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NEWSLETTER | MAY 2019

Dear Customers, Business Partners and Friends,

Thanks to you all, 2018 was once again a successful year for Schneider Form. With a total operating performance of € 58 million, we were able to build on the previous year. Numerically speaking, this involved 50,000 engineering hours and 240 injection-, high pressure diecasting- and thermoforming moulds shipped from Dettingen/Teck and Oliveira de Azeméis to Germany (45 %), other European countries (34 %) and overseas (21 %).

Electro-mobility, digitalisation and international market fluctuations have virtually transformed overnight into challenges, which demand new concepts from all of us. What we understand by Engineering and Tooling 4.0, was not only demonstrated by the 70 tools, which we equipped with sensors and our analysis software OptiCheck, but also by the systematic knowledge feedback from tryout findings. It has never been so simple and lasting to communicate the connection between impacts to our employees. This spreads and deepens our know-how very effectively. In addition, we were also awarded a prize for the best apprentice toolmaker in the state of Baden-Württemberg, something we are very proud of.

Take a read or simply drop by again and watch us at work. | Play video

Yours, Dr. Louis Schneider



COMPONENT DESIGN

Schneider Form was TISAX certified in January 2019 (Trusted Information Security Assessment Exchange). With this check which focuses on the confidentiality, integrity and availability of (product) data to be processed, the benchmark of "very high protection requirements" was set.

Our component design department is always the starting point for advanced engineering orders, in which the industrialisation of new processes are also examined. Last year, we received an order to examine and test the deployment of multi-component and assembly injection moulding in rear and roof spoilers. The objective was to achieve weight saving with sufficient part rigidity as well as ease of assembly and adjustment. Calculations and simulations indicated high savings and low-risk viability. Parts from commissioned prototype tools are currently being validated by our customer. If successful, it will become the pioneering process technology for a part of aerodynamic components.



INJECTION: HYBRID TUNNEL CONCEPT

Reduction in both weight and the number of components was the goal when a consortium of Volkswagen, Porsche, Braunschweig University and Invent, a specialist in fibre composite technology contracted Schneider Form with building a mould for a centre tunnel. The lightweight materials were metal inserts, carbon-fibre reinforced tape layers and the thermoplastic rib structure. The metal inserts and previously heated fibre fabrics were inserted in the mould. Finally an injection machine with a vertical opening stroke allowed the melt to flow around the inserts to form a single component. The project attracted so much attention, that it was presented and discussed at the 2019 Mannheim Convention "Plastics in Automotive Engineering".



HIGH PRESSURE DIE CASTING: SHOCK TOWER

In the past years, Schneider Form has undergone a complete transition from tools for the drive train to tools for structural components. Two market trends have helped us achieve further growth. On one hand, we have made forward steps in becoming the specialist for 3-plated tools which are being used more and more often due to their compact design, smaller projected area, shorter flow path and better heat management. On the other hand, we have a series of master forms for structural components in stock, which can now be mounted in very quick time with steel inserts in order to manufacture prototypes. Tools for structural components have been delivered to China, Mexico and the USA in the past year.



OPTICHECK® SMART TOOL TECHNOLOGY

On 12th December 2018, government official Michael Kleiner honoured the current winners of the competition "100 Locations for Industry 4.0 in Baden-Württemberg". In total, 14 companies that had successfully implemented digitalisation solutions into everyday operation were rewarded. Schneider Form was nominated for its innovation in the area of Smart Tooling. The product OptiCheck, for which a patent is pending, speeds up the

process of optimising injection moulds. It also prevents untimely wear and tear due to incorrect parameter settings.

Almost at the same time, Schneider Form was awarded the contract for a € 1 million project, funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research. As part of this research project, in which we are supported by Schmalkalden University and the Fraunhofer Institute Ilmenau, a bumper tool is to be equipped with various sensors. With the help of collected production data, algorithms are to be developed that announce maintenance intervals or identify good parts. In a further step, machine and tool could then communicate to prevent the production of faulty parts. The project timeline is 2 years.



PORTUGAL: NEW PRODUCTION PLANT

After 12 years of Schneider Form Portugal and a turnover, that in 2018 was almost three times as high than that at the time of acquisition, it had to be simple. New construction on a greenfield site without compromises, according to the most recent findings and with all the experience collected in 60 years of mould making. At the turn of the year, we want to gradually move into the site, which is only 10 km away. The spatial conditions and a series of new machines will enable us to also manufacture larger tools. We are already looking forward to stepping into the new decade with you. Stay with us.

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