SCHÜTZ CONTINUES TO INVEST IN ITS WORLDWIDE STEEL DRUM PRODUCTION NETWORK

PACKAGING SYSTEMS
NEW, ULTRA-MODERN SCHÜTZ PLANT IN KARAWANG GOES INTO OPERATION .......... 2
SCHÜTZ CONTINUES TO INVEST IN ITS WORLDWIDE STEEL DRUM PRODUCTION NETWORK .................................................. 4
TEAMWORK FOR GLEAMING COATING RESULTS ........................................... 7

ENERGY SYSTEMS
NEW AIRCONOMY® BASIC PACKAGES ............... 12

INDUSTRIAL SERVICES
SCHÜTZ STEEL SERVICE CENTER: NEW SPLITTING PLANT IN AN ULTRA-MODERN HALL COMPLEX .... 14

COMPANY
SAFETY FIRST – OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AT SCHÜTZ ......................... 16
LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE: TOOL MAKER SPECIALISING IN MOULD TECHNOLOGY AT SCHÜTZ ........................................... 18

SCHÜTZ CONTINUES TO INVEST IN ITS WORLDWIDE STEEL DRUM PRODUCTION NETWORK

(PAGE 4)
NEW, ULTRA-MODERN SCHÜTZ PLANT IN KARAWANG GOES INTO OPERATION

Indonesia is one of the dynamically growing markets in the Southeast Asian economic region. To ensure that our customers in the region are optimally supplied, operations commenced at the end of June at our new ultramodern plant on a 35,000-square-metre site around 50 kilometres east of Jakarta.

The new high-tech production lines achieve the highest production standards and maximum energy efficiency – in keeping with our sustainable corporate philosophy. SCHÜTZ Indonesia provides maximum flexibility and ensures a continuous supply of our products to customers in the world’s largest island state. Quality management, sales and administration are also located in the buildings on the new company premises.
Equipped with a new, fully automatic, state-of-the-art extrusion blow moulding plant for IBCs, which can also produce inner bottles for the EX-protected versions, a new grid welding unit, and a new ultra-modern IBC assembly line, the ECOBULK MX and SX models for the Indonesian market will be produced here. The significantly increased degree of automation results in significantly shorter cycle times. To achieve this, the entire plant layout was designed for optimal process chains and efficient intralogistics. A significantly larger warehouse has also made customer logistics more flexible – warehouse orders can now be held on request. Particular attention was paid to creating ideal conditions for a permanently clean production environment.

Like all SCHÜTZ locations worldwide, the new plant in Karawang will comply with the FSSC 22000 industry standard, which documents maximum safety and purity of materials, production processes and products. Preparations are currently underway for the complex certification process. Once the certification has been attained, the new plant will be able to produce our FOODCERT packaging. We also plan to install our own Reco line for reconditioning used IBCs as part of our SCHÜTZ TICKET SERVICE.

ALWAYS CLOSE TO CUSTOMERS AND MARKETS

The new plant is part of our growth plan in Southeast Asia. We have been active in Indonesia since 2005, initially with a small sales office in Jakarta under the management of SCHÜTZ Malaysia. In 2013, we finally opened our own production facility in Karawang. The new factory greatly shortened transport distances in Indonesia, a country with a land area that is spread over more than 17,000 islands. It also allowed us to boost supply security for customers in Southeast Asia. Optimised logistics also reduced fuel consumption, lowered costs and improved the environmental balance. In addition, our local subsidiaries allow us to assess and serve local markets even better. The continual expansion of our global network ideally unites economic and environmental advantages.
As a major metalworking company with four of our own steel service centres worldwide, SCHÜTZ also has decades of experience in the production of steel drums. Unlike other manufacturers who are scaling down their capacities, we are continuously expanding this competence by enlarging our worldwide steel drum network. This will allow us to remain a reliable partner for our customers and fully meet their requirements in terms of quality, delivery reliability and service now and in the future. Following our tried-and-tested, fully autono-

SCHÜTZ CONTINUES TO INVEST IN ITS WORLDWIDE STEEL DRUM PRODUCTION NETWORK

SCHÜTZ revolutionised the transport of liquid products with the invention of the IBC, and we are constantly opening up new fields of application by introducing innovative material and design solutions. However, steel drums remain the product of choice in many areas of application, largely due to their specific properties. Customers appreciate this classic bulk packaging for its universal applicability, its material-related electrical conductivity and because it gives the filling product natural protection against UV radiation and permeation. In line with our claim to having the ideal packaging solution for every supply chain, SCHÜTZ is committed to on-going investment in our steel drum segment, and particularly in the expansion of our global steel drum production.
mous production concept, the drums are manufactured worldwide according to standardised and comprehensively controlled processes, thus allowing us to guarantee that our steel drums have the same high quality on all continents.

In addition to our plant in Selters, we manufacture steel drums in Moerdijk in the Netherlands, Vilaseca in Spain and Houston in Texas/USA. Since spring 2018, we have also been represented in Mexico by SCHÜTZ ELSA, a wholly owned subsidiary. Thanks to our Steel Service Centers in Europe, the USA and Asia, we can respond quickly and flexibly to customer requirements and guarantee maximum supply security. This is a decisive argument for many of our customers.

**EXTENSIVE INVESTMENT IN THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY**

SCHÜTZ is continuously upgrading its existing steel drum plants and expanding by opening new plants. Our extensive investment programme in Selters kicked off with the complete rebuilding of the coating line. As a result, practically the entire production line was brought up to the latest technical standard with the objective of further increasing production quality, capacity and flexibility. New lines for bung closures, screen printing, shell moulding and fully automatic palletisation were successively put into operation. The latter allows us to implement the individual loading schemes for our customers even faster – and with their choice of plastic straps, machine cord or stretch film. The latest investments include a new folding machine and a sophisticated helium leak testing system, elevating quality and safety of SCHÜTZ steel drums to a new level. In the USA, we started production of steel drums at our plant in Houston, Texas, in 2016. The highly efficient plant offers our usual top quality. We recently forged ahead with the expansion of steel drum production for the North American region with our new Mexican subsidiary SCHÜTZ ELSA, which produces a wide range of product variants for the local market.

In addition to our standard range, we also offer steel drums for special applications – such as the special 216.5 L tight-head drum.

**PROVEN PACKAGING FOR EVERYDAY USE**

Steel drums are highly effective in daily use thanks to their simple handling. They are easy to move with grippers or can be rolled. In addition, the material itself has a number of advantages: steel drums are generally conductive and can therefore be used without further precautions in hazardous areas. UV radiation and permeation are no problem for filling goods in steel drums, meaning that even sensitive products are always protected. Steel drums are also very robust when used for particularly hot or cold filling products.

A special internal coating, adapted to the respective filling material, ensures that the surface is resistant to a wide variety of chemicals. The steel drums also meet special requirements with regard to corrosion protection and maintaining product purity. This makes steel drums ideal for a broad range of applications in a wide variety of industries: from mineral oil and lubricants to chemicals, paints and coatings to the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries.

**FROM STANDARD TO SPECIAL**

We manufacture our corrugated steel tight-head and corrugated steel open-head drums in a variety of sizes. The volumes of our product range include 216.5 to 250 litres for tight-head drums and 210 to 230 litres for open-head drums. Sheets with wall thicknesses between 0.8 and 1.2 millimetres are used to make the drums. For the Mexican market, SCHÜTZ ELSA also produces smaller models with a capacity of 30 litres and higher. We deliver the drums uncoated or coated inside, individually or palletised as required by the customer.
In addition to our standard range, we also offer steel drums for special applications – such as the special 216.5 L tight-head drum. This model is only available from SCHÜTZ! In addition to the two bung openings in the top, it has a third opening with a nominal width of 230 to allow the immersion of agitators with folding wings. The packaging is ideal for highly viscous filling products that require stirring before discharge because the stirring process can take place directly inside the drum. This ensures greater cleanliness and optimum residual emptying. SCHÜTZ offers the cylindrical open-head drum 213 L for automatic drum emptying. As the drum is non-corrugated, it fits perfectly into drum pump systems. The pump creates a radial seal between the product and the drum, thus guaranteeing clean and uniform discharge processes for the end user.

We underline the unmistakable brand identity of our customers by providing the appropriate drum design.

As a full solution provider for packaging needs, SCHÜTZ can also comply with individual branding wishes. We underline the unmistakable brand identity of our customers by providing the appropriate drum design. A choice of stove enamel finishes in any colour can be selected, and company or brand logos can be applied using the latest screen printing technology.

Thanks to our wide range of individualisation options, a comprehensive choice of applications for products from the most diverse branches of industry, and the development of innovative variants, the SCHÜTZ steel drum remains a genuine all-rounder that continues to occupy an important place in the world of bulk packaging.
An especially critical issue is that viscous coatings require stirring before they can be used. However, even the immersion of a stirrer carries the potential risk of contamination. Every time the packaging is opened or closed and any form of contact with other equipment can cause contamination. With these potential risks along the supply chain, it is reassuring to know that packaging manufacturers, fillers and consumers can work together to prevent this happening. Together, these stakeholders can significantly increase efficiency in the day-to-day handling of coatings.

SAFE AND EFFICIENT RIGHT FROM THE WORD GO

SCHÜTZ has been supplying Karl Wörwag Lack- und Farbenfabrik with IBCs since 2003. The coating manu-

TEAMWORK FOR GLEAMING COATING RESULTS

Industrial packaging occupies a key role in supply chains. In highly demanding industries, packaging is used to store and transport high-value products, and hence makes a crucial contribution to maintaining quality. This applies in particular to modern automotive coatings: the sensitive coatings used in today’s high-tech automotive industry are applied in layers that are only a tenth of a millimetre thick. It is crucial to avoid any kind of contamination with surfactant substances, such as silicone oils and fats. These products frequently lead to wetting defects in the coating, which impair both the appearance and the perfection and can also severely compromise the coating’s protective function. This leads to follow-on processes which generate considerable additional costs. Maximum risk minimisation from the very start is absolutely essential.
facturer, headquartered in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen, develops and produces high-quality paints for a wide range of industrial applications: from vehicle interiors and exteriors to car bodies, commercial vehicles, household appliances and the furniture industry. Our business relationship has grown steadily over the years. We also work closely with Samvardhana Motherson Peguform (SMP Automotive), a major customer of Wörwag. The specialist for plastic-based components supplies major automobile manufacturers in Europe, China, Mexico, Brazil and the USA with ready-coated bumpers and other car body parts.

Wörwag and SMP were seeking a solution to minimise the risk of contamination during filling and subsequent processing of clear coatings and primers. SCHÜTZ had the ideal packaging: an IBC from the CLEANCERT line configured to support the process with an IMPELLER and an SS6x4 bung. Thanks to the integrated IMPELLER, the container can remain closed throughout the entire supply chain from filling to emptying. At the same time, the contents can be easily and effectively stirred. Conventional stirrers are no longer required and the risk of contamination is significantly reduced. The system is available for all 1,000 and 1,250 litre ECOBULK types with DN 150 and DN 225 filling openings. “These advantages absolutely convinced us, and that is why we use SCHÜTZ’S CLEANCERT IBC for clear coatings and primers as these products are particularly sensitive to surface defects”, says Benno Beuter, application engineer at Wörwag. The coatings specialist orders empty IBCs which are delivered and stored in-house as a further safety and hygiene measure.

At Wörwag’s customer SMP the filled containers are also delivered to a covered area and stored under roof. The CLEANCERT IBCs score yet again at the automotive supplier’s central warehouse, particularly in comparison to the steel containers previously often used for these purposes. Up to four IBCs can be stacked on top of each other – instead of only two steel containers, meaning that the CLEANCERT models also ensure that the available space is used more efficiently. The downtime of empty containers is also significantly reduced to a maximum of seven days thanks to collection by the SCHÜTZ TICKET SERVICE. Empty steel containers remained in the plant for up to one month, which occasionally caused bottlenecks in the company’s warehouse.

**LOWER SPEED – GENTLE STIRRING PROCESS**

During processing in the air-conditioned paint mixing room, clear coats, primers and base coats are continuously stirred to ensure a homogeneous consistency. In order to determine the advantages of the CLEANCERT IBC + IMPELLER closed packaging system in practice, SMP conducted a series of tests, each lasting several weeks. The disposable stirrer is connected to the screw cap of the IBC and is fitted at the SCHÜTZ factory. A conventional drive system can be connected without requiring major modifications or conversions. In the SMP test series a model by the agitator manufacturer Planetroll was used. If required, as part of its services, we can arrange contact with this cooperation partner. Planetroll is very familiar with the system, and the company’s portfolio...
includes complete drive solutions with all the necessary components such as transversals, couplings and steel shafts. The drive is placed above the screw cap and fixed to the steel grid with a frame. The drive shaft is inserted into the hollow shaft of the IMPELLER and fits in the hub; the rotation of the drive is passed on to the IMPELLER inside the container. The three movable blades of the IMPELLER’s bucket agitator change their position depending on the centrifugal force. The speed can be individually adjusted to the filling level.

The result of the comparative test: with external steel stirrers, 140 to 200 revolutions per minute were required for homogenisation. This high speed led to increased microfoam formation due to air intake into the product. When stirring with the SCHÜTZ IMPELLER, however, 80 to 110 revolutions were sufficient. The lower speed ensured gentle stirring processes with optimum results. Anton Krojer, the SMP application engineer in charge of the test series, is highly satisfied with the positive test results: “Thanks to the efficient stirring processes, we no longer need preparatory homogenisation measures prior to a container change.” Since the IBC including the IMPELLER and traverse drive can be transported flexibly and considerably less time is required for homogenisation, it was possible to connect the container directly to the production line after the drive had been installed and feed the paint in directly. This eliminates the need for a previously required preparatory step at an additional station. The company uses the S56x4 bung to take samples for viscosity measurement and/or to add setting or correction agents, if necessary, during the stirring process.

“The use of the IMPELLER as a disposable system completely rules out the risk of contamination due to resid-
ual product adhering to the stirrer. This greatly increases process reliability”, explains Manfred Guttmann, head of the paint shop at SMP. “This eliminates the complex and time-consuming cleaning process for the agitator, as well as other risks. Employees no longer have to handle solvent-based cleaning agents which greatly improves work safety.” The multiple-week test phase in the production of components for bumpers using CLEANCERT IBCs and IMPELLERs impressively confirmed all theoretical aspects of the optimisation and revealed business management advantages: SMP was able to dramatically reduce the amount of work spent on corrections. This special cooperation showed how important it is to involve all companies along the supply chain.

PREVENTION DURING THE PRODUCTION OF CLEANCERT PRODUCTS

CLEANCERT offers the highest level of technical cleanliness and safety for product and process; all components that come into contact with the filling product are free from silicone. The initial idea for the development of this product was the certification of all production sites according to the industry standard FSSC 22000, combined with the implementation of numerous specifications within the framework of the HACCP and FMEA standards. These apply to buildings, plants and the entire production environment. One aspect is detailed hygiene regulations. For example, employees must change their gloves and clean the workplace before starting production. There are also measures to prevent contamination or dust, as well as glass and blade management procedures. Maintenance regulations and checks on the machines, systematic pest control throughout the entire factory premises, requirements for the controlled use of all working materials, especially greases and lubricants, and a secure goods receipt complete the package.

SEAMLESS TRACEABILITY

We manufacture our CLEANCERT packaging just-in-time on the basis of specific customer orders: the IBC inner bottles are transferred to the final assembly stage and installed immediately after the blowing process. Each production step and each component can be clearly assigned to the corresponding packaging. Identification via a barcode system enables complete traceability, right down to the batch and process level. On request, we can also assign individual identification numbers for articles or packaging materials.
Finished CLEANCERT IBCs are loaded indoors and shipped directly without intermediate storage. Pre-produced components such as screw caps, outlet valves or bung plugs are also hygienically packed in small quantities and stored separately. If dispatch is to take place at a later date, the containers are stored in special closed rooms. Optional plastic covers offer additional protection. Combined, all of these precautions make a considerable contribution to maintaining the quality of the subsequent filling product.

Positive effect of the IBC + IMPELLER packaging system: Fewer corrections required during the final inspection.

Each production step and each component can be clearly assigned to the corresponding packaging.

Detailed information about the SCHÜTZ IMPELLER is provided in a specially produced product video. The film shows which applications the disposable stirrer is suitable for, illustrates its easy handling and provides useful tips. The equipment required for operation is also presented. Animations provide a glimpse inside an IBC during the effective stirring processes with the IMPELLER. If you are interested in this video, get in touch with your contact person at SCHÜTZ or send an e-mail to Technical Customer Service: tcs@schuetz.net
AIRCONOMY® now has the ideal package for any size of living area, including kits for 100 m², 150 m² and 200 m². The pre-assembled kits simplify the installation of the underfloor heating system and controlled ventilation.

AIRCONOMY® provides fresh air and a comfortable indoor temperature. This acclaimed system combines controlled ventilation with heat recovery and warm water underfloor heating. Previously, the components for each construction project were planned individually and assembled specifically. Due to the large demand and based on our many years of experience, we have now developed new AIRCONOMY® basic packages. These pre-assembled full packages give the customer a complete heating and ventilation system based on a modular principle.
kit comprises the ventilation unit, the exhaust air duct system as well as the exhaust air disc valves and the combination cover.

The packages can, of course, also be used separately. This gives the customer the option of choosing only the floor construction with the AIRCONOMY® system module or only the ventilation unit. This means that the AIRCONOMY® basic packages can be combined to meet the individual specifications of any construction project. If the AIRCONOMY® cooling function is also required, this can be purchased separately.

The new basic packages optimise AIRCONOMY® ordering and delivery processes. They allow wholesalers to order the complete system with just a single article number, without running the risk of forgetting components or having to store them individually. Shipping is also fast and easy. The basic packages also contain an illustrated parts list and are packed ex-works in the same order in which they are installed.

The AIRCONOMY® basic packages can be combined to meet the individual specifications of any construction project.

SOUND INSULATION:
AIRCONOMY® does not require additional sound damping in the supply air duct network, thus saving money and space.

ABSOLUTELY HYGIENIC:
AIRCONOMY® has been certified by the Hygiene Institute in Gelsenkirchen and is supremely easy to clean.

PLEASANT RADIANT HEAT:
The AIRCONOMY® system lets you enjoy a high degree of comfort.

HIGH ENERGY EFFICIENCY:
Thanks to efficient heat recovery AIRCONOMY® uses less energy than conventional underfloor heating systems.

10-YEAR GUARANTEE:
AIRCONOMY® is a mature and proven technology.
Since the end of April, an additional advanced splitting line has also been in operation. These additions enable us to expand our range of products and services and open up many new steel-processing options for our competence centre. Additional systems, individually tailored to shelving and high rack manufacturers, automotive suppliers, plant construction and mechanical engineering, are in the pipeline.

The new line can produce split strips with a width of up to 1,850 millimetres and a thickness of up to 4.0 millimetres. The system continuously measures the thickness and width of the material during splitting and it includes pit detection for holes smaller than 0.1 square millimetres. This exceptional measuring accuracy ensures top quality. The new splitting line can also process sensitive surfaces such as pre-coated materials or steel for the automotive industry, and it even cuts effortlessly through high-strength steel grades for special applications.

Approximately 1,000 tons of flat steel are processed every day at our sites in Selters and Siershahn. This year, to keep pace with demand, our Siershahn Steel Service Center was enlarged to include a new hall complex with around 15,000 square meters of space.

**SCHÜTZ STEEL SERVICE CENTER: NEW SPLITTING PLANT IN AN ULTRA-MODERN HALL COMPLEX**
Depending on size, up to 20,000 tons of coils can be stored in the automatic warehouse; the total storage capacity is 60,000 tons. Intelligent management software ensures that the coils are stored with maximum efficiency. The software is capable of differentiating between A, B and C coils. The production lines request the material through the warehouse management system in advance and the coils are supplied accordingly. The magnet crane and coil transport trolleys are also controlled by the warehouse management system and run fully automatically.

**A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS FOR MANY INDUSTRIES**

The roughly 140,000-square-meter site in Siershahn opened in November 2008. It has its own railway sidings and is centrally located between Cologne and Frankfurt, directly off the A3 motorway. Coils of up to 35 tons are delivered by rail. Modern splitting lines divide these coils up into precisely split strips. The product range includes coils and blanks, split strips made of hot-dip galvanized, hot-rolled and cold-rolled sheet. The latter are used, for example, by customers in the furniture, automotive and construction industries as well for steel profiles and in warehouse fittings.

The new splitting line at the Steel Service Center Siershahn produces split strips in a single pass and at very high speeds; widths range from 18 to 1,850 millimetres and thicknesses from 0.4 to 4.0 millimetres. The cut-to-length line can produce blanks with a width of 400 to 1,600 millimetres and a length of up to 6,000 millimetres in thicknesses of between 0.4 and 3.0 millimetres.

**KNOW-HOW AND CERTIFIED QUALITY**

SCHÜTZ has been processing steel in its own factory ever since the company was founded. We manufacture the steel components for our products in the PACKAGING SYSTEMS and ENERGY SYSTEMS business units. This in-house portfolio ranges from the production of steel drums to pallet components, bottom plates and steel grids for our IBCs. Our customers also use the services provided by our INDUSTRIAL SERVICES division. Using modern cut-to-length and splitting lines, we produce plate bars and pre-cut parts, coils and split strips to our customers’ individual requirements. This enables them to benefit from the expertise we have built over many years in machining and processing flat-rolled steel grades. We guarantee reliable delivery and the highest quality standards. Highly efficient production and carefully planned logistics help to save natural resources. As well as stringent testing in our own laboratory, certification according to DIN EN ISO 9001:2015 ensures that all processes adhere to high quality standards.
With more and more companies operating worldwide as a result of increasing globalization it became necessary to redefine the ISO standard. Many enterprises follow local occupational health and safety requirements. In order to create and promote uniform standards, these had to be defined in a new, internationally applicable guideline. After all, safe and healthy workplaces are a fundamental requirement for effective work processes and a clear indicator of quality and performance. It is precisely for this reason that the “Project Committee PC 283” of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was commissioned to craft the new standard for occupational health and safety.

**WHAT IS NEW IN ISO 45001?**

Like ISO 9001:2015, the new standard for occupational health and safety is based on what is called the High Level Structure. Compared to the previous OHSAS 18001, the biggest change is the greater consistency of the structure, uniformly used terms and simpler integration into existing management systems. In addition, the spotlight has also shifted to include the company’s environment and economic performance.
context. The new standard does not just consider the effects of health and safety aspects on the company’s own organization, they are also seen in a broader context. External interest groups such as suppliers and authorities must be taken into account, as must employees as an internal interest group. An important part of the audit is how risks and opportunities are handled and the so-called consultation – which describes how employees are involved as well as setting clear rules for internal and external communication. This is complemented by the involvement of external companies and careful consideration of the resources required to implement the system.

**STANDARDISATION BOOSTS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Special emphasis is placed on the involvement of top management, who are to be more closely involved in issues relating to occupational health and safety and are to play a leading role. We have always embraced this approach at SCHÜTZ, and it is considered good practice throughout the company. Compared to the previous OHSAS 18001, the new standard contains much clearer requirements for the early detection of health and safety risks to allow the necessary changes and preventive measures to be implemented with the appropriate lead-time. These measures reduce the number of accidents at work and work-related illnesses. This strong social responsibility towards employees boosts the company’s reputation in business and society. SCHÜTZ has long recognized the benefits of these standards and we have implemented them in our business activities. They are an inherent part of SCHÜTZ’s own Corporate Social Responsibility.

**CERTIFICATIONS ARE PART OF THE CORPORATE STRATEGY**

The swift adaptation of the new standards to occupational health and safety management systems reinforces our strategy and philosophy as a global player. We believe that this new standard is an effective instrument for all enterprises that are committed to the sustainable reduction of occupational and health risks, and want to demonstrate their commitment. For packaging specialists SCHÜTZ, it represents a working basis to which we have been committed for decades. We perform numerous checks that go beyond proof of compliance with legal requirements. These include risk assessments for workplaces – especially in cooperation with external companies, ensuring that employees have the appropriate skills by providing induction training for each new colleague, and providing other training courses. SCHÜTZ also regularly evaluates the systems that are in place by conducting internal audits, management reviews and safety inspections amongst other measures.
We provide a comprehensive choice of 21 apprentice-ships and five dual courses of study that focus on manual, technical or commercial skills to set our trainees on the path to a fulfilling vocation. With such a wide choice, there’s something for everyone. Those with a bent for technology and metalworking, for example, can put their skills to work as a tool mechanic in the field of mould technology. We provide the relevant know-how and create a solid basis for the start of young careers.

At SCHÜTZ, tool mechanics specializing in mould technology build, repair and optimize blow moulds for the production of plastic parts – for example those used in our many different types of IBCs. This is a task that requires the application of a range of metalworking processes: drilling, milling, turning, grinding and filing. Our apprentices produce moulded parts manually and mechanically using 3D models, designs and drawings. The key factors here are ensuring that all shapes and dimensions are accurate and producing the specified surface quality.

Youngsters looking for a wide-ranging, practical apprenticeship with good future prospects in a diverse field can find exactly what they want at SCHÜTZ. At our headquarters in Selters, Germany, more than 100 apprentices are building a foundation for their future careers in a range of different vocations.
The training for our tool mechanics starts with a basic course at our modern vocational centre. Next up is the main section of the course, which takes place in our tool shop on the high-tech processing machines we have here. All the individual parts are manufactured here and are then assembled to build new systems in the mechanical engineering department. The components are also used worldwide at our locations as spare parts. In the first step, the skilled workers of the future learn how to handle manually-guided tools; then, they are taught how to operate and programme the CNC-controlled machine tools. Their main tasks include manufacturing, assembling, maintaining, inspecting and repairing blow moulds, smaller assemblies and assembly devices. A wide range of different auxiliary and machining tools are used. Tobias Fritsch, a first-year apprentice tool mechanic, explains what he likes about his job: “I particularly enjoy the high practical relevance of my training. We work a lot in a team and learn how to assemble complete tools and moulds from individual workpieces.” The 19-year-old first heard about SCHÜTZ as a training company from friends. A trial working day at our headquarters in Selters convinced him that this was the career path he wanted to take and he knew that SCHÜTZ was the ideal place to learn the skill set he needed.

EXCELLENT TRAINING FROM DAY ONE

As a modern company with a strong sense of social responsibility, we support our apprentices from the very outset and strive to meet their individual needs. This starts in the introductory week, when entertainment and information are combined in an appealing package to welcome the newcomers. The programme also includes basic safety issues. It’s a great way for the youngsters to get to know the other apprentices and meet the company’s instructors. From day one, practical skills and theory go hand in hand: theoretical training blocks at the vocational college are flanked by weekly manual training sessions at the factory which are divided up according to training years and vocations. The knowledge and skills that have been learned are applied and practiced here. The apprentices have access to modern equipment, and SCHÜTZ is committed to investing continually in the latest machinery and systems.

“Once I have successfully completed my apprenticeship, I definitely want to stay with SCHÜTZ.”
The lessons at the factory provide the skills the apprentices need to operate autonomously and complete their own projects. The youngsters are also involved in real projects and individually prepared for their final examination. A cross-departmental curriculum allows them to look beyond their own department, facilitating an understanding of internal relationships and processes. As soon as they have learned the basics, our apprentices receive further training in new machining centres according to their respective abilities and are prepared for their work after completing their apprenticeship. Provided their motivation and performance are satisfactory, there is a good chance of being taken on by SCHÜTZ. The apprentices spend the final months of their training working in their future departments and are ready to get properly started immediately after the final examination.

QUALIFICATIONS WITH A PROMISING PERSPECTIVE

SCHÜTZ continues to invest in qualification measures and provides employees with targeted support should they want to continue with further training. This is also an option for Tobias Fritsch: “Once I have successfully completed my apprenticeship, I definitely want to stay with SCHÜTZ. The next goal could be further training to become a technician or even a master craftsman.” With our global corporate presence and many worldwide locations, there are virtually no limits to the opportunities we can offer. The parent plant in Selters is often the stepping-stone to an international career.