

Edelstahl *Info*



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Dear Readers,

The closing weeks of this year are a busy time at Buderus Edelstahl. Although the credit crisis has left its mark in many industries, the medium-term prospects for steel from Buderus Edelstahl remain positive. In recognition of this trend, we are investing in a comprehensive expansion of the works to increase our production capacity, as we report in this issue.

Find out more about our sponsorship activities, and our cherished cultural commitment, illustrated by examples such as the mobile fun forge created by the steel artist Andreas Rimkus. Meet Andreas Pichl, one of our senior foundrymen who is studying to become a foreman, and read about the SCT Conference, the Gear Steels Workshop for Industrial Gear Manufacture, and much more.

We greatly appreciate and value our good working relationship, and your confidence in us. We continually strive to remain a reliable and effective partner for our customers. That is what every Buderus Edelstahl employee seeks to achieve. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our employees for their great commitment. Our aim is to forge a successful future together with you all, bringing the fascination of steel to the world.

We wish you a peaceful, happy and enjoyable rest over the forthcoming Christmas period, and a good start to the year 2009.

Enjoy reading.

With our hearty seasonal greetings,

Your Management Team
Karl-Peter Johann
Jens Mohr



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Overall view of the annealing shop

Buderus Edelstahl is expanding its production capacity

The medium-term prospects for steel as a material remain positive, notwithstanding the current financial market crisis that is now impacting on the steel producing and processing industry. Buderus Edelstahl is responding to this long-term trend by expanding its production capacity.

Market environment

Buderus Edelstahl is engaged in industries for which the environment remains positive, with its commitment to forged steels for toolmaking, gearmaking (especially for wind energy), generator and turbine shafts for power generation plant, and general machine building – sectors that are as yet hardly affected by the financial market crisis. The product range is completed by rolled billets, which are an important element in the scrap and alloy cycle within the works. Buderus Edelstahl GmbH also supplies its sister companies Buderus Edelstahl Band and Buderus Edelstahl Schmiedetechnik. These two companies are also still enjoying growth, especially with integration into the Böhler-Uddeholm AG corporate group.

Crude steel capacity

Crude steel production has now reached its technical and regulatory limits, so extensive action is required. The company's application to expand its approval limit from 480,000 tonnes a year to 650,000

tonnes a year is currently being considered by the authorities. Buderus Edelstahl is meanwhile conducting an environment compatibility review on its own initiative, to establish an agreed position on the scope of documentation likely to be required to substantiate the environmental impact.

On the technical side, it is necessary to increase electrical power consumption, so the company has connected itself to the high-voltage grid (380 kV) via a separate substation. Power consumption is currently limited by an energy consumption computer on a quarter-hourly cycle. These longer energy draw times in the melting furnaces boost melting performance. The casting pit capacity will then be adapted to the demands of the ingot formats required. A scrap stockyard is being established in Dillfeld to secure our supply of input stock, with a projected rail link to the steel mill.

8,000 tonne forging press

Buderus Edelstahl has been operating a 2,000 tonne and a 5,500 tonne press for many years. The larger of the two presses in

particular has been operating on a rotating shift basis, i.e. 3 shifts a day, 7 days a week. With the steady increase in the proportion of large forgings, the compression force of this press is now approaching the limits required to form the steel. In view of this and the outstanding growth prospects for forgings for power station construction (generator and turbine shafts), an 8,000 tonne press was ordered from SMS in March 2008, capable of exerting a force of 10,000 tonnes in swaging mode.

Heat treatment

The increased quantity of forgings also has to be heat-treated. Consequently the existing heat treatment shop is being extended, and new annealing furnaces built.

Machine shop

Whereas some of the additional forging output is shipped directly after finishing and outgoing goods inspection (this applies in particular to tool steels and engineering steels), shafts require pre-machining on lathes. Accordingly the turning lathe capacity is being expanded, with the installation of a total of three new lathes.

Logistics and infrastructure

This increase in production volume has to be underpinned by a robust infrastructure. The plan includes building a shared works

Rotary boring machine in action



access point in Dillfeld for heavy goods vehicles, to reduce the burden on the city of Wetzlar of vehicle movements generated by Buderus Edelstahl GmbH and the other associated companies Buderus Edelstahl Band, Buderus Edelstahl Schmiedetechnik, Buderus Gießerei and Buderus Spezialguss. This will significantly reduce fine dust pollution in the urban area despite an overall increase in traffic volume, albeit in the proximity of the motorway.

Timetable

The press has been scheduled so that the first product deliveries will be in the second half of 2010. Conversion of the steel mill will by then have advanced to the point that the new press can be supplied with new ingots. The final steel mill expansion stage will then be completed in the years 2010/11, subject to official approval.

In addition to these measures, the local water authority standards require upgrading the mill's flood protection and that of the Lahn/Dill delta area. This will require extensive earthworks to lower the downstream area by 80–150 cm, and raise the level on the south side. This work is already in hand, and will be completed in 2009.

When all measures have been completed, Buderus Edelstahl will have a significantly strengthened presence in its core markets, and will be able to produce on an

Drilling the hole for the pile foundation



enhanced cost and environment basis with its upgraded infrastructure. New products will then also be added to the existing portfolio. Buderus Edelstahl is already

working with customers on developing these steels, so the year 2010 will be an interesting and exciting year for all involved.

Gießen District Governing Council 25. 8. 2008 – Press Release

www.rp-giessen.hessen.de

Buderus intends to significantly expand its steel mill capacity in Wetzlar. District Governing Council anticipates public approval proceedings in early 2009 – company carries out environmental impact review voluntarily.

The steel market is booming – and this is evident in the classic mining town of Wetzlar. Buderus Edelstahl GmbH now wishes to invest significantly in the steel mill near Hermannsteiner Str., increasing its capacity from 480,000 to 650,000 tonnes a year, the Gießen District Governing Council now reports.

This is good news for the future of the location and the jobs it provides, but the expansion of capacity of course also raises the question of environmental effects. This will ultimately be decided in environmental approval proceedings planned for the first half of next year at the Gießen District Governing Council.

The current state of planning is for Buderus to submit approval documents at the end of this year, so that the proceedings can take place in the first half of 2009. There is also provision for public participation. The Council anticipates that this expansion of capacity will also entail downstream processes for other parts of the business.

Since the project will involve renovating older plant, the Gießen specialists anticipate that there will be no adverse change for population and environment despite the increase in production capacity.

The Council President Wilfried Schmied sees another important prospect for Wetzlar in the company's decision, "When a company invests so heavily in a location, it sees long-term prospects there – which includes the numerous jobs associated with it. This is good news for Wetzlar and for the region."



Asia hammer in Beijing

Wetzlar's metal forming artwork on show in China

Betty Heidler, the current hammer throwing world champion, was present when the Asia hammer of the artist Andreas Rimkus was forged in the open-die forge of Buderus Edelstahl GmbH at the end of March. Just under three months later, the almost 5 m long 30-tonne work of art reached its destination in Beijing. The official inauguration ceremony was held on 19 June 2008.

Three months is not long for the task of creating an artwork of such gigantic proportions, and successfully completing it. Especially when its birthplace and its destination involve crossing continental boundaries, and complying with numerous requirements and conditions. The organisation was perfect, and after a six-week sea voyage and two weeks by land through China, the Asia hammer arrived at its destination. Since mid-June, it has been gracing the campus of the University of Science and Technology, Beijing, as part of the global generational artwork of the metal

forging artist Andreas Rimkus. The forging process in the Buderus Edelstahl open-die forge in Wetzlar was quite an event.

The iron plan

The first gigantic hammerhead was already created by Andreas Rimkus and Buderus Edelstahl in March 2004. The Africa hammer has found its place in the village of the 6,000 blacksmiths in Togo in Africa, symbolising the link between tradition and modern technology in the art of forging. A young fire-tree trunk is already growing through the eye of the huge hammerhead.

The Asia hammer that has now been forged is the third of a total of seven hammerheads. One of these imposing works of art is eventually to stand on each continent, encompassing the globe symbolising the change of generations and the art of steel-making – that is the “iron plan” of Andreas Rimkus.

The design

Andreas Rimkus has a model hammer forged for each hammer. This task is performed by a local blacksmith who still practises the traditional craft of forging in

Andreas Rimkus with the blacksmith Bao Ma





The hammerhead nearing completion

the local manner. Throughout the world there are few people who still master the ancient art of forging, and it was not easy for Andreas Rimkus to find the right man in China. Modern forges have long since replaced the traditional working methods of the blacksmith's art by high-tech methods in order to keep up with the rapidly growing and changing environment. For example Beijing University could not at first imagine that Andreas Rimkus was actually looking for a blacksmith who practised the craft in the old manner, when there are so many modern open-die forges with thousands of employees. Not until the artist explained his project in detail did they find the right man, 200 km away from Beijing. Andreas Rimkus and the Chinese blacksmith Bao Ma came together in Beijing at the end of February to forge the small hammer as a model for the full-scale Asia hammer to be created in the Buderus Edelstahl forge.

The forging process

The process of forging the 30 tonne hammerhead started on 31 March 2008 in the open-die forge at Buderus Edelstahl in Wetzlar. "The forging process went perfectly", said Ralf Rech, Forged Products Engineering Manager, who managed the project on site. The first process was swaging the ingot under the 55 MN open-die forging press with a compression force of 5,500 tonnes to a rough piece 1,400 mm in diameter. Then the hammer eye was perforated with a 700 mm mandrel and then dressed square to 1,000 mm.

The Asia hammer was then marked by stamping the Chinese character for "hammer" and Andreas Rimkus' symbol for fire into the square block with two specially made stamp dies.

The Asia hammer then received its final distinctive external contour in the finish forging process, with a forged fin and forming the edges to match the model hammer.

"It was particularly challenging applying the stamp die after the square had already been perforated", said Ralf Rech. "The temperature distribution in the square block had to be controlled so that the hammer eye stretched when stamped, to acquire



Ralf Rech (right) answers questions from Michael Deyhle and Betty Heidler

the same ovalness as the Chinese model in the forming process."

Also there: The hammer throwing world champion

The current hammer throwing world champion, Betty Heidler, came to Wetzlar at the invitation of Andreas Rimkus to watch the finish forging process on 2 April 2008, together with the national coach Michael Deyhle. Betty Heidler's connection with iron and steel had brought her silver and gold. In August 2007 the 24-year-old threw her hammer a massive 74.76 m in the Nagai stadium in Osaka, Japan, to gain title of world champion. In 2004 at the Athens

he forging team with the finished hammerhead





Olympics, she made fourth place. In 2008 in Beijing she was unfortunately not able to qualify for the Olympic hammer throwing final, but in London in 2012 it could be quite different. "We are keeping our fingers crossed for her sporting career", says Jens Mohr, Managing Director at Buderus Edelstahl, who is pleased to support the generational artwork of Andreas Rimkus. "Steel is not only one of mankind's most impor-

tant materials – the possibilities it opens up have shaped cultures and societies. The art of metal forging deserves monuments throughout the world." UNESCO thinks the same, and is supporting the Rimkus project.

Official opening of exhibition in Beijing

That the Asia hammer could take its official place in Beijing as early as June this year testifies to the close cooperation between Buderus Edelstahl and the Aachen University of Technology (RWTH), which maintains good contacts with China's leading University of Science and Technology in Beijing (USTB). The official inauguration ceremony of the work of art was held on 19 June 2008 on the campus of Beijing Uni-

versity. Jens Mohr attended together with Ulli Keiner, Tool Steel Export Manager, and Anne Kuhlmann, Assistant to the Managing Director. In his address to the guests, professors and around 200 students, he thanked the USTB, the RWTH and Mr Rimkus for their effective collaboration, which had enabled the project to proceed so quickly. "We are pleased that the Asia hammer has found its place on the campus of the University of Science and Technology, Beijing. As one of the world's rising economic powers, China is the ideal venue to present the world-spanning generational artwork of Mr Rimkus in Asia. Buderus Edelstahl has important business partners in China. It gives me particular satisfaction that we now share bonds with this country through our joint commitment to art and to preserving and appreciating the traditional handcraft of metal forging." Jens Mohr emphasised that internationally the project promotes interest in a very important craft, and also helps to attract new blood into the steelmaking industry. Andreas Rimkus reported enthusiastically on his project, and the blacksmith who made the original model hammer was on campus too to admire the colossal steel counterpart of his handiwork. The unusual forging task had been a particular honour for him, so he was proud and very pleased to take part in the inauguration ceremony.

Anne Kuhlmann and Andreas Rimkus (right) presenting the welcome gift



Planting the ginkgo tree



Group photo of the official inauguration ceremony





Volker Mudrow, HSG Wetzlar trainer, Jens Mohr, Axel Geerken, Chairman of HSG Wetzlar, and Karl-Peter Johann (from left to right) at the new season conference

Two teams that fit together

Buderus Edelstahl is the new sponsor of the HSG Wetzlar National League handball team

Despite its international positioning, Buderus Edelstahl GmbH has strong local roots. There is now another prominent example of the company's local commitment: Buderus Edelstahl and the HSG Wetzlar National League handball team have signed a sponsorship agreement.

Partnership for mutual benefit

With the motto "The fascination of steel meets inspiring sportsmen", the new partnership was announced to the public at the conference at the start of the new season on 27 August 2008. This provides for financial support for the club "to a mid 5-figure sum". In return, Buderus Edelstahl gains a publicity presence at HSG home games in the sports hall. The company also has a presence on the club's homepage, the sponsors' board, and in the club's letterhead. Buderus Edelstahl is also represented in the VIP Business Club.

Contrary to popular prejudice, sponsorship is not a one-way street, or just a donation; both partners work strategically together, and derive benefit in their respective fields. The partnership is intended to run for two seasons, until 2010.

Teamwork is the key to success

The connection between industry and sport is closer than you might think, especially in the case of a team sport like handball. Both Buderus Edelstahl and HSG are "well knit" teams that play in the premier league despite strong competition, and whose

names resonate well and have a positive public image. In both cases, the word "team" means efficient coordination combined with individual responsibility. And celebrating success as a team is just more fun, and difficult times are easier to manage together. In both cases you achieve good performance only by professionalism, motivation and enjoying what you do.

Sport and business can learn from each other

Going beyond these general similarities, it may also be possible to make a specific comparison of organisation structures, preparation for challenges and recruiting and developing team members or players, so that both organisations can learn from each other. In the meantime the Wetzlar handball players will hopefully be accompanied by the enthusiastic Buderus Edelstahl fans with many wins.



The mobile fun forge

Experiencing the blacksmith's craft at first hand

Mobile fun forge at the Wetzlar Bridge Festival

The Bridge Festival in Wetzlar had a special attraction to offer children and young people this year. From 5 to 7 September 2008 they had an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the traditional craft of the blacksmith, in the hands-on format of the mobile fun forge designed by the artist Andreas Rimkus. The artist was supported on site by young Buderus Edelstahl employees, our trainees.

A huge mobile anvil with doors on all sides that fold down like in a spaceship – the children in Wetzlar had never seen anything like it. All around there was hammering, little fires were flickering, and ethnic devices framed the glittering silver vehicle. No wonder that the hands-on exhibit of the metalworking artist Andreas Rimkus quickly became the star attraction at this year's Bridge Festival. The mobile fun forge started its tour in May at the Engineering

Andreas Rimkus with a young artist



Adventure Show "IdeenPark 2008" in Stuttgart, and is now travelling the world to give children and young people an opportunity to handle metal as a material, a craft, a game, and an art. Buderus Edelstahl supports various projects of the metalworking and conceptual artist Andreas Rimkus. We have already reported on the generational artwork "the iron plan", whose multi-tonne Africa and Asia hammers were forged in Wetzlar. BuderusEdelstahl was also involved in creating the mobile fun forge. In addition to financial support, the child-safe grindstone was made in the Wetzlar production workshops. It is one of many hands-on exhibits integrated in the mobile fun forge, including seven anvils, one of them for wheelchair users, and three smith's hearths.

Traditional and modern aspects of the art of forging

In addition to the miniature forging stations set out in front of the mobile fun forge where children can create their own

little works of art, the anvil inside provides a multimedia interactive terminal, providing a wealth of information relating to forging. At the same time it spans the range from the old traditional craft through to its influence on shaping the modern. In the virtual interior, visitors find out everything about the mobile fun forge from the first sketch through to its final realisation, also depicting working life in the metalworking industry, training opportunities and academic courses, the history of forging from the blacksmith through to industrial forges, about metal machining techniques and groundbreaking research such nano-forging at the Technical University in Brunswick. Here microscopically small forgings are being developed which may ultimately even travel through the human circulation as a life-saving tool. An open-air cinema on the exterior of the mobile fun forge completes the comprehensive range of information provided by this anvil on wheels.

Ambitious little metalworking artists

But for the children the most important thing is what they can touch, see, smell and shape with their own hands on the spot. The mobile fun forge immediately captivates them, and almost every child is quickly enthused by working this glowing material that is so malleable when hot and so steel-hard when cold. They create little magic wands, bangles and miniature anchors; everywhere you see the excited

Creative talent





Crusher shaft – a popular attraction at the Wetzlar Bridge Festival

faces of children with the spark of concentration in their eyes.

Andreas Rimkus has also thought of something for children who are reluctant to approach the open fire – there is a large metal typewriter to give more hesitant young people an easy introduction to forging. Children can emboss short poems, their own names or short messages on small metal plates. Soon they have overcome their initial shyness, and lost their fear of this unfamiliar craft.

With his mobile fun forge, Andreas Rimkus has once again drawn attention to a transcendent cultural heritage. He is also preparing the way for the next creative generation, with the striking enthusiasm of children for the technology. The mobile fun forge will visit creches, schools and youth centres on its travels. Jens Mohr, Managing Director of Buderus Edelstahl, is pleased with the success of the hands-on exhibit, "Andreas Rimkus has made it his task to preserve the tradition of the blacksmith's craft, and continue it into the future. We are very pleased to be able to support him in this project."

Competition and T-shirts for schoolchildren

"How much does the rough forged crusher shaft weigh?" was the question for the adults at the Buderus Edelstahl competition. Two exhibits were on show, a 1,438 x 380 mm spur gear for a turbo gear unit for energy generation weighing 4,630 kg, and a rough forged crusher shaft for grinding minerals in cement works or coal-fired power stations. The crusher shaft measured 1,200 x 5,600 mm, and weighed 41,840 kg. Visitors were invited to estimate this weight. 1,652 visitors to the Bridge Festival took part in the competition. The prizes included a VIP Business Club ticket for a home game of HSG Wetzlar including a tour of the Buderus Edelstahl works. The closest estimates were by three women; Marion Kauck took first prize, Alina Muskat second prize, and Christina Heun third prize.

The pupils from the Käthe-Kollwitz school supported Buderus Edelstahl in a particularly practical manner. They took part in the traditional Wetzlar Bridge Run for the first time in sponsored T-shirts.

Managing Director Jens Mohr with students of the Käthe-Kollwitz school





Heinz-Dieter Schmidt (left) and Anne Kuhlmann presenting the cheque to the Chairman of the Friends Association, Dieter Mett (2nd from the left), and Clinic Manager Thomas Klein

Support for addiction treatment

Buderus Edelstahl donates € 5,000 to the Eschenburg clinic

On 6 August 2008, Heinz-Dieter Schmidt, works doctor at Buderus Edelstahl, and Anne Kuhlmann, Assistant to the Managing Director, presented a cheque for € 5,000 to the Chairman of the Friends of the Eschenburg clinic, Dieter Mett.

Buderus Edelstahl's donation was in recognition of the Friends' voluntary commitment, including many clinic staff devoting their free time to helping patients convalesce, over and above their professional commitment. The Friends support the sick with specific help, for example with trips to official offices and arranging preventive events.

The Eschenburg clinic specialises in treating alcohol and drug addiction. In addition to a specialist clinic and a specialist ambulance, the patients are supported by an adaptation facility in which they can train under real-life conditions in addition to their treatment in the clinic, to prepare

and stabilise them for re-entry into professional life.

"As a works doctor covering many companies, I am repeatedly confronted by staff with alcohol problems and staff who are seriously abusing alcohol", said Heinz-Dieter Schmidt at the cheque presentation ceremony, "Alcohol, drug and tablet abuse are illnesses that often remain undiscovered for a long time, constituting a hazard to the people affected and also to their colleagues." Addicts must seek professional help as quickly as possible to keep their job and prevent jeopardising themselves and others at work.

Helping addicts is a fixed component of

company health arrangements for Buderus, enshrined in a works agreement between the Works Council and company management. "Buderus Edelstahl helps the staff concerned by arranging prompt treatment after diagnosis by their doctor and agreement on how to proceed", says Schmidt. The Eschenburg clinic has been working very effectively with Buderus Edelstahl for years, and appreciates the after-care support the company provides. "The success of therapeutic outcomes has been well above average due to mutual cooperation", commented Schmidt, "and due to the professional reintegration management at Buderus Edelstahl enabling the workers concerned to generally return to their previous job."

Asiaforge 2008 in New Delhi

New technologies and developments relating to open- and closed-die forging were the main focus of the Asiaforge conference. The first Asiaforge conference took place in Osaka, Japan in 2006. The second was held this year from 17 to 19 March in New Delhi, India. PCK Buderus India and Buderus Edelstahl were jointly involved as platinum sponsor.

Asiaforge was launched in 2005 by the Asian Forging Federation of open-die and closed-die forging associations in China, India, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The organiser of this year's conference was the Association of India Forging Industry (AIFA). Buderus Edelstahl participated in the event jointly with its Indian partner PCK Buderus India as Platinum sponsor, and contributed to the conference programme with well attended presentations. In the course of a conference event chaired by Mr Kalyani (Kalyani Group), Peter Vetter, Head of the Tool Steel Quality Planning department at Buderus Edelstahl, presented the company and introduced the Buderus Edelstahl die



Masjid-i Jahan Numa (Persian for "Mosque that looks on the world") in Delhi is the largest mosque in India, and one of the largest in the world

steel concept. In particular he presented the steel grade 2714 ISO-B/mod developed in Wetzlar. The 550 delegates listened attentively to Peter Vetter's account of the improved heat resistance and wear resistance of this steel that is designed explicitly for large drop hammer dies and press dies and for tool holders and die holders because of its significantly improved through hardening properties. The presentation also highlighted possibilities of surface finishing to increase the tool life quantity of dies.

The event was accompanied by an exhibition with a well attended presence by PCK Buderus India.



Chidamber and Krishnan Laxman with Peter Vetter at Asiaforge 2008 (from left to right)

The team at the new PCK Buderus India too steel stockholding facility in Ludhiana



Visit to the newly established PCK stockholding facility in Ludhiana

Together with Krishnan and Chidamber Laxman, Peter Vetter visited the new tool steel stockholding facility of PCK Buderus India in Ludhiana that was opened in February 2008. The city of Ludhiana is located in the north of India, north west of Delhi, about 300 km from the Pakistan border. This committed Buderus Edelstahl partner uses the new stockholding facility principally to stock die steel. The facility at the main location in Chennai stocks plastic mould steel and die steel. Plastic mould steel and die steel are also stocked in Pune, where the machining centre is also located. With the new stockholding facility in Ludhiana, PCK Buderus India has optimised the prompt supply of material to the stamp shops traditionally located in this region.



Forging grade ingot on
55 MN open-die forging press



Buderus Edelstahl forms plastic containers

We all dispose of our day-to-day domestic and office waste in waste bins and paper baskets, and then into waste containers that are collected by the local authority at regular intervals. We rarely stop to think how these waste containers are made. Few people realise that they are made in large steel moulds that are melted and then forged at Buderus Edelstahl. This article examines the main steps involved in converting the input material into finished containers.

Melting and pouring

Our raw material is scrap metal, which we melt in our 100 tonne electric arc furnace. By adding metal alloys such as chromium, manganese, molybdenum and others, the steel achieves the precise chemical composition that is critical for its subsequent use. The melt is poured in ingot moulds in the

form of raw ingots weighing up to 150 tonnes. This corresponds to the weight of 100 cars pressed into a compact block of steel.

Forming

In the subsequent forging process, the steel is given its external contour. At the same time the internal fibre orientation is defined, and cavities that inevitably arise when the melt solidifies are eliminated by forging.

Heat treatment

The ultimate mechanical characteristics such as tensile strength and hardness are adjusted by the heat treatment process. This is followed by heating up and cooling down processes in precisely defined time and temperature windows. Ultimately in this processing stage the microstructure



Tool steel undergoing heat treatment

(the grain size of the crystals, and on an even smaller scale the atomic arrangement in the structure of the steel) is adjusted for the steel's intended purpose. This works even for workpieces weighing more than 100 tonnes, thanks to the in-depth know-how available at Buderus Edelstahl.

Machining

In many cases the customer requires workpieces to be machined, which we are pleased to undertake as for the mould illustrated here. One of our special fields is rough machining, which is carried out at

our subsidiary Buderus Edelstahl Zerspaltungstechnik. In this case the mould was produced by Zimmermann Formenbau GmbH in Gladenbach.

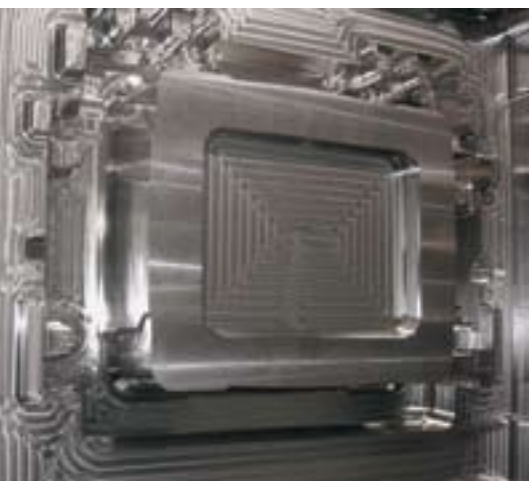
Mould steel for large containers

The customer for this large-scale mould was Environmental Solutions Europe Holding BV, the European arm of the global OTTO Group in Neuruppin. The company operates globally in the waste disposal sector. Currently the containers depicted here with a capacity of 1,100 litres are produced in a French branch. From November 2008,

the containers will be produced in Neuruppin on an injection moulding machine with a clamping force of 5,500 tonnes.

About one million of these containers weighing 30 kg each are to be produced in this mould. With these clamping pressures and the high volume, the steel used must have high wear resistance, combined with high basic strength. Plastic moulding steels from Buderus Edelstahl incorporate these characteristics. These are high performance materials that provide the customer with excellent mould capability, which means high production reliability for the user.

Photo sequence – mould components



50 years' successful cooperation with the Laxman family in India

More than a business relationship

Three generations of the Laxman family came to Wetzlar in Germany from Chennai in India on 26 May 2008 to celebrate their 50 years of joint success with Buderus Edelstahl. The celebration was held at the Hotel Mercure in Wetzlar. Jens Mohr, Managing Director of Buderus Edelstahl, took the opportunity for a special review.

When the cooperation with P.C. Krishna Iyer started in the 1950s, Buderus Edelstahl was still called Röchling Buderus AG, and people in Germany associated India more with elephants than with steel. The Laxman family company had survived the disruption of war, political upheaval and many other difficulties, but had also maintained contact with Buderus Edelstahl. The two companies were in dialogue before the Second World War, but the war and India's belonging to the British Empire initially prevented joint ventures. Jens Mohr impressively described Germany's transformation from the de-industrialisation planned by the Allies at the end of the war to the sub-

Jens Mohr presenting a Buderus artistic cast relief



The Laxman family with Ulli Keiner, Jens Mohr (from left to right) and Friedhelm Asbach (3rd from the right)

sequent Economic Miracle, and the continued progress of Buderus Edelstahl. Krishnan Laxman, grandson of the founder of the company, reported on the exciting development of the Indian partner company from 1936 up to the present day. P.C. Krishna Iyer, the founder of the company, launched his business relations with Buderus Edelstahl right at the beginning of the 1950s, but could only operate as an agent until the 1990s because of political constraints.

The wind of change – early 1990s

The change came with the possibility of freely importing and stocking steel. Supported by Buderus Edelstahl, P.C. Krishna Iyer steadily expanded his market leadership in the country. There are now three stockholding facilities in the major industrial regions of India, including Chennai, Pune and Ludhiana. At least 8,000 tonnes of high-grade steel from Wetzlar are shipped to India every year. P.C. Krishna Iyer supplies 260 customers locally – and in the trend is rising. "In addition to plastic moulding steels for the flourishing mould-making industry, major Indian companies such as Bharat Forge, Tata Motors and Mahindra are being supplied with die steel from Wetzlar for their forging hammers and presses, which mostly make parts for the automotive industry", says Jens Mohr, also referring to the increasing importance of the generator and turbine shafts that are forged and pre-machined in Buderus production workshops. Krishnan added that they are an economically important item, weighing 25 to 63 tonnes each, in

view of the aspiration to improve India's energy supply as part of an ambitious government sponsored investment programme to build power stations and wind farms.

Spirit of professionalism and sense of family

Jens Mohr expressed his deep respect and highest recognition of the Laxman family, "We are delighted that you represent Buderus Edelstahl in such an excellent manner in India, and act as our loyal partner. The spirit of absolute professionalism and sense of family that integrates all members of the family and Buderus Edelstahl employees into both business and family is what makes for success." This was also the template for the future. This partnership characterised by trust and tested over decades was dedicated to exploit the outstanding market opportunities with increasing growth, to the benefit of both companies.

Artist Lalita Devi presenting a classical Indian temple dance



Focus on steel users:

Gear steels workshop

The third "Gear steels for industrial gear systems manufacture" workshop was held on 9 September 2008 at the "Woodstock of wind energy", WindEnergy in Husum. Hardly any other industry has undergone such rapid growth in recent years as wind energy. The industry needs to build global partnerships between manufacturers and suppliers to manage this growth more effectively.

That is why the Steel Institute VDEh and the Transmission Technology Research Association (FVA) organized the gear steel workshop to stimulate dialogue with gear manufacturers and wind turbine manufacturers and operators. As the technology leader in the field of forged engineering steel for industrial gear systems manufacture, Buderus Edelstahl supported the Steel Institute VDEh and the FVA in organising the event.

After an official welcome by Dr Ingo Steller (Steel Institute VDEh) and Hans-Günter Heil (FVA), Dr Frank Hippenstiel, Buderus Edelstahl Quality Assurance Manager, presented the opening paper. He reported on current trends and standards in the field of metallurgy and materials technology of case hardening steels, tempering steels and roller bearing steels. Steel as a material can make a great contribution to reducing the resource intensity of "the most climate-friendly form of power generation".

Professor Hans-Werner Zoch of the Institute of Materials Engineering (IWT) at the University of Bremen gave an excellent

paper linking the theory of conventional heat treatment practice with findings from distortion engineering research.

The design of gears is a major factor, in addition to their constitution and heat treatment. A group of about 60 workshop participants attended a session by Dr Peter Oster of the Research Institute for Gears and Gear Design (FZG) at the Munich University of Technology dealing with aspects of dimensioning gearwheels for industrial gear systems manufacture. To address the constantly increasing size of units, the FZG has been developing theoretical models extending beyond DIN 3990. Another interesting issue for the design of industrial gears was presented by Dr Igor Varfolomeyev of the Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials in Freiburg, considering the principles of mechanical fracturing assessment of large rotating components, and some typical applications.

The proceedings concluded with a paper by Dr Djordje Dobi (Germanischer Lloyd) with a paper on sampling, materials testing and the demands on case hardening steels. This paper was based on a joint project of



Germanischer Lloyd, Renk AG and Buderus Edelstahl conducted this year, dealing with testing a model of a large-scale gearwheel in various stages from steelmaking through to the case-hardened component.

As anticipated, there were interesting, lively discussions after each presentation, chaired by Dr Ingo Steller, which continued unofficially afterwards in the Brauhaus in Husum. Jens Mohr, Managing Director of Buderus Edelstahl GmbH, was pleased to invite numerous customers in the customary manner to the traditional "Old Iron Foundry" restaurant to conclude the successful event.

Attentive workshop audience





Impact testing equipment in the mechanical laboratory

QM system for testing and calibrating laboratories

Testing laboratory at Buderus Edelstahl GmbH receives DAP certificate of competence

The German Testing Accreditation Agency (DAP) concluded its successful accreditation of the testing laboratory at Buderus Edelstahl GmbH in Wetzlar in May 2008. The review covered the form of organisation and the competence of the staff, as well as the laboratory plant and equipment.

Our laboratory staff



Accreditation assures customers and end-users that inspection and testing procedures are in line with the state of art and science, ensuring sound, reliable test results. The testing laboratory is engaged principally by Buderus Edelstahl GmbH and its sister companies Buderus Edelstahl Band GmbH and Buderus Edelstahl Schmiede-

The accreditation certificate



technik GmbH. Both the latter companies are certified suppliers to the automotive industry, so accreditation of the testing laboratory is particularly important for them. It is a significant technical and scientific challenge to ensure reproducibility of the testing data, which is essential for functional quality assurance.

The testing laboratory undertakes classic material testing of metal materials to international standards, including tensile tests, notch impact tests, hardness tests (e.g. HB, HV, HRC), microscopic cleanliness tests as well as microstructure, grain size and damage inspections, dilatometer tests and recording characteristic values (KIC) for component mechanical fracture assessments or impact force tests to ZF works standard ("Brugger samples").

There are 10 laboratory furnaces available for heat treatment testing. The laboratory has modern test equipment and image analysis systems, and committed, experienced staff, to ensure its technological competence. The contacts in the laboratory are Holger Wörner and Uwe Siebert, who are also carrying forward the laboratory's ongoing development. They are available to advise the employees of the Buderus companies on the Wetzlar site in all matters relating to materials testing.

Buderus Edelstahl GmbH test laboratory:

Accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 "QM system for testing and calibrating laboratories" (DAP-PL-4090.00). The scope extends to metallographic and mechanical/technological testing of metallic materials, and comprises about 40 national and international test standards. The accreditation is valid until May 2013.



Surface measurement of cleanliness samples
Using the 400 kN tensile testing machine





SCT Conference 2008 supported by Buderus Edelstahl

The second "Steels in Cars and Trucks" conference was held very successfully from 1 to 5 June 2008 in Wiesbaden. Almost 350 participants attended the International conference in the spirit of "Bringing steel producers, suppliers and users together", accepting the invitation of the Steel Institute VDEh, the Transmission Technology Research Association (FVA) and the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA).

Buderus Edelstahl supported the event as a sponsor. This premier event was held at the Kurhaus in Wiesbaden, comprising around 80 technical presentations on the subject of metallurgy and materials engineering of steel for use in motor vehicles. There was also an opportunity to visit automobile factories and steel mills in the Wiesbaden area.

After the event, interested users had the opportunity to form a first-hand impression of the Buderus Edelstahl production facilities. There were tours of the steelmak-

ing, open-die forging, heat treatment and machining departments, and of the closed-die forge of the sister company Buderus Edelstahl Schmiedetechnik. One of the products Buderus Edelstahl has been supplying to the automobile industry for

decades is premium engineering quality billets, and the company is successfully involved in research projects especially in the field of power transmission technology to develop steel materials for this branch of industry.

The next SCT conference is being held in 2011 in Mozart's home town of Salzburg. The main sponsor of this international conference will be our new parent company Voestalpine.

Quality Assurance Manager Dr. Frank Hippenstiel and Engineering Alloys Quality Planning Manager Rainer Caspari with the group of international visitors



"Good luck!"

to all our new trainees

Buderus Edelstahl is setting new standards in vocational training. In 2008 alone, 27 young people started their training in the most diverse vocations at Buderus Edelstahl on 1 August.

In the commercial/technical field Benjamin Siegel, Tobias Hofmann, Julian Wagner, Timo Neumann, Sergej Kazatschuk Alex Fanslau, Kevin David Richstein, Sebastian Schmidt and Tobias Daniel Heymann are completing their training as lathe operator turners. This training course covers producing and machining workpieces for machines, plant and equipment by turning, milling and drilling operations on conventional and computer-controlled machine tools.

As process engineers specialising in steel metallurgy, Patrick Bauer and Christian Mathes are learning how crude steel is made from scrap metal and metallic alloys, and how associated production processes are controlled, monitored and assessed.

The group of trainees in Material Testing specialising in metal technology was significantly boosted this year by Kevin Richtscheid, Maximilian Brieger, Marvin Nein, Gunnar Pahl, Torben Friedrich and Jens Schleifer. This training qualifies the young entrants to examine materials and workpieces autonomously, determine their characteristics and document them. The knowledge they gain of individual production and machining sequences enables the material testers subsequently to initiate release of the products or to analyse variations from specifications.

Newcomers to the training field of industrial mechanics specialising in maintenance are Alexander Beifort, Sebastian Brück, Daniel Andreas, Tobias Ketter, Daniel Lopes and Daniel Thom. They will learn how industrial plant is inspected, maintained and commissioned.

The three new trainees in electronics specialising in works engineering, Marek Neichel, Sven Neuhofer und David Meisel, are being introduced into the wide-ranging field of electronics. They will learn over



(From the top)

1st row: Sebastian Schmidt, Maximilian Brieger, Tobias Heymann; 2nd row: Daniel Andreas, Marvin Nein, Florian Schaub; 3rd row: Sebastian Brück, Christian Mathes, Alexander Beifort; 4th row: Daniel Lopes, Sven Erik Neuhofer, Sascha Ulm; 5th row: David Meisel, Benjamin Siegel, Timo Neumann; 6th row: Tobias Hofmann, Patrick Bauer, Daniel Thom; 7th row: Torben Friedrich, Nadja Feist, Hans Diehl; 8th row: Marek Neichel, Eric Medenbach, Christian Kuhn; 9th row: Tobias Kettler, Kevin Richtscheid, Jens Schleiffer; 10th row: Sergej Kazatschuk, Dominic Kern, Kevin Richstein; 11th row: Alex Fanslau, Julian Wagner, Gunnar Pahl

coming years how electrical equipment is correctly installed, inspected and maintained, and how to program stored-program controllers.

In the commercial field, the company is taking on Nadja Feist, Christian Kühn and Eric Medenbach, who are learning skills including tasks in sales, human resources, purchasing and accounts.

In September, Florian Schaub and Hans

Diehl started their sandwich course at "Studium Plus". Both completed a six-semester course in industrial engineering that Buderus Edelstahl has been offering for some years in cooperation with the Gießen-Friedberg University of Applied Sciences. The course enables the young people to acquire extensive knowledge through a combination of theoretical learning at University and practical blocks in plant, preparing them for a career in the diverse fields of production, quality management, controlling or sales.

In view of its planned growth projects, Buderus Edelstahl is counting on these young people, and wishes them every success in their training.

As the largest training employer in the region, Buderus Edelstahl has an outstanding reputation in promoting the professional development of young people. Buderus Edelstahl acts as the training service provider of vocational training for the three Buderus Edelstahl companies at the Wetzlar location, and of commercial and technical vocational training for Buderus Giesserei Wetzlar GmbH and Buderus Spezialguss GmbH. Buderus Edelstahl is thus currently training more than 140 young people.

A further increase in the number of trainees is planned for the new training year starting in September 2009. To help us meet this requirement, our current trainees are showing great commitment in enthusing young people for steel as a material, and for training at Buderus Edelstahl. One example of this commitment was supporting the metalworking artist Andreas Rimkus and his mobile fun forge at the Ideen-Park in Stuttgart and at the Wetzlar Bridge Festival to familiarise young people in particular with the craft of metal forging. Trainees also attended career fairs to enthuse potential applicants for the world of Buderus Edelstahl.



Career profiles at Buderus Edelstahl – introducing:

Andreas Pichl: senior foundryman on his way to becoming a foreman

From 1995 to 1998, Andreas Pichl completed his training at Buderus Edelstahl as a process engineer specialising in steel metallurgy. After a few years' experience, in 2005 he started his training to become a metalworking foreman, which he will complete at the end of 2009.

With his school certificate in his pocket, Andreas Pichl first looked for training as an electronics engineer. Because it was difficult to find a suitable training place at that time, he inquired at the Vocational Information Centre in Wetzlar about vocational alternatives that might suit him. He found

one at Buderus Edelstahl, and in 1995 started his training as a process engineer specialising in metallurgy. After successfully completing the course and 1½ years' vocational experience, he did his national service in 2000 and 2001, and then returned to Buderus Edelstahl.

"Of course I want to become a foreman!"

His then foreman and the works management asked him whether he would like to do the foreman's course, reports Andreas Pichl, and of course he wanted to advance himself. He is delighted that the company has supported him so effectively. He has been attending the foreman's school on Wednesdays and Saturdays Since 2005, and

will graduate at the end of 2009 as an industrial metalworking foreman. Of course he had additional studying to do, especially as the exams approached, but that was just the way it goes. It sounds easy, and does not do justice to the real commitment. Because in addition to the foreman's course, the 30-year-old is working as senior foundryman on shifts and rotas in the Buderus Edelstahl steelworks. He is responsible for managing the melt from insertion of the scrap through to handover to the casting operation, and sometimes deputizes as head of the production shift.

All in a day's work . . .

"I monitor all work associated with managing the melt, coordinate the deployment of workers at the furnace and the LF/VD unit, support new entrants and guide them; I am also assigned to training and developing staff. I deputise for the shift foreman when he is absent or on vacation", is how Andreas Pichl describes some of his tasks.

This includes checking the scrap loading process, calculating the alloying additions, ensuring the de-dusting plant is operating correctly, and checking the state of the furnace after each batch, and initiating any necessary repair work. As senior foundryman, Andreas Pichl maintains the found-

ry report and the batch process chart. According to the subsequent processing stages, he controls the heating up of the melts, carries out filler wire treatments, organizes disposal at the electric furnace and the LF/VD unit, monitors the degassing process, and maintains the area's operating units together with foremen and repair teams. He also takes part in foremen's meetings. All in all, a lot of tasks that require a high level of technical and social competence - the qualities of a foreman.

Demanding task - nice co-workers

"We have a good working atmosphere here", says Andreas Pichl, very nice co-workers". The work as senior foundryman is very interesting, even if it doesn't sound very varied at first. "The tasks", he thinks, "remain the same, but since we process different qualities, there are always different situations arising that we have to respond to." Challenges that Andreas Pichl evidently relishes. His main aim now is to successfully complete his foreman's training. "When a foreman's job becomes vacant at Buderus Edelstahl in a few years' time, I hope that I will get it. At all events I want to carry on working here."



A day at Buderus Edelstahl

60 Alfing Kessler trainees pay a visit

On 30 May 2008, 60 trainees from Maschinenfabrik Alfing Kessler in Aalen came to Wetzlar for a factory tour. Alfing Kessler is the world's largest independent crankshaft manufacturer for automobile and industrial engines, and has been a customer of Buderus Edelstahl for many years.

"The Alfing Kessler trainees' visit to Buderus Edelstahl was part of a trip extending over several days", reports Karl-Heinz Schäfer, Head of the Buderus Edelstahl Training Workshop. On the morning of 30 May he greeted his young guests, most of whom are undergoing commercial/technical training at Alfing Kessler. Karl-Heinz Schäfer gave an interesting report on aspects of the Buderus Edelstahl works and its products. Then there was a works tour through the various production workshops. The forging process and the subsequent machining steps are similar in both companies. But the steel mill was new to the visi-

tors, and a fascinating sight for anyone who has the opportunity to visit this part of the works.

In the afternoon the group went to the Mathematikum - the first hands-on mathematical museum - in Giessen. They spent a night in the youth hostel in Gießen, and the next morning the trainees made their way to the visitors' terrace at Frankfurt airport.

"We been working well together with Alfing Kessler for many years", says Karl-Heinz Schäfer. "Both companies place great emphasis on in-house, in-depth training of employees, and both promote development. So it is natural that we give our trainees the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the work of other companies."

Forged bar steel for crankshafts and dies

Buderus Edelstahl supplies Alfing Kessler with input stock for producing crankshafts

for industrial engines such as marine diesel engines, large vehicles and power generation plant. Buderus Edelstahl also supplies the steel for the dies in which the crankshafts are forged.

Maschinenfabrik Alfing Kessler GmbH has established itself as a leading manufacturer and market leader in the development and production of high-performance crankshafts between 1.5–8 m in length, and hardening plant. The company processes more than 25,000 tonnes of forged steel bar a year, and recently invested 80 million euros in industrial crankshaft production facilities. Alfing Kessler supplies leading automobile, commercial vehicle and special-purpose vehicle manufacturers. The company's products are to be found in ships, aircraft engines and locomotives, and in high-performance Formula 1, German Touring Car Masters (DTM) and Nascar Series engines.

Next year the Buderus Edelstahl trainees will visit the Alfing Kessler works in Aalen, and find out something about the history of this company that has forged more than seven million Alfing crankshafts over almost a century since 1911.

Group photo of Alfing Kessler trainees





... the tough get going

Buderus Edelstahl at the 16th JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge run When the going gets tough...

In line with this year's sweatshirt slogan "When the going gets tough ...", Buderus Edelstahl was represented on 11 June 2008 in Frankfurt with a record field of 52 runners from the three Wetzlar Buderus Edelstahl companies in the world's largest fun run.

All the Buderus Edelstahl participants made their way to the finish in brilliant summer

This year's sweatshirt slogan



weather, in the company of more than 73,500 other runners, walkers and sprinters. The trainees stoked up on grilled sausages and isotonic sports drinks in their own party marquee in Grüneburg Park.

The toughest of all the Edelstahl entrants was Walter Wiezorek, shift leader in the heat treatment shop, with the best time of 19 minutes 46 seconds for the 5.6 km distance through Frankfurt city centre. But even unfit runners had a lot of fun, and excelled themselves in their run past modern skyscrapers and historic buildings.

In addition to the health aspect, the company run promotes drive, motivation, team spirit and communication. So it was that some of the runners were surprised to find in the relaxed atmosphere during the apres-run party marquee that the fellow runner they had just been talking to is a colleague they otherwise encounter only on the phone.

For Buderus Edelstahl it is something special to take part in the world's largest

running event. Last year more than 230,000 people worldwide took part in the JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge. This year there were 73,719 participants from 2,589 different companies in Frankfurt alone. The competition is held in seven cities in the United States, in two European cities and in Sydney, Singapore and Johannesburg.

Federal President Dr Horst Köhler acted as patron of the JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge again this year. The proceeds of € 222,000 from the event went to the German Sports Aid Foundation (SDS), and will be used to promote young disabled sportsmen.



SAM – Secretaries' Annual Meeting

Once a year the Böhler-Uddeholm Group directors' and managers' secretaries and assistants meet at one of the Group's locations for a weekend together. The latest meeting took place from 17 to 19 October 2008 in Wetzlar. 25 participants from Austria, Switzerland, Sweden and Germany came together and got to know each other. They took the opportunity to listen to Dr Frank Hippenstiel's explanation of the production processes in the Buderus Edelstahl companies.

The Secretaries' Annual Meeting 1996 was initiated by Eveline Haunstein of



Group photo of Böhler-Uddeholm Directors' Secretaries and Assistants

Böhler-Uddeholm AG in Vienna. She heads the Secretariat of Board Member Franz Rotter. "Originally the meeting was a purely private initiative", says Eveline Haunstein, "We just wanted to get to know each other better, and finally put a face to the voices we had got to know so well on the telephone over the years." The meetings have now become an event involving the whole Böhler Uddeholm group. They have a

positive effect on cooperation, says Eveline Haunstein with satisfaction, and in many cases colleagues have become friends. "The meetings contribute to us identifying with the company even more than before, partly because we combine the weekends together with works tours and presentations." The next meeting in the SAM series has already been fixed for autumn 2009.

Long service awards

40 years' service

Adam, Dieter	19. 8. 2008
von Mohr, Gerhard	19. 8. 2008
Rühl, Jürgen	19. 8. 2008
De Palo, Antonio	17. 9. 2008

25 years' service

Theiss, Norbert	16. 5. 2008
Tiegs, Jörg	16. 5. 2008
Kaiser, Martin	16. 5. 2008
Freitag, Jürgen	16. 5. 2008
Schäfer, Berthold	16. 5. 2008
Neul, Peter	30. 5. 2008
Kuhn, Ralf	30. 5. 2008
Kohlberger, Klaus-Dieter	9. 6. 2008
Daam, Heinz	1. 7. 2008
Schmidt, Klaus-Peter	1. 8. 2008
Sitter, Irma	1. 8. 2008
Schaub, Oliver	1. 8. 2008

Weber, Wolfgang	1. 8. 2008
Siebert, Uwe	1. 8. 2008
Zörb-Volkmer, Sandra	1. 8. 2008
Lux, Rudolf	1. 8. 2008
Schaub, Karsten	1. 8. 2008
Caspari, Martin	3. 10. 2008
Peters, Andreas	10. 10. 2008
Diehl, Friedhelm	17. 10. 2008

10 years' service

Benner, Peter	4. 5. 2008
Daniel, Jens	1. 7. 2008
Hahn, Santino	6. 7. 2008
Mutz, Mike	17. 8. 2008
Dörner, Benjamin	1. 9. 2008
Kleiber, Mike	1. 9. 2008
Mastandrea, Christian	1. 9. 2008
Velten, Stefan	19. 10. 2008
Veit, Christoph	20. 10. 2008
Wuttke, Gero	9. 11. 2008
Möglich, Markus	21. 12. 2008

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Deaths

		Age			Age
Diehl, Manfred	9. 4. 2008	74	Schmitz, Kurt	14. 9. 2008	80
Maage, Werner Ernst	10. 4. 2008	68	Hinterlang, Horst	22. 9. 2008	65
Friedrich, Karl-Heinz	29. 4. 2008	52	Weber, Friedrich	30. 9. 2008	77
Weichl, Lukas	16. 7. 2008	93	Schütt, Kurt	9. 10. 2008	81
Mergell, Wolfgang	13. 8. 2008	76	Götz, Bernd	16. 10. 2008	49
			Weinl, Hubert	24. 10. 2008	78



BE Managing Director Karl-Peter Johann, BEST Managing Directors Hans-Wilhelm Giese, Fernando Rodriguez, Lothar Frey, Peter Konhäuser, Michael Wagner, BVW-Representative Stefan Schmidt, Peter Schaub, BE Works Council Member Heidi Koster, BEST Works Council Member Stefano Di Lena

Suggestion scheme tombola

The last joint suggestion scheme tombola for all Buderus Edelstahl companies was held on 11. 8. 2008, offering 10 prizes with a total value of € 3,175. A special prize of € 450 was awarded to the entrant with the most accepted suggestions. The most acclaimed suggestion from 2007 was awarded € 9,000. Awards totalling € 72,123 were paid out for the period 2007 to 31. 3. 2008.

Buderus Edelstahl GmbH introduced the Continuous Improvement Process (KVP) to replace the company suggestion scheme on

1 April 2008. Since then each company has been operating a suggestion scheme or KVP independently.

After introductory words by the Head of Production Logistics Manfred Becker, Buderus Edelstahl GmbH Managing Director Karl-Peter Johann thanked staff for their high level of participation in the suggestion scheme, and asked the workforce to participate in the new KVP scheme with the same commitment, since the ideas it generates are important for Buderus Edelstahl both now and in the future. They help to secure the company's market position and jobs, improve and simplify processes, and contribute to increasing job security and reducing unnecessary cost.

Together with the Managing Director of

Buderus Edelstahl Schmiedetechnik, Hans-Wilhelm Giese, Karl-Peter Johann presented vouchers, which were awarded as follows:

- 1st prize € 800, Michael Wagner, ST-B, milling machinist
- 2nd prize € 600, Lothar Frey, ZD-MEV, machinist
- 3rd prize € 400, Sebastian Dietz, STWWE, electrician
- 4th prize € 250, Günther Blumers, ST-A, saw operator
- 5th prize € 175, Fernando Rodriguez, GTPA, operator
- 6th prize € 150, Peter Schaub, ST-S, blacksmith
- 7th prize € 125, Fernando Rodriguez, GTPA, operator
- 8th prize € 100, Franz Peter Konhäuser, ST-S, foreman
- 9th prize € 75, Gero Wuttke, STW-WE, fitter
- 10th prize € 50, Mario Heimroth, STW-WE, electrician

Fernando Rodriguez, operator in GTPA, was specially commended for his distinguished commitment. He received a special prize of € 450 for having 11 ideas implemented. Hans-Wilhelm Giese expressly praised his exceptional initiative and personal commitment.

RWTH Aachen university students visit Buderus Edelstahl

On 12 September 2008, the students of the Metallurgy and Materials Technology faculty at the RWTH Aachen visited us to find out about the world of Buderus Edelstahl. The contact arose with a request to sponsor the "MuW – Global Exchange in Science and Practice" project. The project seeks to promote scientific and practical exchange between students at the RWTH Aachen and universities and companies in China, focusing on preparing for challenges in an international working environment. Buderus

Edelstahl was very pleased to offer the project its support.

As a platinum sponsor, we promote a young team of particularly committed students in their advanced studies. Since the students spend a month at the University

of Science and Technology, Beijing (USTB) during their stay, they are naturally planning to visit the Asia hammer. We wish the students interesting and valuable experience in China.

Jens Mohr presenting the cheque





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