



Blow-moulding machines for
packaging, automotive and technical parts

Our Technology – Your Success

BEKUM Maschinenfabriken GmbH | Kitzingstrasse 15/19 | D-12277 Berlin

PRESS RELEASE (May 2016)

Contact	Christian Richard
Telephone	+49 (0) 30 7490-2294
Fax	+49 (0) 30 7490-2441
E-mail	c.richard@bekum.de

BEKUM Group Reorganised in Europe

- **BEKUM prepared for the Future**
- **Restructuring of the BEKUM Group successfully completed**
- **5 million Euros invested and 40 new employees hired**

Berlin (Germany), 03/05/2016: The reorganisation of the BEKUM Group in Germany and Austria was successfully completed in spring 2016 as planned. The Production division, which includes machine assembly, shipping, procurement, work preparation and warehousing, has moved to Traismauer (Austria), about 60 km from Vienna. For this purpose, more than 5 million Euros were invested in the expansion of the Traismauer site and approximately 40 new employees were hired.

Andreas Kandt, CEO of BEKUM Maschinenfabriken GmbH in Berlin: "The reorganisation provided us with the basis for excellent market positioning. From our perspective, the reorganisation results in considerable synergies not only on the cost side but by pooling expertise and experience. As a pioneer and technology leader, we have repositioned ourselves to continue shaping extrusion blow moulding through innovation and high-end products for the future."

BEKUM-Traismauer Expanded

The aim was to consolidate the European manufacturing of extrusion blow moulding machines at a single site. While previously only large blow moulding machines were built at Traismauer (established since 1968), now smaller packaging machines will be built in the

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BEKUM Maschinenfabriken GmbH | Kitzingstrasse 15/19 | D-12277 Berlin
Tel.: +49 (0)30 7490-0 | Fax: +49 (0)30 7490 2441 | sales@bekum.de | www.bekum.de
Executive Director: Gottfried Mehnert and Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Kandt | Register court: Charlottenburg District Court, 92 HRB 3533
Deutsche Bank AG, Berlin branch, BIC: DEUTDE33HAN, IBAN: DE55 1007 0000 0386 9500 00 | VAT ID no.: DE136701335
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16,000-square-meter space. Through consolidation of the processes at a single site, significant synergies have already been achieved. For this, BEKUM invested more than 5 million Euros in the expansion of the site, particularly by adding assembly and office space, as well as in the construction of a new central warehouse. At the same time, approximately 40 new employees were hired. It was also possible to persuade key production employees to move from Berlin to Traismauer. Andreas Kandt: "Experienced and knowledgeable employees remained loyal to us and went to Traismauer to ensure continuity and knowledge transfer."

New Headquarters in Berlin

In Berlin, the company moved into new headquarters in mid-April 2016, not far from the previous headquarters. In contemporary offices, worldwide operations come together in the areas of sales and marketing, development and design, as well as technical service and spare parts distribution. These areas were purposely kept in Berlin to ensure continuity of customer service and technical development of individual customer solutions via the highly experienced Berlin-based staff. Andreas Kandt: "With approximately 16,000 BEKUM machines blow moulding machines delivered worldwide, we have a great responsibility to support our customers in their production tasks competently and, above all, quickly."

Sales Success is Evident

New orders were received in Eastern Europe and the Middle East for mostly small and medium-sized machines for the packaging industry. These have been delivered as the first packaging machines out of the Traismauer factory. The automotive segment was also extremely successful over the past year. Large orders for VW in Wolfsburg (Germany), as well as for production facilities of Fiat in Italy and Brazil, were gained against the competition, underscoring BEKUM's high level of expertise in this market segment. Several

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single-station and double-station tank blow moulding machines for producing coextruded 6-layer or 7-layer fuel tanks with IMD (in-mould deflashing) and SIB (ship in the bottle) technology are involved. Andreas Kandt: "In this market segment, we can demonstrate our natural strengths: Uncompromising product quality with high production output and machine uptime. Our special strength is offering customers complete production cells. In this area, we serve most major car manufacturers in Europe."

Summary

These were essential milestones for strategic reorganisation, defined by a dedicated BEKUM management team in Berlin and Traismauer, for achieving simultaneous aims of stability and continuity, as well as progress and innovation. The successful consolidation of production departments prepares BEKUM for the future in the area of packaging machines. At the same time, major commercial success in automotive machines proves BEKUM to be the "all-around" technology leader in blow moulding machines.

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Captions:

Caption 1 (opening image): BEKUM's New headquarters in Berlin

Caption 2: Expansion and consolidation of production in Traismauer (Lower Austria) in 16,000 square meters.

Caption 3a: Andreas Kandt, CEO of BEKUM Maschinenfabriken GmbH: "With approximately 16,000 BEKUM blow moulding machines delivered worldwide, we have a great responsibility to support our customers in their production tasks competently and, above all, quickly."

Caption 3b: Andreas Kandt, CEO of BEKUM Maschinenfabriken GmbH: "The reorganisation provided us with the basis for excellent market positioning. Quality commitment and expertise could be strengthened for BEKUM, as a pioneer and trendsetter, to continue shaping extrusion blow moulding technology through innovation and high-end products."

Caption 4: Large machine construction in Traismauer: Final assembly in Traismauer of a 6-layer tank system blow moulding machine, type BA 220 M Coex, for the automotive sector

Image sources: All images are from BEKUM (unless otherwise indicated)

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About BEKUM ++++++

Pioneer and Trendsetter in Blow Moulding Technology

Founded in Berlin in 1959, BEKUM Maschinenfabriken GmbH is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of extrusion blow moulding machines.

Founder Gottfried Mehnert conceived the name BEKUM as the acronym (**B**erliner **K**unststoff **M**aschinen).

The company began to flourish in its founding year with the development of the world’s first neck-rim calibration. Numerous innovations and patents followed, confirming that BEKUM, with its innovative and customer-oriented machinery solutions, has always been ahead of its time – and remains so to this day.

When innovative and economical machinery solutions with high productivity for individual packaging requirements of hollow packaging are in demand, then BEKUM, with over 55 years of experience in blow-moulding technology, is the first choice worldwide.

Product Range and Applications in Food and Non-food

With future-oriented and reliable production processes and fully electric, as well as hydraulic machinery for the commercial production of blow moulded containers ranging from 5 ml to 3000 l, BEKUM offers everything for plastic packaging from one source.

Philosophy of the Company

Building and maintaining long-term relationships with market partners through future-oriented, predictable company policy determine the actions of the first and second generation of the family. This strategy ensures the jobs of dedicated and experienced staff. The preservation of traditional structures, an established network of partners and far-sighted adaptation to change form the basis for continuous development and inspiration for the company in the interest of partners, customers and employees.

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Innovation and Technology

Process reliability, availability, efficiency and sophisticated design characterise the high standard of BEKUM production lines for blow moulding. BEKUM contributes the expertise that has grown based on these references, associated with 40 patents in blow moulding, to the fulfilment of every customer requirement.

The level of process design is key for process reliability, reproducibility, parts quality and cost-efficiency. A high-quality production line for extrusion blow moulding, consisting of machine, die and automation which is impressive in terms of speed, wear resistance, availability, process reliability and stability alike, is critical for return on investment (ROI) and the level of added value.

Facts and figures

With 16,000 machines delivered worldwide - about half of them still in use - the BEKUM Group has achieved by far the largest production of blow moulding machines of any brand.

The BEKUM Group serves approximately 100 countries around the world directly or through representatives.

Today, 330 employees work for the BEKUM group worldwide at three locations, generating sales revenue of €80 million (2015).

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