

Schmidt & Heinzmann awarded as TOP 100 innovator

Bruchsal-based company wins innovation competition

Bruchsal, 29.01.2021: Schmidt & Heinzmann GmbH & Co. KG based in Bruchsal, Germany, has been awarded the TOP 100 seal 2021 on Innovation. This award honours particularly innovative medium-sized companies – and this is already the 28th time that it has been presented. Previously, Schmidt & Heinzmann has proven its innovative strength in a scientific selection procedure.

Innovation competition is based on scientific selection procedure

On behalf of compamedia, the organizer of the TOP 100 innovation competition, innovation researcher Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Franke and his team investigated the innovative strength of Schmidt & Heinzmann. The researchers used around 120 test criteria from five categories: innovation-promotion top management, innovative climate, innovative processes and organization, external orientation/open innovation and innovation success.

Due to the current situation, there was also a special part in this round, in which the entrepreneurial response to the corona crisis was examined.

Innovative processes ensure the optimized production of carbon fiber stacks

The machine construction company Schmidt & Heinzmann develops and produces tailor-made production machinery and automation solutions for the fiber reinforced plastics industry. The company has made a name for itself both nationally and internationally, particularly in the field of SMC semi-finished material production, cutting & stacking, preforming and the automation of pressing processes for the production of composite parts.

„As the world market leader for production machinery and automation solutions in the composites industry, we have to consistently extend our technological lead. We achieve this by consistently supporting the innovative activities of our employees and by regularly informing all colleagues about ongoing innovation projects“, explains managing director Matthias Feil.

The company promotes the innovation process, for example, by implementing a continuous improvement process in which all employees participate. A methodical, systematic and rapid implementation of suggestions for improvement is a matter for each department. „I am proud that we implement almost 75% of the suggested ideas – this means we can realize huge savings for us and for our customers every year. We were also able to optimize the production of carbon fiber stacks for an automotive manufacturer using innovative processes.“, adds Matthias Feil.

In order to retain the lead in the industry, the company is consistently pushing ahead with its innovation initiatives by cooperating with research institutes or partners from the composite industry. The constant interaction and exchange with customers, and the involvement of the sales team at an early stage of the innovation process, also contribute to the further development of machines and processes that meet and exceed market requirements.

Adaptability and strength to implement help in corona crisis

The company's high degree of adaptability and strength to implement helped it to adapt rapidly to the situation when the corona crisis happened. From the beginning of the crisis, the company implemented an inter-company information system to inform all employees quickly and concisely about all changes such as code of conduct and hygiene, home office, dealing with visitors, etc. The system ensures that employees in the home office and on late shift also receive all information promptly and are fully informed.

An immediate risk analysis of the supply chain with weekly updates, increase of inventories in critical product areas, as well as corona specific sourcing strategies in material procurement ensured a constant supply of materials needed and avoided any production downtime .

By strengthening its locations in China and, above all, the US, the company was able to counteract travel restrictions at an early stage. Particularly in the US, where the number of employees increased significantly. As a result, installation, commissioning and service by the local team are now ensured in addition to sales.



Steffen Märtiens (Director Automation), Dr. Tobias Fürst (Director Process Technology), Dr. David Bücheler (Process Technology), Matthias Feil (CEO), Michael Ochs (Director Sales & Marketing), Holger Link (Director Engineering Services) are pleased about the award. (from the left)

Picture: Schmidt & Heinzmann GmbH & Co. KG



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Picture: Schmidt & Heinzmann GmbH & Co. KG

TOP 100: the competition

Since 1993 compamedia has been awarding the TOP 100 seal to medium-sized companies for particularly innovative strength and above-average innovation successes. Since 2002, the scientific direction has been in the hands of Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Franke. He is founder and director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation of Vienna University of Economics and Business. With 25 research awards and over 200 publications, he is one of the world's leading innovation researchers. The mentor of TOP 100 is the scientific journalist Ranga Yogeshwar. The project partners are the „Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung“ and the „Mittelstandsverband BVMW“. The „manger magazin“ and the „impulse“ magazine accompany the company competition as media partners.

Get more information and general picture material on the TOP 100 competition at www.top100.de/presse or by sending an E-Mail to presse@compamedia.de.

About Schmidt & Heinzmann

Schmidt & Heinzmann has been developing and producing innovative tailor-made production machinery and automation solutions for the fiber-reinforced plastics industry for more than 40 years.

The product portfolio includes:

- Cutting systems for all kind of fibers
- SMC production machinery
- Fiber spraying systems
- Bonding machines for automated processes
- Automated cutting & stacking systems
- Preforming systems for the automated production of textile preforms
- Automation solutions for composite cut and part handling
- Customized special solutions

Headquartered in Bruchsal, Germany, and with offices in the United States and China, Schmidt & Heinzmann generated a turnover of 20 million Euro in 2020 with more than 130 employees.

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