

# impulse

**Issue 2/2017**

Employee and business partner magazine  
[ensingerplastics.com](http://ensingerplastics.com)



## Ever increasing speed

*Logistical process optimization*

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SAP launched



Dear Readers,

A few weeks ago, along with our US team, I attended the International Association of Plastics Distribution annual convention in Chicago. The IAPD brings together distributors, fabricators, manufacturers and service providers. One particular presentation, "Where Will We Be in 2032?" very much impressed me.

The presenter was Mark Kramer, the long-time CEO of a large US distributor group. Mark will be retiring at year end and he used his opportunity at the podium to bid farewell to "his industry" with some pearls of wisdom for "our future." Early in his career, Mark served as a U.S. Navy officer. While a refined sense of humor was clearly present in his IAPD speech, there was also a serious message at its core: the impact and opportunity of digitalization.

Mark first discussed social media platforms and their influence. He anticipates in fifteen years, "everyone will think they know everything." In his view, Twitter, Facebook, and others will increasingly dominate public opinion to the point that any balanced debate of facts will be suppressed into the background. Anyone following current political affairs is already aware of this impending trend.

As a representative of the distributor trade, Mark envisions the greatest impact of digitalization on the industry will lie in the revolution of supply chains. His future sees Amazon absorbing companies such as FedEx or DHL by 2032. Through their global presence and integration of high-powered IT systems, market drivers will create new problems for local dealers and transportati-

on firms, while customers will benefit from the ability to purchase semi-finished products over the internet more easily, cheaply and quickly.

I foresee Ensinger will see new opportunities linked to digitalization as well. In Germany, we have introduced a new ERP system. With this foundation, over the next fifteen years personal contact and the ability to provide solid expert advice will be even more vital than today. High-temperature plastics continue to advance into applications, with teams engaging in extended, complex discussions of the possibilities and limits of state-of-the-art materials with customers and end users. Ensinger will make a major contribution to the process, with digitalization providing critical support to our teams, not replacing them.

Drawing his address to a close, Mark bid farewell to his audience with the style and manner of a respected officer and leader. Yet, from my seat near the podium, I think I was able to catch a glimpse of honest emotion beneath the disciplined military exterior. On this note, Mark, I wish you farewell and thank you very much for all you have done for our global industry. We will miss you!

To my Ensinger colleagues and all customers, I wish you and your families Happy Holidays and my very best in the New Year!

Yours,

Ihr Roland Reber

Questions, suggestions, different opinions? Write to us at [impulseredaktion@de.ensinger-online.com](mailto:impulseredaktion@de.ensinger-online.com)

**Imprint**

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# Among the best

Ensinger is one of the 32 Premium Suppliers of Continental and Schaeffler

For the fourth time in a row, Continental and Schaeffler have designated Ensinger as "Premium Supplier". The 32 partners, including both the Injection Moulding Division and the Rottenburg-Ergenzingen plant, which constitute the "Premium Supplier Circle", were systematically assessed and chosen by Continental and Schaeffler from more than 1,200 strategic suppliers. As well as looking at performance in terms of quality and logistics, the two automotive suppliers also evaluated global competitiveness and capacity for innovation.

In the future, with the automation of driving functions, increasing digitisation and electrification and an enhanced service offer, more stringent requirements will be attached to quality assurance, risk management and networked collaboration, explain Continental and Schaeffler.

The Premium Suppliers will be in a good position, they say, to meet the additional demands made on the entire supply chain.



Award ceremony in Frankfurt am Main. Continental and Schaeffler's "Premium Supplier Circle" gives Ensinger the advantage of becoming involved at an early stage in development and digitisation projects run by the automotive suppliers. Reimar Oldero (Head of Injection Moulding Division, 3rd from left) and German Baur (Head of Sales and Project Management, centre) accepted the award on behalf of Ensinger.

## Wilfried Ensinger prizes for research into thermoplastics



In Chemnitz, Dr. Marc Schöneich (2nd from left) and Christian Kaufhold (2nd from right) have been awarded the Wilfried Ensinger prize for their outstanding scientific research. Dr. Schöneich received the award for his doctoral thesis carried out at the University of Dortmund on short glass fibre reinforced thermoplastics. Christian Kaufhold is a graduate in plastics technology from the University of Kassel, and at Master's level he has

been involved in the processing of man-made cellulose fibres in polypropylene.

Hermann Krämer (right, Head of the Toolmaking Service Center at Ensinger) gave a speech and presented the prizes. Professor Alois K. Schlarb (left, Professor of Composite Materials at the University of Kaiserslautern) acted as moderator of this WAK event (Scientific Alliance of Polymer Technology).

# Keeping the goods flowing

Nufringen: process optimisation in logistics

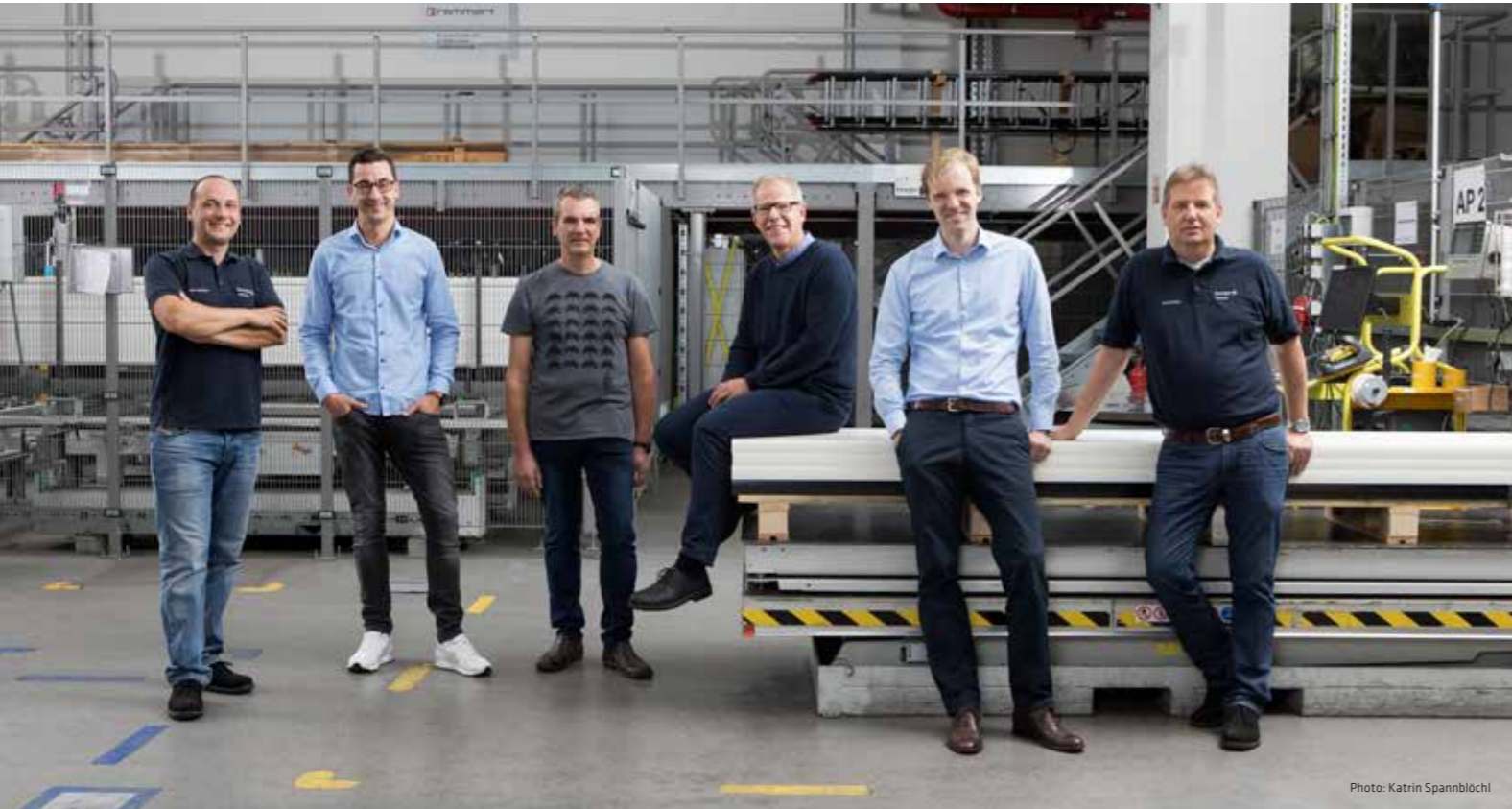


Photo: Katrin Spannblöchl

The management team in the logistics department of the Shapes division (from left to right): Mike Guadagnino (Team Leader Logistics Control Centre), Florian Maiwaldt (Special Consultant Plant Technology & Logistics Projects), Rainer Grzella (Head of Dispatch Logistics), Dieter Scharf (Head of Intralogistics), Kai Faller (Head of Global Supply Chain Management) and Gerald Wilhelm (Team Leader Control Centre Raw Materials Warehouse/Incoming Goods)

When it comes to logistics in the stock shapes division, new buildings, modern plant technology and qualified skilled personnel have paved the way for further growth in the largest business segment at the Nufringen site. “Revised key figures systems, consistent project management and improved internal communication have all boosted efficiency in recent years,” says Kai Faller, Head of Global Supply Chain Management in the Shapes division.

Specialists use a variety of terms and key figures, such as delivery reliability, delivery performance and delivery times, to describe the effectiveness of logistics operations. Operation is also based on such KPIs at Ensinger. “Timely dispatch is our primary

objective and therefore delivery reliability is the ultimate key figure,” explains Dieter Scharf, Head of Intralogistics, Shapes division. “The delivery quality is just as important. This means that the customer must receive the goods, in full, undamaged and with all documentation.” The processes and key figures are permanently monitored at the logistics control centre so that any faults can be resolved at an early stage by working together with specialists from the various departments.

## Variety of materials in the Incoming Goods department

With increasing volumes of goods to be handled, ensuring a smooth material flow poses a challenge for internal logistics. This

affects all departments, including the raw materials warehouse. Each day, lorries deliver plastic granules to the Incoming Goods department for supplying the production divisions in Nufringen. The polymers which are processed in large quantities are mainly temporarily stored in silos, the remainder are packed in sacks or in Octabins. The variety of basic plastics and the compounds produced in Nufringen gives rise to a continuing need for individual containers, whose storage and transport must be organised. Following on from continuous improvements that had already been made in previous years as part of the EVI programme, the storage location management system was integrated in the new ERP system. “Since then it has been possi-

ble to transfer driving jobs directly to the forklift truck terminals via SAP and WLAN,” beams Team Leader Gerald Wilhelm.

## The heart of logistics

The ERP changeover also resulted in changes to the logistics control centre in the new building. Here, Mike Guadagnino is responsible for planning and managing customer orders together with his colleagues. He calls this area “the heart of logistics” because the warehouse management system is maintained in the control centre, with close communication with the neighbouring logistics departments. There are further interfaces for stock shape production, for quality management and for sales. Process transparency was increased significantly by integrating a loading module into the warehouse management system. “As all the work steps are controlled by scanning the packages, we can track the material flow at any time and correct it if need be,” explains Florian Maiwaldt, who managed the project. “Now we are always aware of the current processing state of a customer delivery, from an order being released and picked right through to the packing and loading stations,” he adds.

In the Outgoing Goods department, the packages, which all feature barcodes, are uniquely identified using handheld scanners. In this way, this successful project has even reduced the error rate in dispatch logistics. The layout of the unheated warehouse has been rearranged so that the shipments intended for specific recipients can be compiled in defined storage spaces. Before the lorry arrives, the team in the Order Processing department has created the shipping documents and dealt with the customs procedures for export.

## Outgoing goods with delivery guarantee

The timing of the lorries has been optimised according to the pearl necklace principle: since they began to specify fixed collection times, the throughput times have got shorter. Direct data transfer to the forwarding companies enables shipments to be permanently tracked. “Because we work closely with our transport providers, we are able to react quickly to external issues,” says the Head of Dispatch Logistics, Rainer Grzella. “We are able to supply 95 percent of our European customers with their goods within 48 hours. Likewise, we supply overseas customers by air and sea freight within specified time frames.”



Kai Faller is aiming for further process optimisation: “At the moment we are working on moving away from being a pure logistics service provider and towards integrated management of the supply chain,” says the Industrial Engineer. “For us, this means that in the future we will map both the material and information flow, from incoming goods right through to the end customer.”



The commissioning of the modern plant technology for the expansion of the Shapes division four years ago was a huge leap forward for internal logistics at the Nufringen site: in the high-bay warehouse, the inflow and outflow of plastic stock shapes is mainly automatic, onward transport can be carried out efficiently with the aid of computer-controlled conveying systems while the picking system is paperless.

# High-profile insulation

Interview with Wilfried Ensinger to mark 40 years of insulbar



„At our first trade fair in 1978, even our competitors were sending customers who had tricky problems to solve over to our stand.“

Wilfried Ensinger invented the world's first series produced insulating profile.

With the development of insulating profiles made of polyamide, Wilfried Ensinger laid the foundation stone for the effective insulation of metal windows, doors and facades back in 1977. During the decades that followed, the company drove forward the field of thermal insulation with a string of inventions and patents. In this interview, Wilfried Ensinger throws light on the history of insulbar's evolution.

Mr Ensinger, what was it that drew your attention as a plastics engineer to the subject of energy efficiency in the construction industry? The enormous energy savings potential. At the beginning of the seventies – I remember this very precisely – I had a very large oil tank installed in my house. In those days, we still paid under ten cents for a litre of fuel oil. Then came the oil crisis. That's when everything changed radically.

The prices for crude oil shot up in 1973 and again in 1979/80. Energy costs just kept going up. Was the world of metal window construction prepared for this?

There was a movement towards the idea of improving thermal separation. But system manufacturers encountered major problems with the plastic solutions. By the time the component went for anodizing or stove enamelling the elements had become deformed or no longer sat perfectly.

Why do you think people had confidence in a solution that came from a newcomer?

We were the only provider capable of supplying glass fibre reinforced plastic products to the required degree of precision. With our extruded semi-finished products, we achieved far narrower tolerances than would have been possible with machined plastics. And word got around. At our first trade fair in 1978, even our competitors were sending customers who had tricky problems to solve over to our stand.

What was your suggestion for window, door and façade construction?

When the system manufacturer Wicona approached us, our engineers were in no doubt about what was required: What we

needed were low thermal conduction capacity, alongside high stability, shear strength and thermal stability. We opted to use the glass fibre reinforced polyamide 66, whose coefficient of thermal expansion precisely corresponds to that of aluminium. This allowed us to minimize the stresses occurring with changes of temperature. In addition, it was possible to coat the aluminium-plastic assembly using heat treatment at up to 200 °C.

What challenges did you face from the first prototypes through to the series manufacturing stage?

Back in the mid seventies, we planed and milled the first prototypes out of a panel. We threaded these into the guides in the aluminium profiles and they fitted just fine. But the aim was for the assembly to be permanently seated without wobbling. As well as friction locking, positive locking was also required. So I filed a toothed section into the aluminium guide. The significantly better thrust this created proved a compelling argument.

So you paved the way for the rolling and knurling method in widespread use today?

Yes, this wasn't the commonly used method beforehand. However, if the profile is simply pushed in, even the smallest tolerances can add up to significant weak spots. By knurling and rolling, these can be minimized. In the presence of the ift Rosenheim and the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing, we extensively tested the new type of assembly.

Turning theory into practice: How was the insulating profile tested?

We subjected the profiles to exhaustive mechanical and temperature testing, and examined the shear strength. The results formed the basis for standardization.

Working in cooperation with BASF, we also tested the compatibility of the plastic with almost 70 different substances and processes which commonly occur in the construction of windows.

Your first customer was then your development associate Wicona, today a premium brand of the Sapa Group.

That's right, we went into series production in 1977 for Wicona. This type of partnership tends to open doors: The whole of the industry was keen to use our solution. This meant that our business grew rapidly, naturally offering individually adjusted profiles. In 1980 we opened our factory in Cham, where we have been series producing our insulating profiles under the insulbar brand ever since.

How big was Ensinger when insulbar launched, and what was the extent of the development department?

Oh, I took care of development and tooling for many years myself – up until the introduction of the hollow chamber in 1995. I spent long hours at the drawing board, including Saturdays and Sundays. Initially, the product was further developed by our application engineers. When things took off with insulbar, it was almost like founding another company – and its rapid expansion meant we experienced growth pains.

Was there already an export market or were insulating bars for metal construction mainly something taken up by the German market?

In the German-speaking countries, expectations are high. This gave us and the industry a good grounding in preparation for export. Soon, we had customers in Italy, Spain, France and the UK. Meanwhile, the importance of energy efficiency is on the rise in the USA and China, too. There is plenty of potential yet to be uncovered!

- 1977** Delivery of the first series insulating profile developed by Wilfried Ensinger
- 1992** Invention of the coex sealing wire for perfect sealing of the composite system
- 1994** Ensinger patents fire protection profiles for the first time with heat-resistant continuous fibres
- 1995** Patented manufacturing technique for hollow chamber profiles
- 1997** Market launch of insulbar® ESP with special electrostatic properties for an optimum painting result
- 2000** Invention of highly insulating profiles with closed-cell structure in the core
- 2011** Ensinger launches insulbar® LEF with applied Low-E film for outstanding U<sub>v</sub> values
- 2013** Market launch of insulbar® RE – the profile with 100% recycled polyamide for energy and resource savings
- 2017** Market launch of insulbar® LO – with porous core and λ = 0.18 W/m·K

Mr Ensinger, thank you for taking the time to talk to us. My pleasure.

The complete interview is available at [insulbar.com](http://insulbar.com).

# A warm welcome

**Employees who have joined Ensinger:**

**Nufringen**

**Compounds**

Steffen Bühler  
Roberto Ferro  
Viktor Gassert  
Waldemar Schweizer  
Murat Yilmaz

**Facility Management**

Pedro Miguel Dinis Soares

**Industrial Profiles and Tubes**

Waldemar Janzen

**insulbar®**

Yvonne Goppel

**Shapes**

Maximilian Attenberger  
Selina Beser  
Johannes Steli

**Tooling**

Fabian Bürgler

**Apprenticeship**

**Industrial management assistant**

Marina Pavlovic

**Apprenticeship**

**Specialist for Warehouse Logistics**

Tobias Jentzsch

**Apprenticeship IT Specialist**

Evgenij Stickel

**Apprenticeship**

**Process mechanics**

Stefan Glaser  
Arbnor Halimi  
Tim Marquardt  
Jannik Mau  
Dominic Rudolph  
Julian Willmann

**Apprenticeship**

**Tooling mechanics**

Johannes Maier  
Anna Roll  
Julian Schweitzer

**Bachelor programme**

**Mechanical engineering /**

**Plastics technology:**

Marius Graf

**Bachelor programme**

**Industrial engineering and**

**management**

Evelyn Widmaier

**Bachelor of Science**

**Business Informatics /**

**Application Management**

Nils Niemann

**Ergenzingen**

**Injection Moulding**

Stefan Bok  
Daniel Buchmüller  
Serap Güllap  
Felix Paul Speichert  
Patrick Supper  
Vladimir Vasic  
Josef Wilhelm  
Natalia Wirt

**Cham**

**Construction Infrastructure**

Christoph Serwuschok

**insulbar®**

Sandro Hodosi  
Sebastian Bach

**Human Resources**

Gigi Garcia

**Shapes/Cast Nylon**

Carola Götze  
Christoph Kopitzki

**Main office**

Kerstin Jagemann

**Machining**

Michael Haller

**Apprenticeship**

**Process mechanics**

Tanja Elkner  
Denis Kuschtscha  
Martin Späth  
Markus Roider

**Apprenticeship**

**Machining mechanics**

Korbinian Bachl  
Tony Feil  
Nico Kiefl  
Tobias Niermeier  
Marius Willmann

**Ravensburg**

**Thermix®**

Rolf Friedrich Buhl

# Outstanding trainees

**Process mechanics in Nufringen and Cham are “best in state” and “best apprentice”**

Those completing their training programmes at the Nufringen, Ergenzingen and Cham locations regularly pass their final Chambers of Industry and Commerce exams with flying colours.

This year junior staff in the industrial and commercial professions were especially successful, particularly three process mechanics fresh from their training in plastics and rubber technology:

**Axel Philippin** has been awarded the accolade “best in state” in his apprenticeship occupation by the Baden-Württemberg Chambers of Industry and Commerce.

**David Wittmann** has received the state prize of the Oberfranken government district for his exceptional academic achievements.

**Marco Steudle** is “best apprentice” of the Oberpfalz (Regensburg Chambers of Industry and Commerce) test district.

Within the Company, these top achievements were also honoured with the Wilfried Ensinger prize. Other students who received this honour were Lisa Marie König (specialist in warehouse logistics),



Axel Philippin (left) has been named Baden-Württemberg’s top trainee in the vocational profession of Process Mechanic for Plastics and Rubber Technology. The Chamber of Commerce invited the trainees voted the State’s best candidates in their individual fields to the Rottweil Power Station to receive their awards. Ralf Grammel (right) is the tutor in charge of training process mechanics in the injection moulding plant.

Tobias Lehrer (tool mechanic) and Kerstin Janker, Julija Mull and Onur Sülük (all process mechanics). The Company founder and benefactor congratulated the prize-winners and thanked all those who had supported and encouraged those completing their training programmes during the course of their training.



Wilfried Ensinger prizes are awarded in Nufringen (left to right): Sven Heidinger (Head of Personnel), Sven Birk (Commercial/technical Trainer), Mike Guadagnino (Trainer for specialists in warehouse logistics), Heinz Lehmann (Commercial/technical Trainer), Lisa Marie König, Julija Mull, Wilfried Ensinger, Axel Philippin, Tobias Lehrer, Onur Sülük and Miriam Fiedler (Head of Personnel Development and Training).



Wilfried Ensinger prizes and Chambers of Industry and Commerce certificates are awarded in Cham (from left to right): Stefan Schichtl (process mechanic), Kerstin Janker, Edith Holzberger (Chair of the Wilfried and Martha Ensinger Foundation), Wilfried Ensinger, Andreas Alsfasser (Head of the Technical Management Service Center), Michael Jokisch (Head of the Training Workshop), Jessica Braun (Personnel Assistant), David Wittmann, Josef Graf (Deputy Head of the Training Workshop), Marco Steudle and Werner Bachl (Works Council).

# In search of the perfect movement

Kitchen equipment company Blum makes increasing use of high-performance plastics for its new developments



The electrical Servo-Drive system makes opening handle-less fronts even simpler. A light pressure on the surface causes lifts and drawers to open as if by magic. Integrated soft-close systems ensure gentle, effortless closing.

Photo: Blum

■ **Fitted kitchens with purist handle-less furniture fronts have been in vogue for some years. Furniture fittings from Blum ensure that cabinets and drawers open and close with maximum convenience. Engineering plastics play a key role in keeping things moving effortlessly. Ensinger is commissioned by Blum to manufacture different precision components for hinge, lift and drawer systems using injection moulding.**

Whether wall-mounted or base cabinets in kitchens, bathrooms, hallways, bedrooms or living rooms – the family firm Julius Blum based in Höchst on the shores of Lake Constance in Austria develops, produces and sells innovative lift, hinge and drawer systems designed for maximum convenience in every area of the home, and also develops suitable electrical and mechanical movement technologies. This is an application in which metals and high-performance plastics work perfectly in tandem.

## **Two family firms working in partnership**

Because the fittings are required to withstand serious loads in practical application, particularly to cope with heavily laden full-extension drawers, clearly the injection mouldings manufactured in large quantities have to provide a high level of fitting accuracy. Blum, which was founded back in 1952 and employs a workforce of 7300 worldwide, takes a far broader approach to the issue of quality than merely the products themselves. When looking for a partner with many years of experience in the injection moulding of thermoplastics, the specialists from Blum encountered a very similar approach to quality at Ensinger – a characteristic which could be considered universal among medium-sized family-owned businesses.

## **Electric drives for enhanced convenience**

In its injection moulding factory in Rottenburg-Ergenzingen, Ensinger now



Photo: Blum

produces a range of different components under contract to Blum. These include a roller carriage for a drawer runner, a return unit for furniture hinges, as well as housings and buffers for soft-close systems. Ensinger also produces the motor retainer for the electric Servo Drive system. Once installed, the simple exertion of light pressure on the furniture front prompts the relevant drawer to open with a quiet, smooth action. Servo Drive can also be actuated by pressure from a knee or elbow. This is a particularly handy feature in a busy kitchen – not only when it comes to disposing of waste.

It is just this type of invention that has lent Blum an excellent reputation among kitchen manufacturers and interior architects. Worldwide, the fittings specialist holds around 2,600 patents.

Around four per cent of its annual turnover is ploughed back into research and development. So it's no coincidence that Blum is among the international market leaders in its field today.

blum.com

ensingerplastics.com/de-de/spritzguss

Many of the fitting solutions from Blum set worldwide standards in the field of lift, hinge and drawer systems – in every area of the home.

# Job done!

**Key date: April 1st – ERP system changeover in the German locations  
– by Dr. Erwin Schuster (CIO) and Jochen Genterczewsky (ERP Project Manager)**

On April 1, 2017, a Saturday, the time had finally arrived: Go-Live weekend at Ensinger GmbH. In keeping with the plan drawn up at the start of the TECAspeed IT project more than two years ago, this day was marked out for the grand switchover from BaaN to SAP in the German locations. The existing ERP system had already been blocked for operational activity since the Friday afternoon, marking the start of work on the cut-over which continued over the whole of the weekend. Alongside the Project Management, Service Center IT and key users, the company's external consultants were also involved full time. In total, almost 70 specialists were at work. Added to this specialist team, hard-working assistants were fully engaged throughout the company supporting key users in their respective divisions. A big thank-you to everyone involved! How were this number of specialists coordinated over a single weekend? It goes with-

out saying that these two days were just part of a complex transition planning process. Our cut-over plan was launched as early as the beginning of the New Year, and was completed two weeks after the go-live. Alongside precise day-to-day planning, over the switchover weekend the schedule was mapped out on an hour-by-hour basis.

## No go-live without its challenges

For the go-live, this extended to changeover of the various interfaces, for instance connection to the in-house production and warehousing systems. All interfaces were technically migrated, subjected to intensive testing and optimized for SAP.

Immediately after the go-live, our on-site support service kicked in. The key users changed back to their specific divisions, IT and specialist advisors were distributed across the Nufringen, Cham and Ergenzingen locations. This marked the transition of

the TECAspeed project to the next project phase: Optimization.

The optimization phase entailed intensive troubleshooting, optimization of processes and master data, as well as continuation of team training by the key users. This phase – which focused particularly on the first three months (this part is designated the stabilization phase) – will run until the end of the year.

Where do we go from here? While the optimization phase is still on-going, the project team will be counting down to the international rollout. Initial workshops are already taking place in the international subsidiaries. And of course no ERP system is ever really finished: new modules are continuously being introduced and existing solutions improved. However, clear priority is attached to positive completion of the optimization phase.



## “A committed community”

**Ulrike Reichardt (3rd from right in this group photo, front row) is one of the 50 key users who have taken on a leading role in the ERP project TECAspeed. Ulrike Reichardt manages the introduction of SAP to Sales and Logistics in the Injection Moulding plant in Rottenburg-Ergenzingen. In her role as Assistant to the Division Manager, she is also responsible for divisional controlling at the location. She talks to the editor of impulse, giving us her view from the user's perspective.**

What was your experience of the preparation of the go-live deadline and the weeks that followed?

It was obvious to us that demands on our time would increase again this year. And this proved to be correct, since even in the early phase of the ERP project, the IT advisers and key users had given their attention to the adjustment of master data. As a precautionary measure, as early as the end of 2016, we in the Injection Moulding plant had created detailed delivery plans for the time following the go-live deadline. This meant that in the Injection Moulding Division we were able to enter, produce and deliver the majority of orders straight away in the first week after the introduction of SAP.

How important is the collaboration with key users from other divisions and service centers?

Over the course of time we have become a fully committed community: we exchange ideas for solutions and offer each other mutual help. We are all pulling together. Particularly during the

stressful introductory phase, it was invaluable that a divisional mindset didn't exist any more. Whenever a department said that it was at times overwhelmed before or after system migration, key users who still had unused capacity offered them technical and operational support.

What have you personally learned from the TECAspeed project?

In January 2015 at the start of my first key user training, I never expected to be able to accumulate the necessary know-how in such a relatively short time. It was hard at the beginning, but a few months later I was able to take on a part of the user training in the Injection Moulding and Thermix Divisions myself. Working on TECAspeed has been really rewarding, and not just because I have learned such a lot in terms of technical knowledge and method. I have really enjoyed the team working, the collaboration, and the project management too. I wouldn't have missed this ERP project for the world, however stressful it might sometimes have been.



## Consistent international e-mail addresses

Whether you're in Germany, Brazil or China – at Ensinger everything revolves around plastics. So it can only be an advantage for internet users who do not know the Company and its sphere of activity to gain an idea, right from the very first contact, of what products and what services the Ensinger brand stands for. Our new international domain name is the logical upshot of this notion, since ensingerplastics.com combines the Company name with the type of materials we work with. In the meantime the new home page of our website brings together the websites of numerous subsidiaries and foreign branches as well as Ensinger GmbH (see impulse 1/2017). “Since the majority of the old web addresses such as ensinger-online.com, ensinger.co.uk and ensinger.pl have recently been replaced by the new domain

name, a Company-wide conversion of e-mail accounts is the obvious next step,” explains Rupert Holzer, Head of Infrastructure in the IT Service Center. Based on the international standard, the address style of e-mail address will in the long term be **firstname.secondname@ensingerplastics.com** for all staff in the Group.

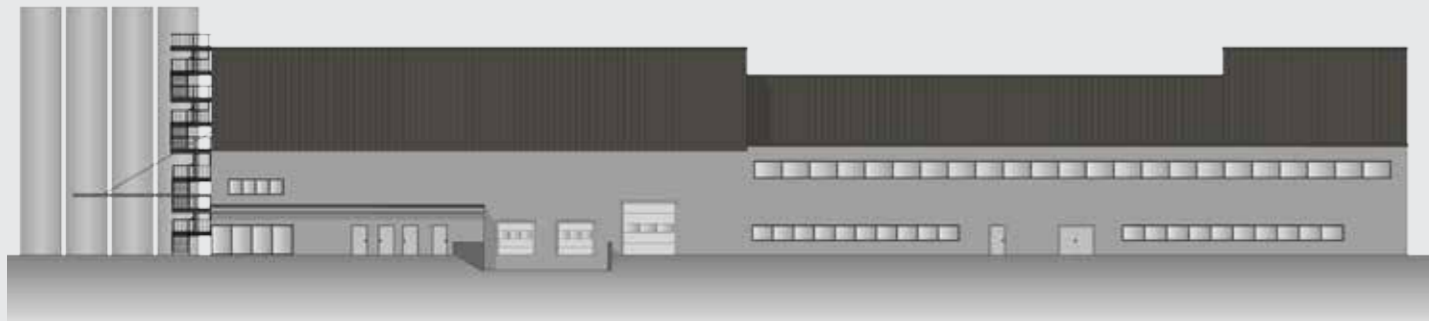
So within the Ensinger GmbH company, a.anyone@de.ensinger-online.com will become andy.anyone@ensingerplastics.com. As Rupert Holzer explains, the technical and organisational preparations have already been completed. Within the GmbH, the implementation is scheduled to take place by January 2018. Customers do not need to change addresses straight away because in the transitional stage Ensinger will be running the former e-mail addresses in parallel for a minimum of six months.

# Construction projects in Germany

## Combined production and logistics hall

The planning authorities in Cham have given the green light to the proposed resolution for Ensinger's new building project. As soon as the project is approved by the district administration, work can begin on construction of the planned production and logistics hall on the site in the Altenmarkt industrial zone. Building work is set to start in the spring, and be completed by the end of 2018. The new hall will substantially expand the space Ensinger has available for its compounding facilities and also its logistical operations. Currently, material processing takes place in one building, which it will be used by the Machined Parts Division in the future. Nylon casting will also occupy a part of the storage and provisioning area in the new building.

"Every division of the company will benefit directly or indirectly from the new hall and optimization of the logistics area, which is why the implementation of the building project represents a liberating move for the Cham factory," says Andreas Alsfasser, who as Head of Technical Management has already coordinated a number of construction projects at the site. "With this expansion project, Ensinger is not only addressing its current requirement, but also gaining reserve space for further organic growth in Cham." The new building represents an investment of around 12 million Euro. Added to this will be infrastructure costs such as investment in new conveying technology, in a new power supply system and outdoor facilities.



© Kerschberger Architekten GmbH

Southern elevation of the planned production hall. The new building at the Cham site will accommodate compounding lines and logistic facilities.

## Additional four-storey building in Nufringen

Building plans are far advanced in Nufringen too: in the south-eastern section of the Company premises an additional building will be constructed in the coming year to house the Technical Management, Toolmaking and Training Departments. Ensinger is planning a four-storey building with a total floor area of 2,500 square metres.

The ground floor has been designed with a height of more than 6 metres so that it can be used for cranes, and will be linked with both existing halls. The upper floors will have a modular construction and will contain new offices and meeting rooms to provide space for other Service Centres and Divisions at this location.

# Graduation 2017

The first cohort of students have passed their final exams in Nimo



These young people are some of the pioneers of the Viktor Frankl Secondary School. A total of 31 students successfully passed their final exams.

The Viktor Frankl New Dimension Secondary School in the Nigerian village of Nimo was officially opened in the year 2011. This summer for the first time, the most senior students were able to take their final exams at this secondary school. 31 graduates can now gain the university entrance qualification meeting the standards of the West African Examination Council (WAEC).

With the support of the church, the construction of both the Viktor Frankl School and the Unity Model Primary School located on the same plot was largely made possible by means of private donations. The Ensinger Foundation has been supporting the school project for two decades, and has also funded a borehole for drinking water and the purchase of medical equipment in Nimo.



The secondary school's band



The construction of the school buildings was sponsored by donations

Both these well-appointed schools have become models for success, not least thanks to their dedicated and well-qualified teaching staff. Several students have recently won cups in competitions for speaking, mathematics and essay writing. Those who are not aiming for university admission can gain a vocational qualification at the secondary school.

Further information: [ensinger-stiftung.de](http://ensinger-stiftung.de)



Pre-school children are in good hands in Nimo







## How to insulate aluminium windows

When constructing a modern building like the head office of measurement equipment manufacturer Testo, aluminium windows, doors and facades are a popular option. Benefits of this material are its light weight, stability, durability and weather resistance. Large facades and sash widths can only be achieved using

aluminium windows. But: metals are extremely conductive. Valuable energy is being lost through the frame. Preventing this from happening is where we – Ensinger – come in. A new video illustrates how thermal separation works.

