Ensinger

impulse

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"As simple as possible,
as complicated as necessary"

Dear Readers,

The complexity of everything around us is growing all the time. Is this as annoying to you as it is to me? There was a time when you could simply grab some change, head to the football game and buy yourself a burger from the stand. Today, cash is banned from most stadiums and fans are expected to use a charge card which first needs to be filled up (queue 1). Then they have to stand in line for their burger (queue 2). Heaven forbid they should want a pint of beer to go with it – because this means more inevitable queuing to reclaim the bottle deposit (queue 3). Hopefully you will actually get to see part of the game rather than just hear it. Over time, frequent stadium-goers acquire the knack of recognizing a conceded goal or a penalty decision against the home side just from the roar of the crowd ...

Why is it important that we should be able to deal with complexity? Fredmund Malik, Professor at the University of St. Gallen, has an answer whose validity reaches far beyond the world of business: "Simple systems tend not to present major problems in terms of the way they are regulated and controlled. It is with increasing complexity that serious problems are likely to occur – which can then be relentless." The way Malik sees it, those of us whose approach is more intuitive than informed generally "associate complexity with problems, lack of comprehension, unfathomability. In a certain sense, management can be defined as the art of getting to grips with complex systems."

Ensinger is in the business of developing products for complex markets which are used in widely varied fields such as medical technology, the food industry or the automotive engineering sector. To minimize risk, our customers are required to comply with ever more stringent demands. Yes, we aim to supply our customers with high-quality plastics. But beyond this, we aspire to be a competent port of call when it comes to legal aspects and other product-related needs. This is why we have established our "Product Compliance Management" Department, which is already receiving a lively flow of enquiries from customers on a daily basis. Read more about its work on page 4/5.

Saving energy is not always as simple as we might think. But with insulbar and Thermix we may claim two company divisions whose entire business model is based on doing just that. By recently becoming a member of the Association "Aluminium in Window and Facade Construction", Ensinger aims to step up to its commitment to improved recycling management (page 10). It goes without saying that we also intend to lead by example in our own company: to find out more, read our progress report "Energy Management System – what we have achieved to date" on page 13.

All a bit complicated? Judge for yourselves whether you find our description "as simple as possible but as complicated as necessary". Because I believe that this is the right way to approach the whole issue of complexity. There is an awful lot of leeway when it comes to improving the way we buy a burger at a football stadium. Improving the products and services we offer is all about working day to day to strike precisely the right balance.

Wishing you an enjoyable read,
Yours, Roland Reber

Imprint

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"An engineer must push out the boundaries of achievement"

Wilfried Ensinger Prize for Bachelor Graduates

Wilfried Ensinger Prize award ceremony in Nufringen (left to right): Miriam Fiedler (Head of Training), Aron Röhm, Achim Lehmann (Head of Human Resources), Wilfried Ensinger, Daniela Reutter (Human Resources Officer), Christian Henne, Andreas Schmid (Head of Process and Application Engineering)

Aron Röhm and Christian Henne have been awarded the Wilfred Ensinger Prize for outstanding achievement in the dual higher education system. The two graduates completed the practical part of their three-year bachelor degree course in Nufringen. Wilfried Ensinger presented the certificates and the cash bonus conferred with the award during a small celebration which was also attended by the training staff.

Mechanical engineering student Christian Henne decided right from the start at the Cooperative State University that plastics technology would be his specialist field. Now he is working as a development engineer in the raw materials department. Aron Röhm also had the chance to choose specialist areas within his business engineering degree course. After a ten-week placement abroad in Ensinger's Shanghai location he was appointed to the post of project engineer in Nufringen.

The company founder was pleased to congratulate the two graduates on the completion of their bachelor studies. He advised them to always seek new avenues and to venture along new, untrodden paths. "It is better to make a mistake than never to have made the attempt to do something new", said Wilfried Ensinger. "Sometimes you have to question the status quo. As engineers, it is up to you push out the boundaries of achievement, as that is the only route to technical progress!" *[JF]*

Three award winners in Cham

In Cham, office clerk Jessica Braun and the two machining mechanics Christoph Karl and Wolfgang Stöberl have received the Wilfred Ensinger Prize which carries a cash bonus. The three candidates from the Oberpfalz region completed their training placements of two and a half and three and a half years respectively with excellent grades, and have been offered posts in the company.

At the award ceremony, Wilfried Ensinger expressed the enormous importance of the staff for the well-being of the company: "The resources and the organization are made available by the company, but success is something only the workforce can provide." *[JF]*

Wilfried Ensinger (right) with award winners Wolfgang Stöberl (3rd from left), Jessica Braun (4th from right) and Christoph Karl (3rd from right), Factory Manager Andreas Alsfasser (2nd from right), Personnel Officer Maria Unterstaller (2nd from left.) with trainers Rosemarie Zangl (left) and Max Langlechner (4th from left)

Iris Schuller, Birgit Luz and Aniko Heilmann (left to right) ensure that Ensinger products comply with statutory standards and regulations

Product Compliance

At the service of divisions and customers

There is a whole raft of rules and regulations governing the different plastics manufactured and processed by Ensinger which the company has to know and adhere to. To ensure that the materials we produce comply with the latest revisions of applicable standards and regulations, Ensinger GmbH has established a dedicated department to take charge of "Product Compliance Management".

The RPC Service Centre assigned to the legal department has recently been boosted with a new addition to the team. The two chemical engineers Birgit Luz and Iris Schuller responsible for Product Compliance have been joined since the beginning of the year by Aniko Heilmann, who many Ensinger employees will be familiar with from her work in the Nufringen headquarters.

A key area of the department's work is conformity testing to determine whether an existing article or a newly developed product complies with the applicable rules and regulations. The team concentrates primarily here on the material side of things: "What is in it? This is the first question we check on the basis of information from the raw material manufacturer. This is then followed by an evaluation of the data", explains Birgit Luz. As there are no binding guidelines for the implementation of product compliance, the various suppliers take a very different approach to the provision of information. Sometimes the compliance officers have to query the requested documents appertaining to individual raw materials as they contain errors of form or have not been correctly completed. "But generally speaking, declarations of conformity are quickly available", adds Birgit Luz.

Safety requirements

The food processing industry and medical technology manufacturers are particularly reliant on confirmation of material conformity, as the product safety demands placed on these sectors are particularly stringent. Seamless traceability based on consistent documentation, for instance, is expected as a standard requirement.

Product compliance benefits customers on a number of different levels, as Iris Schuller explains: “Firstly, as well as complying with their own obligations, they are able to draw on our research or test results. At the same time, this data helps them when it comes to making material choices, which are focal to the testing and approval of the end product. Working together with customers we are able to precisely define the application possibilities.”

Framework for responsible business practices

Compliance is defined in business terminology as general conformity on the part of a corporation with statutory regulations. Compliance Management Systems are designed to guarantee responsible and sustainable practices on the part of companies, their management bodies and employees.

The Product Compliance Department is concerned with regulations applicable to a company's products. This includes also the starting products and operating media required for manufacture of the end products, as well as all substances with which the material comes into contact during the production process.

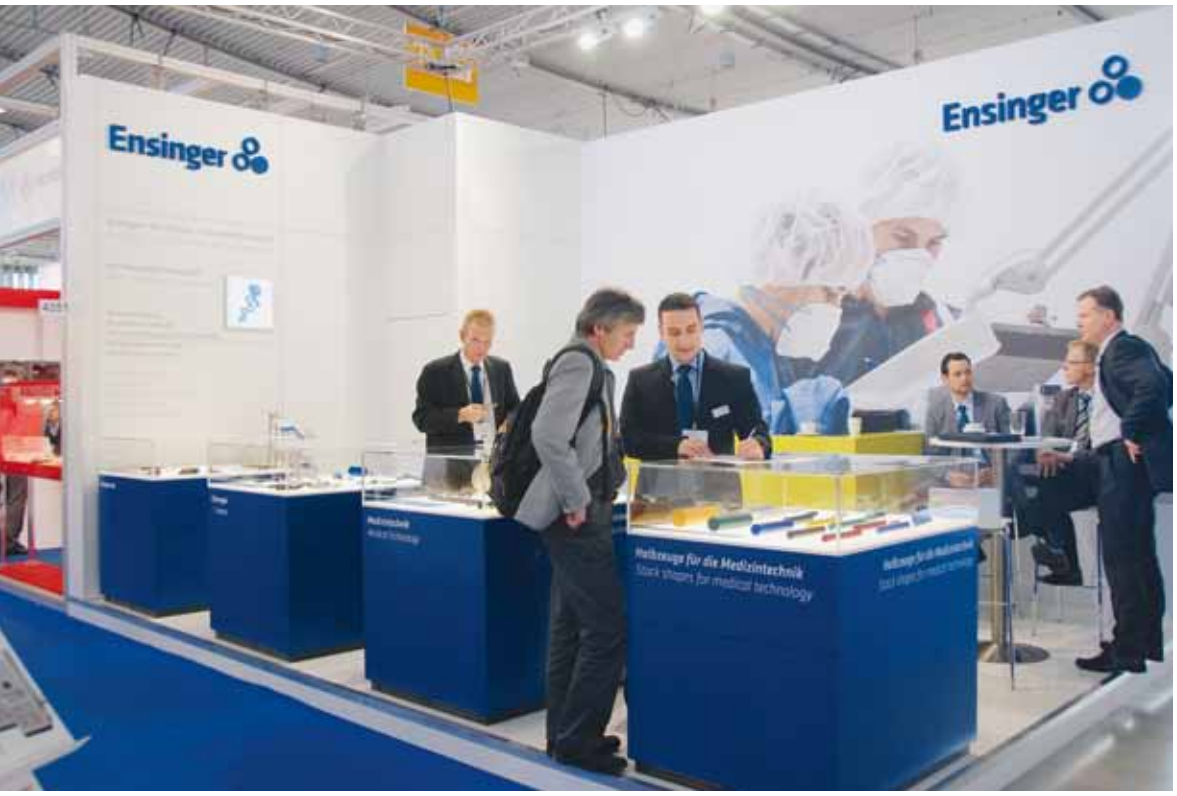
Communication within the company

There are many different interfaces at Ensinger between RPC and other departments such as Purchasing, Product Management, Development, Production and Quality Management. The compliance officers collate all the data relating to conformity properties and make it centrally available to the service centres and divisions. “Our advisory services are really well subscribed, and the issues we deal with change on a daily basis”, explains Birgit Luz. “Yesterday afternoon we received an enquiry from the Product Planning department of the Stock Shapes Division. Our colleagues needed a POM raw material with drinking water approval at short notice. Today, we are going to be dealing with a new EU regulation. This one is about materials suitable for food contact. Because of the transition periods involved here, there is a need for further clarification and discussion.”

Alongside the starting materials and end products which are subject to international regulation, particular care is also called for in dealing with operating media. Substances which come into contact with the plastics during the production process, such as coolants and lubricants, play a key role here. With the support of established sources, the RPC department draws up binding specifications and ensures that these regulations are adhered to. “Alongside our advisory services, we will also be offering the different divisions training events to boost awareness of Product Compliance”, announces Iris Schuller.

Over recent years, the plastics market has seen a flood of new material combinations and modifications. If this trend continues, there will be a marked increase in the number of product-related regulations. This will make the task of the Product Compliance Management team even more important over the coming years.

Dental healing cap made of TECAPEEK CLASSIX™
Manufacturers in the field of medical technology and the food processing industries are particulatly reliant on the confirmation of material conformity inview of the stringent demands made on product safety in these sectors.



At the Medtec in Stuttgart, Ensinger presented products used in diagnostics, therapy, intensive care, surgery and dental medicine

Powerful presence

Medtec Europe

IIn March, the European trade fair "Medtec Europe" saw engineers, production specialists, designers and other experts from the medical technology industry gathering in Stuttgart. Ensinger was present with highlights from the current product portfolio for the fields of diagnostics, therapy, intensive medicine, surgery and dental medicine.

Around 1,000 exhibitors from Europe, America and Asia occupied four halls. The rising visitor numbers to this fair is a reflection of the growing market for medical technology. There was lively activity at the Ensinger stand over all three days of the fair. Even before the fair kicked off, the sales team from the Stock Shapes, Machined Finished Parts and Compounds Divisions had agreed a record number of appointments with potential clients. *[JF]*

Anuga FoodTec

At the trade fair grounds in Cologne at the end of March, everything revolved around innovations for the food and beverage industry. As the world's most important trade fair for this sector, Anuga FoodTec brings the entire process chain together under a single roof – from production through to distribution.

Engineering and high-performance plastics have proven their credentials in this sector over the years – and not only as packaging materials. Their excellent chemical resistance and good mechanical properties make these the materials of choice for a wide range of different applications. The growing demand prompted Ensinger to exhibit at this year's Anuga FoodTec for the first time. Taking centre stage on the trade fair stand was the Stock Shapes Division supply range, including the new products TECAFORM AX and TECAPEEK TF10 blue. *[JF]*

Medical technology and food industry brochures

Ensinger has now produced new sales literature dealing with these two key trade fair subject areas: The revamped brochure "Plastics for Medical Technology" places particular emphasis on non-standard materials – such as plastics for extended contact with blood and tissue. As biocompatibility generally places stringent demands on medical products, the new issue deals with the issues of legal framework conditions and quality management in some detail.

The new brochure "Plastics for Food Processing Technology" also contains a chapter dedicated to EU and US regulations and the issue of quality assurance. The featured products from the stock shapes range is selected for its suitability for the food industry. The product descriptions are broken down according to fields of application: Beverage industry, dairy technology, meat, fish and poultry processing, bakery technology, food transport and packaging.
The new brochures are available for downloading on our website:
http://www.ensinger-online.com/en/downloads/brochures/

A warm welcome ...

Employees who have joined Ensinger:

Nufringen

Purchasing
Stefanie Bühler

Electrical engineering
Markus Schröder

Wage / Salary accounting
Isabell Effinger

Semi-finished products
Kathrin Abendschein
Michael Eisenhardt
Sinan Karaaslan
Gerhard Zaiser

Human Resources
Heiko Keppler

Raw materials / Compounding
Dr. Oliver Frey
Jens Schrödter

Main office
Christiane Beck-Schmidt

Cham

Building products
Sebastian Berger
Stefan Berzl
Dr. Michael Möller

Administration
Jessica Braun

Machining
Martin Roiser

Metalworking
Christoph Karl
Wolfgang Stöberl

Ergenzingen

Injection moulding
Andreas Blocher
Jörg Burger
Sükrcan Ercan
Manuela Grawe
Daniel Mai
Erkan Miyaser
Aynur Özimac

Tool making
Andreas Gärtner
Klaus Kohler
Bernhard Steckling

The following employees celebrate their twentyfifth company anniversaries at Ensinger in 2012:

25

Nufringen
Gunter Schuld
Heinz Lehmann
Mustafa Kara
Eckhard Gommel
Ralf Dietrich
Guenter Franzke

Cham
Josef Graf
Heidi Lischka
Wolfgang Zaengl
August Aumer
Friedrich Hoffmann
Roswitha Weber
Johann Bierlmeier

Ergenzingen
Holger Meier

Ensinger mourns Helmut Marquart

On December 30, 2011 our colleague of many years, Helmut Marquart, died wholly unexpectedly at the age of 52 years. Helmut Marquart joined the company in January 1992 and worked as a designer in the Product and Process Development service centre. Ensinger mourns the loss of a friendly, congenial employee and colleague.

Donation for Haiti

This year the commercial and technical trainees are donating the proceeds of their traditional fund-raising drive to pupils in Haiti. At the end of March, the young fund-raising team handed over a check for 5,250 Euro to the Wilfried Ensinger Foundation. The proceeds will be used to support a school in the Haitian town of Beaumont whose inhabitants are still struggling in the aftermath of the earthquake.

The majority of the donation was raised by the trainees through the sale of metal and plastic objects produced before Christmas in the training workshop. With the organizational support of the Works Council, 740 Euro had already been collected during the summer party in the previous July through the donation of cakes. *[JF]*
For more information, go to: *www.wilfried-ensinger-stiftung.de*

Photo session in Cham

At the end of last year, the majority of employees from the Cham plant gathered for a photo call. Ensinger has been producing in the district capital of the Upper Palatinate region since 1980. With a dozen skilled employees, the company first set up shop as a machining operation working in a rented factory hall. Four years later, Ensinger constructed a factory in the industrial district of Altenmarkt. The production facilities were subsequently extended in phases, and the team steadily grew in size.

The branch factory on the Wilfried-Ensinger-Str. now employs a workforce of 440, making it one of the company group's biggest locations. It also runs a training programme employing 26 young apprentices learning to be machining, process and tool mechanics or office clerks. Cham produces machined finished products, cast nylon stock shapes and custom castings as well as the Thermix and insulbar product lines.

Increasing resource efficiency awareness

Ensinger joins the A/U/F

Renovation, extension and building demolition projects all produce waste – not all of which should go to landfill. Often, the waste resulting from this type of project contains valuable materials which can be salvaged using suitable means and made available for new production processes. Ensinger has now joined the German Association for Aluminium in Window and Facade Construction (A/U/F e. V.), which is committed to improving recycling management.

Against the backdrop of dwindling natural resources and rising raw material prices, the recovery of materials from old windows and facades has become a more attractive proposition – particularly as the efficient use of resources helps boost a manufacturer's ecological credentials.

The A/U/F Association masterminds the central recovery of replaced aluminium windows, doors and facades nationwide. After dismantling and segregating the salvaged materials, the aluminium is processed to form new billets and made available to metal processing companies – using only 5 per cent of the energy required for primary manufacture. Aluminium can be reused any optional number of times without loss of quality. The recycling quota is around 95 per cent for aluminium products. *[Wey]*

Sustainability certified

The A/U/F is a confederation of leading aluminium structural profile system suppliers and processors. The member companies represent a market share of around 90 per cent in Germany.

A/U/F
Aluminium und Umwelt im Fenster- und Fassadenbau

The aluminium recycling scheme initiated by the A/U/F complies with all the requirements of the German Recycling Management Act. Issues such as product responsibility and the obligation to return and accept returned materials are set out in various agreements concluded with the member companies. Active participation is confirmed in a certificate and reviewed on a yearly basis.

Plans are in place to further increase the proportion of environmentally friendly recycled aluminium. To this end, the A/U/F aims to target decision-makers in the building industry with a view to breaking down the reservations felt by some producers about the use of aluminium as a material.

More than a facelift

The new insulbar® website

A clearly arranged layout, generously dimensioned images and subtle animation features communicate empathy, quality and professionalism. With its appealing design, the revamped insulbar.de website reflects the unique appeal of the brand.

Alongside development and application engineering aspects, the content of the new site also highlights the energy saving potential of the insulation profiles. An extensive download area containing brochures, data sheets and certificates as well as a user-friendly contact form sheet complete the range of services on offer. With the added benefit of excellent search engine placement, the new site of development partner and manufacturer Ensinger provides another high-impact marketing instrument. *[Wey]*

www.insulbar.de

Thermix® goes Facebook

More than 800 million users world-wide, 22 million of them in Germany alone, and more hits per month than Google – it can only be Facebook. Amazing facts which illustrate the growing significance of social networks. An increasing number of organizations, companies and brands use these popular online platforms to communicate with colleagues and contacts. The Thermix® product line will also be jumping onto this ever more popular platform and using the social media to appeal specifically to end users.

The new Thermix® fangate on Facebook will whet the appetite of visitors and actively encourage them to become fans of Thermix®. Fans of the product brand will be given access to attractively presented and easily understandable information and service offers. Alongside a new video on the subject of the "warm edge", there are a range of additional highlights waiting to be discovered:

→ ***Heating cost savings:*** Without leaving the Facebook platform, visitors can use the heating cost calculator to determine what savings they can expect to gain using Thermix® TX.N® spacers

→ ***Visualization:*** Potential customers interested in checking out the optical effect of our products using a fast and simple method will find the ideal way to satisfy their curiosity in the fangate. The window configurator allows future home owners to combine a variety of window shapes and frame colours with Thermix® TX.N® spacers and Thermix® muntin bars in different colours. *[Wey]*

http://de-de.facebook.com/pages/Thermix-TXN/135584269885378

Moving pictures speak a thousand words: The clearest illustration of the "Warm Edge" to date

Your local contact partner

The task of the safety officers is to determine any possible accident risks and health hazards at the workplace and to submit suggestions for improving occupational health and safety.

To help safeguard the health and safety of all your colleagues, we would ask you all to actively support your safety officers in their work.

New faces

Over the past few months there have been a number of staff changes in the Occupational Safety Committee. This is the ideal opportunity for us to introduce you to the safety officers for the Nufringen, Ergenzingen and Cham locations and put faces to the names.

Karolin Bradtke, Environment, Health & Safety management
Nicole Friedmann, Safety Engineer

Nufringen

Hansjörg Faller
General Management Safety Representative

Wolfgang Schwab
Contact with authorities and special assignments

Dr. William Lechner
Company Doctor

Karolin Bradtke
Health and Safety management; Safety Officer, Administration

Nicole Friedemann
Safety Engineer

Angelika Plust
Environmental and Hazardous Substances Officer

Ioannis Argiriadis
Chairman of the works council

Safety Officers

Patrick Jacob
Warehouse, Shipping, Joinery, Annealing

David Jonek
Product and Process Development

Gerhardt Marquardt
Technical Services

Florian Mayer
Extrusion

Frank Hahn
Extrusion

Jürgen Kuntic
Extrusion

Guido Nafz
Tool making

Christian Sabo
Stock Shapes Production Planning

Corina Steck
Raw Materials, Raw Materials Warehouse

Alexej Tregubow
Industrial Profiles and Tubes

Ergenzingen

Jasmin Arndt
Works Councillor

Safety Officers

Juric Jelec
Injection Moulding

Jens Möhrle
Injection Moulding

Christian Musch
Injection Moulding

Cham

Günter Deyerl
Occupational Safety Specialist

Safety Officers

Karl Auer
Machining, Production

Franz Forster
Building Products, Raw Materials

Georg Pongratz
Technology, Maintenance

Maria Unterstaller
HR, Administration

Hans Rank
Cast Nylon

Energy Management System: What we have achieved to date

by Karolin Bradtke, Environment, Health & Safety management

Our Energy Management System inventory has been carried out according to plan over the past few months and successfully completed. This target-performance analysis provided clear evidence of a solid foundation at Ensinger: Many significant characteristics of functioning Energy Management Systems have already been internalized by staff and management. The fundamental concept of taking an economical and sustainable approach to the use of energy is firmly rooted in the corporate culture.

As the system is further developed, the individual data will be assessed for energy consumption, not only of electrical current but also gas, water, heating, cooling and ventilation, and compressed air. Analyses and assessments will also be carried out on environmental and occupational safety aspects, for instance the use of hazardous materials, hazards in the workplace, and the treatment of waste.

Submission of improvement suggestions

Many staff members have already developed ideas on how to improve energy efficiency. All suggestions can also be submitted as part of the internal suggestion scheme (BVW). Any suggestions which are adopted and result in a reduction of Ensinger's energy consumption will qualify for a proportion of the savings achieved to be paid in the form of a bonus. We look forward to receiving your ideas!

Help shape your own work environment

Improvement suggestions in Cham: Introducing the Committee

Alongside his function as Deputy Chair of the Works Council, Werner Bachl is the officer in charge of the Company Suggestion Scheme (BVW). The Committee headed by Werner Bachl is charged with assessing improvement suggestions submitted at the Cham location and calculating their financial benefit. Also on the Committee are Andreas Alsfasser (head of the Cham Plant Service Centre), Günter Deyerl (safety specialist), Gerhard Lankes (project engineer) and Maria Unterstaller (personnel officer). Franz Schönberger who previously headed up the Suggestions Scheme Committee retired last December.

Any effective suggestion scheme comes to life through the experience and ideas generated within the workforce. An increasing number of employees are getting involved in optimizing work and organizational procedures, reducing the consumption of resources, pushing up operating profit, improving quality and protecting the environment. Anyone interested can read about the scheme in more detail in the BVW Works Agreement which was revised a year ago.

Last year, considerable bonuses were paid out to employees for their improvement suggestions in Cham. Werner Bachl: "As you see, contributing to the Company Suggestion Scheme can be rewarding. If you have an idea, why not put it down on paper? It will not only be Ensinger who will benefit – potentially there could be something in it for you too!" *[JF]*

Günter Deyerl, Maria Unterstaller, Werner Bachl, Gerhard Lankes and Andreas Alsfasser (left to right) make up the Company Suggestion Scheme Committee in Cham

Ensinger in Brazil

The location in São Leopoldo benefits from South America's dynamic growth

Brazil is poised to become the world's third biggest destination for foreign investment. In the raw material and energy sector, the transport industry, automotive engineering and the health sector particularly, the demand for technical plastics is on the increase. For specialists like Ensinger, the emerging markets open up interesting new potential. Recent years have seen positive development for the São Leopoldo location, which now employs a workforce of 85 working in the Stock Shapes, Injection Moulding and Machining Divisions.

Ensinger Indústria de Plásticos Técnicos, the Ensinger Group's Latin American branch, was formed in 1999. The new factory initially launched with two production lines for cast and extruded stock shapes. These were joined shortly after by tubes and castings in cast polyamide.

Despite the moderate climatic conditions prevailing in the subtropical south of Brazil, external temperatures can periodically soar to extreme levels. The humidity in particular posed technical difficulties in production at first, for instance during casting. This meant that the engineering and technical team were forced to adjust the plant configuration one step at a time. The production halls were also air conditioned.

Only two years after the branch was formed, the Management under the direction of Alfred Moser decided to take the next major strategic step forward. By investing in a number of injection moulding machines, the São Leopoldo facility was now in a position to supply customized high-performance plastics to the industry's most demanding markets: aerospace and medical technology. A third division was then added with entry into the machining business.

São Leopoldo is located in the South of Brazil in the State of Rio Grande do Sul

← The team at Ensinger Brazil in March 2012

Trade restrictions

The days of Brazil's hyperinflation which saw prices escalating on almost a daily basis are long gone. Today, the Real is hard currency, and the country's industry is operating in a tough competitive environment. While neighbours Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina and also the important trading partner Chile have largely abolished the former trading restrictions under the Mercosur Free Trade Agreement, the South American economic union is only slowly opening up to other international markets. High import duties and a complex regulatory framework are inhibiting growth for investment goods manufacturers in particular.

Fortunately the close exchange with experts from the different Ensinger Group divisions continues to produce ever increasing returns. In the fields of development, procurement, manufacture and sales, the Brazilian branch works in close co-operation with the plants in Germany, the UK and the USA. A tremendous boost for the branch in its bid to qualify in different industrial sectors is the resounding vote of confidence from customers it receives in its annual survey. Of particular significance for the application of technical plastics are oil and gas production and the decomposition of raw materials.

With a population of 195 million, Brazil accounts for half of South America's total economic output. As industry is booming throughout the continent, the number of potential customers for Ensinger will continue to grow. Paulo Studzinski, who as CFO and management spokesman is in close contact with the parent company, is confident that the market has plenty of potential still to offer.

The divisions have the market covered

Ensinger has had a significant part to play in the market launch of materials – such as polyetherketones – in Brazil. Customers for the high-performance plastics are to be found in a challenging industry, dominated mainly by OEM companies. This business within the stock shapes division is headed by Ana Paula Celiberto.

In order to consolidate its good competitive position in the market, the Brazil branch carries out rigorous monitoring and continuous improvement of its production costs and delivery periods. This applies especially to the core engineering plastics business which is run by Augusto Nienow, who also happens to be in charge of the machining division. The focus of this business unit is to be found in customer specific integrated solutions for the transport and conveyor technology sectors as well as medical and hospital supply products.

The strengths of the injection moulding division headed by David Cislaghi lie in its innovation and quality. Its customers, including the automotive industry, attach particular importance to high-quality material, precise component development and production processes, and competitive prices.

Ensinger links these different objectives by applying modern process management standards. Preventive maintenance or 5S are popularly used techniques which clearly demonstrate that the Brazilian workforce can hold its head up in comparison with colleagues in other branches.

The production and logistics area of the São Leopoldo location was doubled two years ago by the construction of a second building phase. The workforce has also grown in size with the addition of a number of qualified specialists. What has remained unchanged is the team spirit which pervades every aspect of work at the location. The barbeque – known locally as churrasqueira – plays a central role in the social life of the company, and there is even a dedicated hut for social get-togethers behind the production halls. And in the land of the world-record championship holders, it goes without saying that the employees also share a passion for football. *[JF]*

TECAFORM AX (POM-C)
offers good chemical resistance
alongside strength, stiffness
and impact strength

Allrounder

TECAFORM AX is a material with versatile uses

POM homopolymers provide impressive mechanical properties such as strength and stiffness, while copolymers are characterized by good chemical resistance. With TECAFORM AX, Ensinger is now offering a new semi-finished product (POM-C) which combines several of these beneficial properties. Its impact strength has also been improved in comparison to previous TECAFORM products.

The new characteristics profile offers an added benefit primarily in the field of food processing: Improved mechanical properties with undiminished chemical resistance to conventional cleaning agents further extends the application spectrum of POM as an engineering plastic with versatile uses in this field. TECAFORM AX naturally complies with regulatory requirements such as FDA and (EU) 10/2011 for repeated contact with foods. For mechanical engineering applications involving contact of the materials with lubricants, improved chemical resistance can offer an additional benefit in comparison to homopolymers.

Other industries to benefit from the use of TECAFORM AX are the transport and conveying technology sectors, the automotive industry, electrical engineering, home appliances and precision engineering. Typical applications include stirring and kneading elements, rollers, casters, sliding bearings, sliding rails, gears, spring elements, connectors, insulators, housing components, snap connectors and seals.

Stock Shapes Newsletter
The Stock Shapes Division has launched an email newsletter designed to keep customers updated about the latest developments at shorter intervals. In future, subscribers to TECAnews will receive a compact overview of new products and services from Ensinger once a quarter. Added to this will be brief reports about technical applications, trade fairs and organizational developments. Customers can subscribe to the TECAnews at *tecanews@de.ensinger-online.com*

New stock shapes catalogue
The stock shapes catalogue has also been recently updated: new technical data and the changeover to the new corporate design prompted a total remake of this important catalogue. Alongside the supply range descriptions, which now encompass 100 pages, the catalogue also includes detailed technical information, new services and a wide selection of application examples (sorted according to industrial sectors). Despite the detail, a handy search register makes the catalogue manageable and easy to use. Colour codes, icons and clearly arranged tables also help users to quickly find what they are looking for.
The catalogue is available for downloading on our website: *http://www.ensinger-online.com/en/downloads/brochures [JF]*