

New Generation in the BEKUM Group

- **Michael Mehnert appointed new Managing Director in the BEKUM Group**

Berlin (Germany) / Traismauer (Austria), 29 September 2016: BEKUM is paving the way for a new generation in the BEKUM Group. The family company, managed by its owners for over 55 years, is known throughout the world as a pioneering and technological leader in the blow-moulding industry with high quality standards.

Dipl.-Ing. Michael Mehnert (34), youngest son of the company's founder Gottfried Mehnert, joined the family company in various functions after successfully studying mechanical engineering in Aachen. In spring 2016, Michael Mehnert was appointed Managing Director of BEKUM Maschinenfabrik Traismauer GesmbH (A-3133 Traismauer; www.bekum.com), with the aim of supporting the long-standing Managing Director Dipl.-Ing. MBA Johannes Schwarz in the management and development of the company.

A new generation to secure the future

Michael Mehnert recently assumed company shares of the BEKUM Group, so that he now functions as shareholder, beside Gottfried Mehnert, thus allowing the company to remain fully in family ownership. Gottfried Mehnert founded BEKUM 55 years ago and has built up the company group. His inventions (such as ring surface calibration, dual machines, advances in co-extrusion) have crucially shaped the extrusion blowing industry and are currently used in almost all blow-moulded articles in the world, for which he received numerous awards (including the Federal Cross of Merit, Plastics Hall-of-Fame Lifetime Award). The new generation in the BEKUM Group was introduced with the share transfer to Michael Mehnert, who would like to preserve the qualities of the company while also setting new directions: "Our common cause is to lead our medium-size family business and its more than 300 employees into a successful future. At the same time, our production relocation to Traismauer was an important step in making BEKUM even more competitive. Other steps will follow as we continue to invest in the company and in innovations. I see it as my job to conserve the qualities of BEKUM while simultaneously bringing fresh momentum to the company."

K 2016: Retrospective and outlook

This year’s exhibition stand at the K2016 in Hall 14 C03 will also present the company within the context of the new generation. Thus in exhibiting the BA90 from 1958, we are showing one of the first extrusion blowing machines to be constructed by Gottfried Mehnert. It represents the history, tradition and continuity of the company. Next to it, the EBLOW 37 reveals a step into the future. Here BEKUM is deliberately choosing another path with the innovative closing system, so as to achieve better handling, higher energy efficiency, but above all advantages in the processing method for various plastics.

Reprint permitted – copy requested

Volume: 373 words | 2,613 characters



Caption:

Caption 1: Dipl.-Ing. Michael Mehnert: I see it as my job to conserve the qualities of BEKUM while simultaneously bringing fresh momentum to the company.

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

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.

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 various 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 18,000 machines delivered and installed 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 in Europe and in the US.

Our Technology – Your Success