "It is a thoroughly serious matter," protests Friedrich Schlenz when asked if he ever has his leg pulled by his colleagues. Almost every Kurtz employee is familiar with this impassioned schuhplattler-dancer (or simply "Schuhplattler"), as displays by his dancing club, the GTV Holzacker Faulbach, founded in 1950, are a regular feature of Kurtz company parties. The dancers from the lower Main area belong to the Rhine-Main branch,

which has its headquarters in Frankfurt. Schlenz (a devoted schuhplattler since 1962) is his club's chief dance-leader (first "Vorplattler") and makes twice-yearly visits to Frankfurt in order to learn the newest dances (or "Plattler"), which he then teaches to his fellow-schuhplattlers back in Faulbach. "This is a genuine case of a great tradition being passed down from one generation to another," says Friedrich Schlenz with reverence. His club is not made up exclusively of lads – there are also any number of lasses among the members: the "Dirndl", as they are affectionately known, who dance their own steps around the schuhplattling men folk. Naturally enough, you cannot consider yourself a real schuhplattler if you do not subscribe to a number of good old traditional values.

According to its hallowed statutes, the GTV Faulbach is committed to "the preservation of local folk costumes; the cultivation and practice of the traditional folk repertoire of song, instrumental music, and dance; and the protection and preservation of the ancient values and customs of our society's homeland."

Friedrich Schlenz and his lads also regularly take advantage of opportunities to show off their accomplishments in competitions with other plattlers, and Schlenz himself has won a number of considerable prizes at plattling contests.

The GTV Holzacker Faulbach also boasts a glockenspiel ensemble, currently conducted by Walter Grehn, which is a welcome guest at folk music and dance events all over Germany. It should not be forgotten that schuhplattling and glockenspiel-playing both call for a high degree of physical fitness, which is why Friedrich Schlenz regularly goes swimming, unashamed – nay, proud – of the conspicuous redness of his much-slapped thigh.

## Training ratio over 10 % Kurtz trainees achieved again top results



For years, the Kurtz Group has trained in 19 different professions with a rate of constantly more than 10 % far above the average and the requirements demanded by the public. In the last apprenticeship year, 12 trainees finished successfully their apprenticeship and fortunately everyone of them will be employed in one of the Group companies also in the future. With the beginning of the new apprenticeship year in autumn, 22 junior employees will start their highly qualifying training in the Kurtz Group. Consequently, with 94 trainees, the training ratio of the Kurtz Group has constantly been above 10 % for many years.



### Examination results

The board of management and their apprenticeship trainers are particularly proud of the excellent results of the final examinations. Steffen Saller achieved an outstanding result. He did his apprenticeship as a chipping mechanic at Kurtz in Kreuzwertheim and achieved a grade point average of 1.4. Being the class winner at the vocational school, he even received a mention from Mr. Struch, director of studies. Peter Rauch (electronic technician - operations engineering), Andreas Schwab, Christoph Schwab, Fabian Störmer (industry mechanic - machines and systems engineering) and Sebastian Virnekäs (chipping mechanic) finished their apprenticeship with grade 2. "This is once again a very good result and it confirms our training concept" stated Dipl.-Kfm. Günther Bartschat, head of corporate business unit Human Resources in the Kurtz Group.

### Variety in training

The training possibilities at Kurtz are manifold and wide-ranging: from industry mechanic to graduate engineer (university of cooperative education). Furthermore, the training system in the several companies provides an insight into the different business areas at a very early stage which will make the start in the professional life a lot easier. More detailed information about current qualified jobs and vacancies can be found on the Internet at [www.kurtz.info](http://www.kurtz.info)

# Honours in the Kurtz Group

Record number of long-service awards

## Honours at ERSA GmbH

There was ample cause for rejoicing when the long-service laurels were awarded at ERSA this year, with a record number of 37 employees celebrating round anniversaries. Veronika Kuch, Ursula Oberdorf, and Dieter Lernbecher led the field of jubilarians with 35

years' service apiece. Along with Inge Schweitzer and Guido Seifert (30 years), Wendelin Bopp, Klaus Häfner, and Elmar Müller (25 years), they were presented by ERSA Managing Director Dipl.-Ing. Rainer Kurtz with certificates of honour from the Heilbronn

Chamber of Commerce and Industry, gifts, and flowers. The following were accorded recognition for 10 years with the enterprise: Wolfgang Zerritsch, Karin Pfeiffer, Burkhard Reffert, Heidi Segner, Hubert Frank, Carmine Varasano, Peter Lensch, Stefan Wurster, Susanne Strobl, Mark Cannon, Martin Ballweg, Roger Hachenberg, Rudi Deubert, Ulrike Scheurich, and Thomas Reinhardt.

Erich Suchanek, Ernst Wolz, Michaela Heinisch, Elke Geis, Regina Wohner, Gerd Hänelt, Angelika Kattinger, Jochen Klein, Lothar Müller, Lothar Walter, and Paul Hörner have now been with the company for 15 years.

20-year ERSA jubilees have been celebrated by Brigitte Schmitt, Thomas Sauer, and Lothar Endress.



In the picture, from left to right:

Dipl.-Kfm. Günther Bartschat, Director of Personnel; Inge Schweitzer (30 years), Elmar Müller (25 years), Dieter Lernbecher and Veronika Kuch (35 years each), Klaus Häfner (25 years), Ursula Oberdorf (35 years); Managing Director Dipl.-Ing. Rainer Kurtz, and members of the ERSA board of management Bernd Schenker und Mark Cannon. Missing from the picture are Guido Seifert (30 years) and Wendelin Bopp (25 years).

## Honours at KURTZ GmbH



In the picture from left to right:

Dipl.-Ing. Rainer Kurtz, Chairman of the Board of Management; Dipl.-Ing. Markus Rosenthal, Managing Director; Jochen Kraft, Chairman of the Staff Council; Dipl.-Kfm. Bernhard Kurtz, Managing Director (25 years); Hans Rexroth (40 years), Herbert Lannig (25 years), Gerhard Holter (40 years), Annemarie Ackermann (40 years), Alfons Grasmann (25 years), Cemil Elibol (25 years), Kurt Roos (40 years), Joachim Zander (25 years), Domenico Merola (25 years), Dr.-Ing. Rolf Hallstein, Managing Director; Dipl.-Kfm. Günther Bartschat, Director of Personnel. Missing from the picture: Margit Freudenberger (25 years) and Karl-Heinz Klein (40 years).

The longest-standing staff members in the Kurtz Group are Annemarie Ackermann, Hans Rexroth, Gerhard Holter, Kurt Roos, and Karl-Heinz Klein, all of whom have been with Kurtz for 40 years. Like their counterparts from ERSA, they received certificates of honour, from the Würzburg-Schweinfurt Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and gifts. A festive ceremony was put on to pay tribute to the following for their 25 years of loyal service: Managing Director Dipl.-Kfm. Bernhard Kurtz, Margit Freudenberger, Herbert Lannig, Alfons Grasmann, Cemil Elibol, Joachim Zander und Domenico Merola.



## Honours at MBW GmbH

Nikolaus Grots and Anton Michel received recognition for their 10 years' service to the firm. Henry Langhof and Jürgen Schumacher celebrated 15 years on the staff.

In the picture from left to right:

Managing Director Ewald Garrecht; Anton Michel and Nikolaus Grots (10 years' service); and Jürgen Schumacher and Henry Langhof (15 years); Managing Director Dipl.-Kfm. Bernhard Kurtz



## Honours at MGM GmbH

Tributes were paid to Gustav Weber and Werner Sutter for their 25 years of service to the firm. Monika Hoffner can now look back on 35 years of employment at MGM in Mannheim.

In the picture from left to right:

Managing Director Ulrich Mauerwerk together with his jubilaries: Monika Hoffner (35 years at MGM), and Gustav Weber and Werner Sutter (25 years).

## 50 new first aid trainees

Safety at the workplace is a Kurtz priority

Sudden cardiac arrest has been Germany's most common cause of death (outside hospital) for many years now. The most important factor affecting the survival rate in cases of heart failure is inevitably the question of how quickly adequate measures are undertaken to revive the persons affected.

By Alexandra Klett

This is the background to a campaign which has been conducted in recent years at Kurtz and has seen 50 helpers being given basic and further training. Only in this way can we get and disseminate a clearer view of the company-internal aspects of the problem (lines of communication for reporting cases, danger areas), but also to practice regularly with the prescribed materials (special bandages, early defibrillation, vacuum mattresses). Direct help by colleagues for colleagues – help that one hopes will never be necessary.

For about eight years now it has been possible for trained first aid helpers to use so-called defibrillators. When a collapse takes place, the probability of the sufferer's survival sinks by between seven and ten per cent with every minute that goes by without revival measures such as defibrillation being taken. Studies from the USA, England and Holland show that the survival rate rises significantly when defibrillation is practised within three minutes of the collapse. This time factor of three minutes is eloquent proof

of the pre-eminent importance of the first aid helper: no other emergency measure is quicker than the one undertaken by the helper who is on the spot to take swift action. These were the considerations that led Kurtz GmbH to the decision to introduce defibrillation to their repertoire of first aid measures, firstly at the Hasloch works. On the recommendation of trade cooperative associations, responsibility for getting the initiative off to a good start was given to the safety expert Udo Stöhr, with support in ongoing training being given by the works medical officer Dr Schmid.

Although the number of compulsorily reportable accidents at work in German firms has been sinking constantly for many years now, it is nevertheless the case that there are more cases than ever in which compensation has

to be paid. 871,145 accidents were reported in 2003 – in 2005 the figure had dropped by 3.6 per cent. The figure for compensations paid, however, only fell by about one per cent (7.4 billion euros in 2004). Regular training sessions for first aid helpers and the utilization of modern methods are now an unquestioned feature of life at Kurtz, and form the foundation of the company's measures for the avoidance of serious accidents at the workplace.



Dipl.-Ing. Markus Rosenthal, Dr Axel Schmid, Udo Stöhr and Roland Hörner

# 10 years of growth and innovation

This was the motto under which MBW Metallbearbeitung Wertheim GmbH celebrated its **10-year anniversary** on April 7th and 8th, coinciding with the **official inauguration of the new works** at the Reinhardshof in Wertheim.

By Alexander Schmidt

At a technology day specially held for the occasion on April 7th, company customers were offered a demonstration of what MBW understands by its slogan "All Inclusive". The expression is borrowed from the tourist industry but has not changed its meaning in the process: care is taken to attend to all the customer's needs.

For customers, the advantages of the all-inclusive process can begin in the design phase with MBW giving advice on production technology and taking entire responsibility for construction design; this is followed by the production and supply of a whole range of items from single components to complex units, all ready for immediate installation. This process was reflected in the programming of the technology day, with talks being given on design, the right choice of materials, a comparison between

the production procedures of lasering and punching, top-quality welding, and powder coating. The participants then joined guided tours of the new production plant on which they had the opportunity to ask questions arising from the talks or from experiences in practice back at their own works.

April 8th was an open day to which members of the public were cordially invited, and MBW staff were stretched to the limit with around 3,000 visitors in attendance. Most of these were principally interested in the plant's technology: for these the highlights were the innovative punching and nibbling machining centre and the newest laser-cutter, both coupled to fully automatic storage systems for feeding in sheet metal. But the new, multi-purpose high-precision (0.001 mm) 3D-measuring system for quality assurance was also much admired. Others were more interested in the manual skills demonstrated by the WIG and MAG welders. And there was a constant stream of visitors to the MBW trainees' information stand.

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## Magnesium: lightweight construction on the advance

KURTZ low-pressure casting machines for magnesium alloys

KURTZ low-pressure casting system for magnesium alloys and/or aluminium.



As a result of the permanent increase in energy prices, many branches of industry are looking for new methods and materials. Saving weight is one of the main requirements in order to increase profitability and to secure competitive benefits.

By Christoph Hartmann

Casting of aluminium alloys under low pressure is a process acknowledged all over the world for high-strain components.

To achieve the requirement of weight saving, low-pressure casting of magnesium alloys is increasingly becoming the focus of attention for developers.

For years now, KURTZ has been providing machine technique for low-pressure casting of magnesium alloys in sand moulds or dies: In 1999, the first low-pressure machine for the casting of magnesium alloys was supplied to Ford/Elm, USA. This machine has been used in the past years by Eck Inc. in Manitowoc, USA.

Casting has been done on a further

machine at the LKR research and development institute in Randshofen, Austria. In the past year, a further system was put into operation with CIFM in Trois-Rivières, Canada. For this project, KURTZ die construction also provided the first mould for magnesium casting.

In Germany, the firms of Hydro in Bonn and Steinrücken in Olsberg-Bruchhausen are amongst those with the possibility of casting magnesium alloys in sand moulds. For the casting of magnesium alloys, the KURTZ low-pressure machines are specifically adapted to the demands in question.

In order to achieve a reproducible quality of the cast part, precise temperature control from the furnace via the riser

tube to the die is necessary. The KURTZ machine controls have been adapted for this purpose. The high precision of the KURTZ pressure control enables an even increase of pressure without fluctuations, thus preventing formation of oxide in the riser tube and in the mould.

As a result of the complete system, including machine controls, pressure control and riser tube heating, KURTZ is in a position to offer customers process technique under one roof as well.

Close cooperation and a permanent exchange of information with the customers make it possible to put the requirements made by magnesium casting into practice in process-safe machine technique.



Several speakers from politics and economy marked the official course of the celebration of MBW's 10-year anniversary. Minister Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Reinhart, a member of the parliament, honoured the company and its employees for the outstanding performance so far.



Enjoyable large interest of the Wertheim general public at the MBW Open House.





## Error-free production is no longer a vision

EMS professional Zollner produces in a „glass factory“

By Angelika Uehlein

*„We develop and produce more quickly, technically better, more favourably priced, more flexibly and more innovatively than our counterparts on the market“.*

This is the vision with which the traditional German company Zollner AG has succeeded in establishing itself amongst the international TOP 20 of electronics service companies.

Founded in Zandt in 1965 by Manfred Zollner as a specialist electric shop, Zollner AG nowadays employs more than 5,600 people on a production area of around 200,000 square metres at 12 locations.

As an innovative EMS (Electronic Manufacturing Services) company, Zollner covers the complete supply chain. The portfolio entails not only the classical production of components, but also development of electronics and firmware, mechanical elements and modules, inductive components, the layout of

PCBs (printed circuit boards) and also system integration. Amongst other things, the company develops and produces complete systems such as automatic check-in terminals for international airlines, Xenon ignition devices for renowned automotive suppliers or electronic card-readers and pay terminals. The clientele, which comes from a series of branches, sounds like a Who's Who of internationally renowned companies.

On fully automatic production lines, high-volume low-mix products are produced, whereas three to four workers efficiently produce small and medium series on numerous flexible production islands according to the concept of short paths.

On average, about 1,500 new products are produced per year and more than 6,000 product changes are made – although Zollner as a pure service company acts on the market without its own products.

### Traceability limits errors

At Zollner, they have known for a long time that error multiplication can only be avoided by complete documentation of all material and production data for the entire value-added chain. Each part installed and its movement through production, each machine condition, all the persons involved and each individual production step are documented and the results controlled. Faulty batches or lots can be identified in good time and blocked for the following production steps in this way - a great step in the direction of error-free production processes. In multi-level supply chains, this also enables complete rendering of proofs towards customers and suppliers.

### Transparent production and intelligent manufacture

Process security, transparency and traceability are the foundations of an intelligent manufacture. A complete traceability system presupposes that all objects such as components, circuit boards, products, materials, workflow, warehouse, transport container or intermediate store forming part of this model or moving in it can be identified by scanner at any time. The parts and materials to be installed are marked by self-interpreting „trace numbers“, which contain all the detailed information such as batch numbers, use-by date, serial day number and quantity in the container.

Production modules such as the ERSA selective soldering systems are connected via transponders, monitored via Intranet by a guide system and machine and process data are visualised. All VERSAFLOW and ECOSELECT 350 have a tag reader, which identifies the components to be soldered and assigns and documents the most important soldering parameters accordingly. This also includes the serial barcode number, entry and exit time of the component, portal velocity, planned portal time, flux time, active flux head, pre-heat time, pre-heat temperature, time in the solder modules, solder temperature, time in the loading station, residual oxygen figures, amongst others.

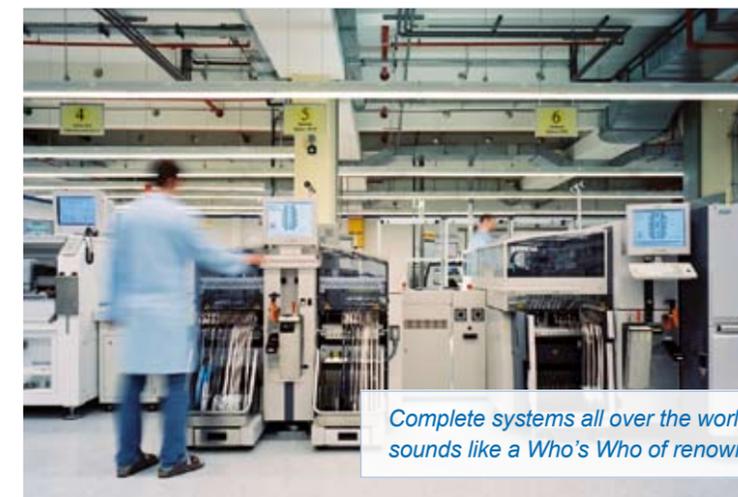
Dynamic figures such as soldering duration or movement speeds are recorded in the soldering record anyway. The modern controls of VERSAFLOW and ECOSELECT systems are network-capable and thus enable data storage on the in-house host computer. And from there, the intra-factory system collects the necessary trace data.

*The traceability system implemented at Zollner entails material, process and test technique and thus exceeds the standard otherwise customary by a long way.*

In the event of a recall action, not only material batches affected, but also the matching process and test data can be determined and finally identified on the level of the individual part. When using traceability nowadays, only products actually affected (and not the complete series, as is customary) have to be called back in.



Check-in terminal by Zollner.



Complete systems all over the world: Zollner's clientele sounds like a Who's Who of renowned companies.

# Lead-free workshops in high demand at ERSA

New dates in October

Organizer ERSA and many customers were quite astonished in May; within only a few days of the publication of the dates for the lead-free workshops, there were no places left.

By Guido Seifert

In particular the workshop on the subject of „Lead-free manual soldering to IPC-A-610“ found a great echo. Although the number of participants was increased at short notice, there were still numerous customers left on the waiting list. The two experienced speakers, Dipl.-Ing. Karl Ring (ZVE Oberpfaffenhofen) and Guido Seifert (ERSA) succeeded in giving the participants far-reaching knowledge in theory and practice. A highlight was the fact that the new ERSA i-CON soldering station, which has been specifically developed for lead-free industrial applications, was available for all participants for the practical part.

The fact that the participants' expectations were more than fulfilled is made clear by the comment from Kurt Mühlheim (Bleuel Electronic AG, Zurich): „The best seminar that I have ever attended.“



Due to the overwhelming interest, further workshops will be taking place in the autumn:

- October 17th and 24th, 2006 – foundations and process technique of lead-free wave soldering
- October 18th and 25th, 2006 – lead-free wave and selective soldering workshop
- October 19th and 26th, 2006 – lead-free manual soldering to IPC-A-610 workshop

## Winner of the SMT Vision Award

ERSA impresses once again with a world innovation

By Angela Deynet

Once again this year, ERSA did not go home from the APEX without an award. Following on many different prizes in recent years, ERSA once more succeeded this year in winning the coveted Vision Award in the Inspection category.

This prize which is awarded by the trade journal SMT Magazine went to the company for the world innovation ERSA ECOSELECT AOI+R (see Kurtz News, Edition 28)

Within the framework of APEX, the largest electronics fair in the USA, the Vision Award winners are selected by an expert jury from the industry branch which assesses each new product according to several criteria. These include innovation, economics, user-friendliness, ease of maintenance and environmental compatibility.

The ERSA AOI+R System convinced the jury with its unique technology, which conducts a fully-automatic circuit board

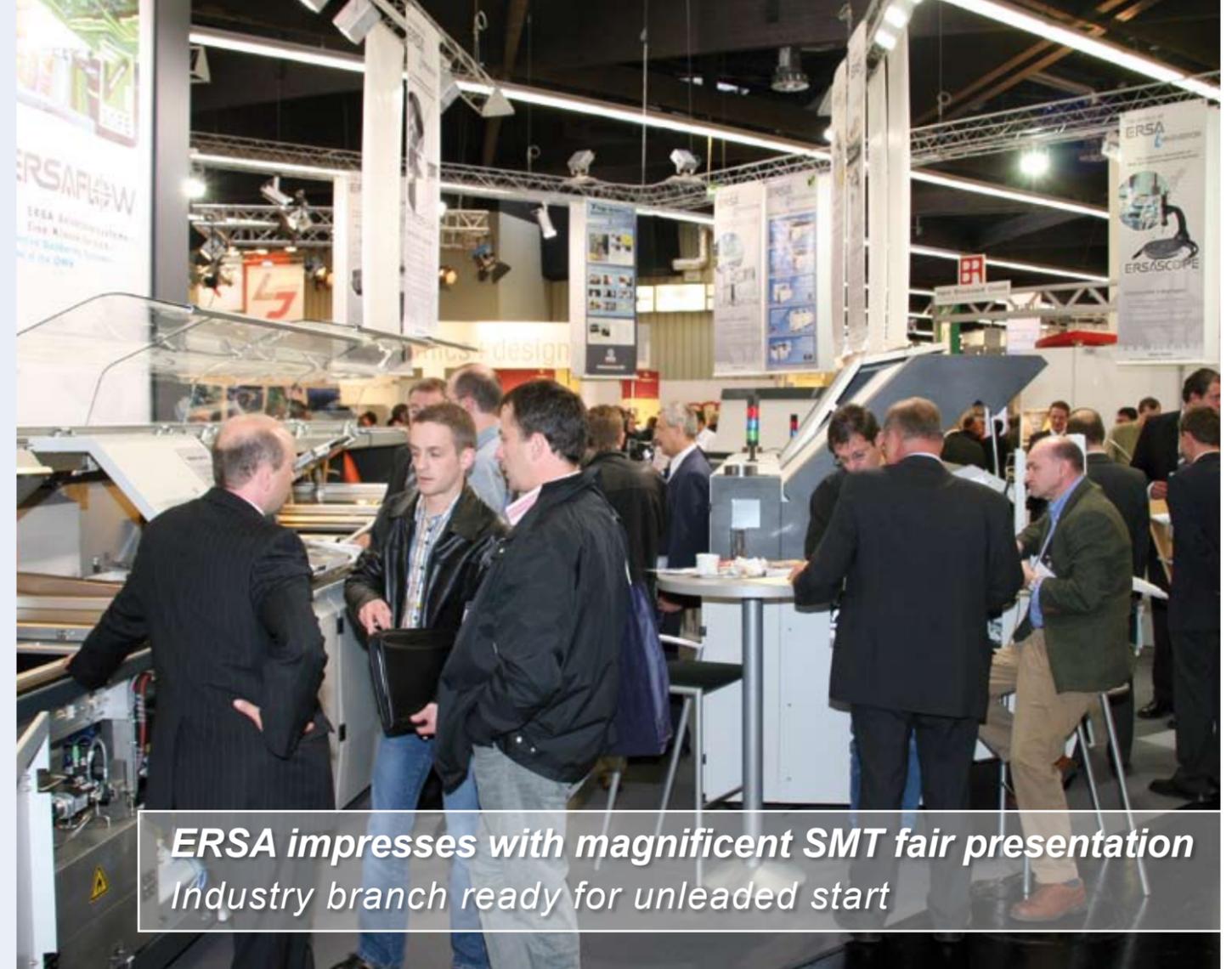
inspection and repair of assembly groups in one machine.

The IPC congress also took place during APEX in February. The congress documentation included a trade article by Mark Cannon on the technology of the AOI+R System. This congress is one of the world's most significant meeting places for the electronics branch. And here too ERSA was able to take the IPC Innovation Award for its invention.

Of course attention in this country too has been attracted by the future-oriented concept of the ERSA AOI+R. So, for example, close cooperation has been agreed with a major German electronics concern following tests.



SMT Vision Award for AOI+R in the Inspection category



ERSA impresses with magnificent SMT fair presentation  
Industry branch ready for unleaded start

As in the past year, "RoHs and WEEE" were the dominating themes just one month prior to the legally stipulated changeover to unleaded production.

By Tilo Keller

However, the initial concern on the part of many users regarding the "threatening" EU guidelines, which found particular expression in questions on production process changes, has now taken a back seat.

"By now, potential customers know exactly what they want," is how an ERSA application consultant summarized the situation at the conclusion of the fair.

"In most of the numerous discussions conducted, concentration was on "essentials". In addition to the conclusion of sales, this means primarily a number of specific projects almost throughout the entire product range. We can

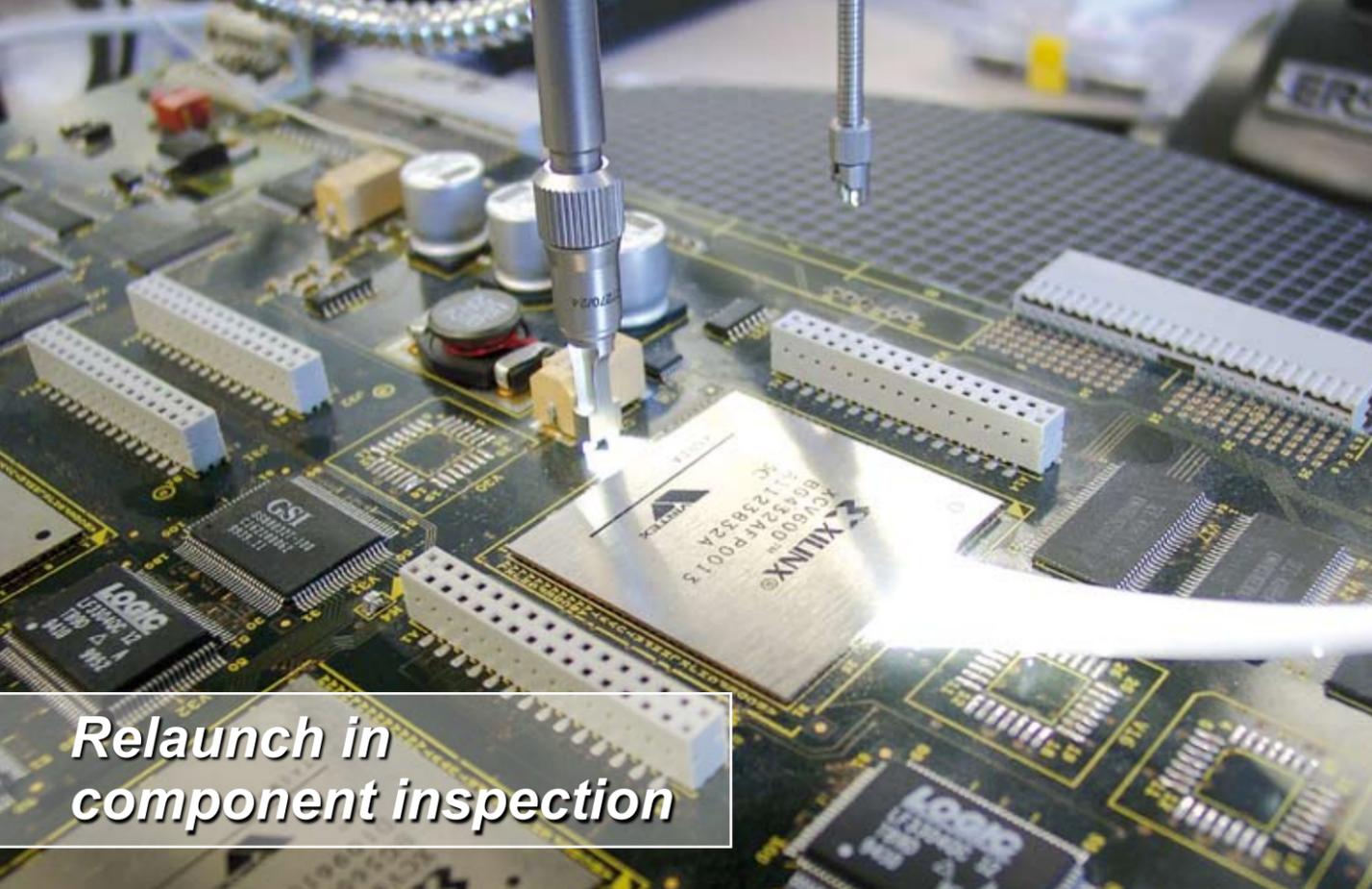
therefore describe this event as highly successful."

One item which was particularly well received was the wave soldering systems of the POWERFLOW product line which was presented in Nuremberg for the first time. It offers - in view of the increasing difficult process parameters - genuine added value for the user, with technological highlights and the convenient process data manager. The ideally-equipped HOTFLOW 2/14 High-End reflow soldering system too, which was on offer at an especially attractive price for a limited period as a trade fair special, met with lively demand. The strong interest in the VERSAFLOW

Inline-selective soldering systems hardly came as a surprise either. After all, ERSA has been worldwide leader in this area for years.

Innovations abounded and the interest was correspondingly brisk, not only in the area of automatic soldering, but also in the range of products for hand soldering, reworking and visual inspection.

In particular, the innovative ERSA i-CON with the smart hand soldering iron i-Tool, the high-end Rework-Center IR 650 A, and the ERSASCOPE systems with mega pixel camera resolution for non-destructive visual inspection of concealed joints.



## Relaunch in component inspection

### ERSASCOPE 2 plus for increased demands

By Dr. Olaf Kessel-Deynet

With the ERSASCOPE optical inspection system, ERSA achieved a small sensation as long as seven years ago: for the first time, it was possible for electronic production to look into the gap (1/2 mm) between BGA components and the circuit board at a 90° angle and to inspect hidden solder points by eye.

This caused a great uproar in the electronics industry and led to a series of inter-national awards for this patented invention.

With the ERSASCOPE 2, ERSA gave itself the challenge, two years ago, which tiny components such as chip-scale packages (CSPs) and flip-chips entail. In them, the height of the gap in which the solder points are found has dropped to below 1/10 mm. This is the same thickness as a human hair. In the new systems, the first of the three most important components of an inspection system (optic, camera

technique and lighting) was revolutionised with the new flip-chip optic. This now makes it possible to look into even these tiny gaps and permits assessment of the solder points there. This is even now one of the distinguishing features of the ERSASCOPE.

Naturally, the development in miniaturisation has not stood still in the past two years. Also, the more difficult process conditions as a result of the lead-free process have increased the demands in the industry with regard to quality assurance and documentation. Due to the smaller process windows in lead-free soldering, high value must nowadays be placed on compliance with the generally acknowledged standards for high-quality soldering – above all IPC-A-610 – in order to be able to ensure quality.

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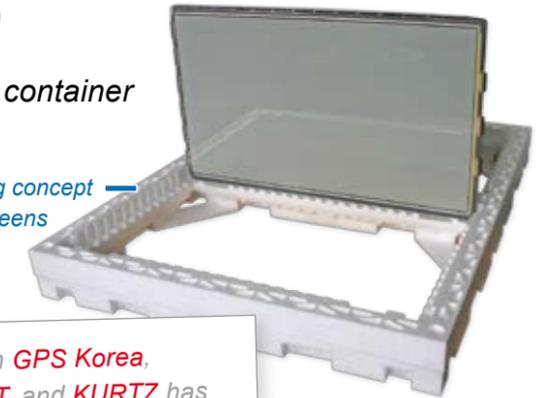
Successful model ERSASCOPE plus with flip-chip optic



## Space-saving EPP processing innovation

Samsung now transporting 68% more flat screens per container

New EPP packing concept for flat screens



A collaboration between GPS Korea, tool-manufacturers DMT, and KURTZ has now led to the development of an entirely new packing concept for Samsung SDI.

By Peter Lehmann

The last four years have seen flat screens (PDP = Plasma Digital Panel) almost entirely replacing the old tube screens at the workplace. With prices now tumbling, the flat screen is now following up its success on the office battlefield with a proud triumphal entry into our very hearths and homes.

The development that preceded these triumphs was conducted exclusively in the Far East. It is a remarkable fact that only five companies possess the relevant patents: all other monitor- and TV-producers wanting to compete in this market have to buy in the flat screens and put their own label onto other firms' products.

The goal was to reduce the packaging and transport costs. A new and more space-efficient horizontal packing system has made it possible to fit 706 PDPs into a 40-foot freight container that was previously only capable of taking 420 screens. Smart solutions were found to the tricky problems inherent in horizontal storage: how to make easily stackable packagings warp-resistant and at the

same time soft enough to be shock-absorbent.

The packaging constructed for the flat screens has a high material density on the outside and a low density inside. These "two-density pieces" have been used for years in the EPS sector, but this is the first time that the technique has been applied on a large scale in EPP.

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Flat screens for Europe: Newly developed packing allows a drastic increase in the utilization of seafreight containers.

# GO WEST - Schlaadt Plastics open works with modern EPS-plant in New Bern, USA



KURTZ technology in the new Schlaadt factory, New Bern, USA.

By Stefan Schlaadt, Schlaadt Plastics & Harald Sommer

*“Go West”*: familiar to us from the USA’s pioneering days, this slogan is, sad to say, advice that is rarely taken to heart in our own times.

When expansion or internationalization is on the agenda, then the focus of discussion is in the vast majority of cases on the “East”.

The Schlaadt family, however, have never been in any doubt that the West also has its own special charms. This is why they did not hesitate in putting in a bid when B/S/H (Bosch-Siemens Hausgeräte GmbH, a household appliances company active the world over) were looking for a reliable partner to supply them with EPS packaging for their products at their works at New Bern, North Carolina, USA.

In view of the excellent experiences B/S/H had had with Schlaadt in the “Door-to-Door Project” in Dillingen, Germany it was only logical that they should decide in favour of their tried and trusted partner, even at their location in North Carolina, USA. Furthermore, Schlaadt could back up their bid with indisputable proof of their

excellent track record, having in recent years won the worldwide B/S/H Quality-Award four times in succession.

Schlaadt clearly also had to find a competent and reliable partner in order to keep up their excellent record on this new project. They had no difficulty in choosing one, as they already had a partner for particle foam processing projects (EPS and EPP) of no less than thirty years standing, namely KURTZ. They had also engaged in a highly successful collaboration with KURTZ on the building of a production site directly adjacent to the B/S/H works in Dillingen. As an international enterprise with branches worldwide, KURTZ was also in a good position to guarantee the high level of service for which they have such a reputation.

In a record time of only six months, KURTZ (acting as primary contractor) succeeded in putting up a highly modern EPS plant, if not “on bare ground” then at least “on bare concrete” as the actual building to house the plant was already in existence.

The machinery installed in the 3000-m<sup>2</sup> area included a pre-expander, a fully automatic silo plant, a number of shape moulding machines with handling systems, and all the accompanying pieces of apparatus for providing steam, air, and water together with the necessary supply pipes. The building project was given support by staff of KURTZ North America and of J.F. Ahern.

The end of April saw an official opening ceremony being held at which the new works was put into the hands of the local team.

Incorporating the most modern technology, the KURTZ machinery has a capacity of around 1,000 to/a and is being used to produce EPS packaging for dishwashers, washing machines,

driers, and cooking stoves. A particular speciality of the system is the production of dual- or multi-density mouldings. In this material-saving method, the packaging is constructed in a variety of densities in accordance with the own particular demands by the piece in question.

*Integrating as its does the most modern machine and applications technology with production on the customer’s doorstep, this plant has deservedly been described as “particularly economical”.*

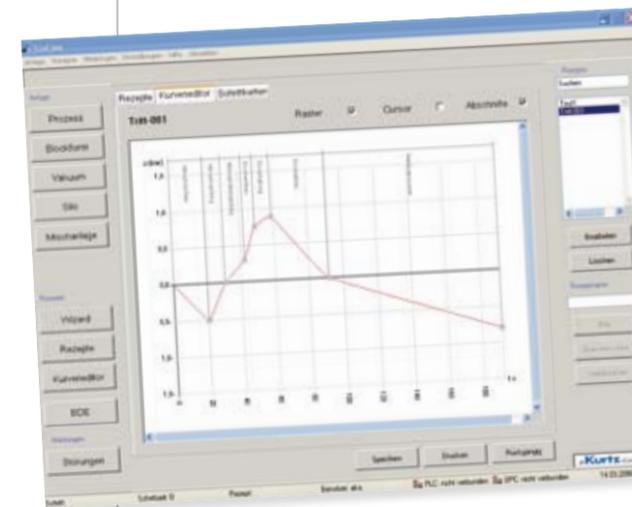
Schlaadt has more than 45 years of experience in the processing of foam materials and is now one of the world’s top EPS-processors. At its seven locations the company processes a total of over 7,000 tons every year.

## No magic spells required

### New Wizard trick: graphic parameter-processing

*In addition to the functions that visualize such things as process stages, the state of the machine, faults and failures, and the familiar mechanisms for feeding in parameters, it is now possible to generate parameters either graphically or with the help of a Wizard.*

By Thomas Müller



In the case of blockmoulds the production process is defined by a steaming curve (see illustration) that has to run according to a particular course. With a new curve editor, one can now make the steaming curve follow the path desired by pulling it around with the cursor rather than by feeding in pure figures. The parameters thus generated can then be saved as a recipe for future use. In addition to defining this target curve

one can also define a tolerance field which the controls compare with the actual curve, sending out a warning if the actual curve goes beyond the bounds of the field of tolerance.

For less experienced operators there is also another means of generating parameters for a recipe: a Wizard that can ask questions about the product, use a data bank to process the answers, and suggest appropriate parameters, just like a Windows installation Wizard. These can be accepted or changed, and saved as a recipe for future use.

# Calculable contraction –

*Even Neopor's shrinkage is no problem for the new Ecomat blockmould*

By Peter Rottenmanner

*When processing Neopor (a BASF trade-name) into blocks, the manufacturer has to take account of the material's high shrinkage rate, which is about twice as high as the shrinkage rate of "normal" EPS.*

At present almost all block-processing is done with conventional EPS. However, producers investing in new machinery do have an increasing interest in being able to process both materials. This is why KURTZ has taken a look at the time-hallowed blockmould Ecomat and developed a concept incorporating a side-wall that can be adjusted horizontally by up to several centimetres. This makes it possible to determine the breadth of the block with minimum use of moving parts. The adjustment of the side-wall is effected by means of hydraulic cylinders moved by flow dividers and situated outside the steam chamber.

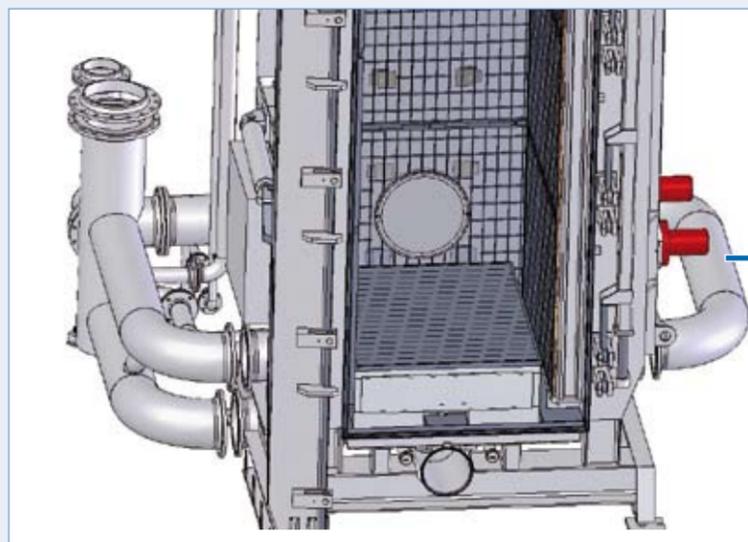
*Quite apart from making it possible to process a greater number of different materials, this concept has one further important advantage: the moveable side-wall can also be used to remove the block.*

This dispenses with the necessity of a conical wall and is not only time-saving

but also reduces the quantity of waste considerably.

Account is taken of the variation in vertical shrinkage by using insert boxes to determine the lengths of the various blocks. Made in aluminium, these lightweight constructions make it possible to vary the block-lengths on a maintenance-free basis. It goes without saying that the insert boxes are fitted with wedge wire systems in order to guarantee an even steaming of the bottom section. Recognition of the insert boxes is fully automated, as is the positioning of the side-wall.

It has also been made significantly easier to get at the blockmould for maintenance purposes, and to change the wedge wire system and the insert boxes. The moulded block can simply be decoupled from the blockmould door and pushed to one side.



*Novelty in the EPS block moulding: KURTZ Ecomat now available with adjustable side wall*



## Wind produces energy

*even more efficiently with EPS rotors*

*KEMISOL producing with KURTZ technology*

*In the course of the centuries, windmills were developed to produce mechanical energy, which was principally used to grind grain and to pump water.*

By Björn Dewes

The first fully automatic wind power plant to be used for the production of electricity was built in 1887/88 in Cleveland, Ohio, by the American Charles F. Brush.

However, it was not until about a quarter of a century ago that there was a boom in the exploitation of wind power for the production of electric power. Since then the sector has expanded at a breathtaking rate. Wind power installations have grown in size and have become more and more efficient and technically advanced. This is particularly true of the rotor blades and their production.

At the beginning rotor blade design was based on the shape of aircraft surfaces, but now the blade shapes are optimized for the production of wind energy through experiments in wind tunnel laboratories. An important element in the production of these huge wings (some rotor blades are up to 60 metres long) is expandable polystyrene, or EPS. The advantages are obvious: the low production costs of a blade-body made in such a lightweight material as EPS constitute the very best basic conditions for economical serial production. KURTZ's Belgian customer KEMISOL is supplying a producer of

rotor blades with blade cores in EPS. These are made up of a number of segments which are cut out of EPS blocks and given their characteristically streamlined shape through processing in a milling station. When this body is "clothed" in its final outer surface, the light weight of the blade is a great advantage when it comes to installation. And once it has been installed, it is ideally suited to contributing to the attainment of the EU goal of increasing wind energy's share of total electricity consumption six times over by the year 2020.

**165 Mio € Turnover • 1100 Employees**

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