SCHULER

FORMING THE FUTURE

PRESS RELEASE

Schuler Automation Hessdorf celebrates 50th anniversary

Company has been developing and manufacturing coil lines, blanking lines and transfer systems since 1963

Göppingen, June 14, 2013 – What began in 1963 as a small garage business in Erlangen, Germany, has since become part of a globally operating corporation: Schuler Automation today celebrated its 50th anniversary in Hessdorf, Germany. Some 450 customers and staff gathered at the company's base in Louis-Schuler-Strasse, its home since the early 90s, to look back on its milestones of the past decades, enjoy a factory tour, and together toast this special achievement.

"For a company to grow and successfully compete on the international market over so many years, it needs to get plenty of things right," said the Schuler Group's CEO Stefan Klebert. "And Schuler Automation certainly got many things right." With over 340 employees, Schuler Automation in Hessdorf has regularly proven its high degree of innovation with developments such as founder Hermann Schleicher's pneumatic grippers, to high-performance blanking lines, and pioneering part transfer systems for press lines. "Automation has made us a successful, one-stop supplier of equipment for the entire metalforming sector," stated Klebert.

"Over the years, we have continually enhanced our three product lines: coil lines, blanking lines and transfer systems," added Managing Director Stephan Mergner. "With new products – such as the Intra Trans – we are increasingly tapping the modernization market and also targeting new customer groups with our innovative laser blanking line. We believe this will generate further growth for us in future." The Technology Field Automation, which also includes the Group's Gemmingen facility, has more than doubled its sales over the last five years and now accounts for around 15 percent of consolidated revenue. New orders received by the Hessdorf plant alone were more than 200 times higher than the one million deutschmarks generated in 1963, the year of its foundation.

"When Hermann Schleicher took the bold step of setting up his own business, he possessed all those qualities and characteristics which distinguish the most successful founders of this era: a wealth of ideas, tremendous courage, an unshakeable trust in his own knowledge and skills, a willingness to take risks, and a reliable group of colleagues to accompany him on his journey," stated Commercial Director Bernhard Kraus in his eulogy of the popular "old-school boss" who passed away in 2005. "Today, two generations later, we would like show our respect and pay tribute to a man whose hard work and creativity laid the foundation for what we are celebrating today: the successful development of a company over half a century. And this company, which has belonged to Schuler since 1990, will not only honor the legacy of its founder, but continue its sustainable development with its eyes fixed firmly on the future."

Captions

Bild1.jpg: Around 450 customers and employees came to Schuler Automation in Heßdorf to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

Bild2.jpg: Managing Director Stephan Mergner welcomed the guests and thanked the employees for their long-lasting engagement.

Bild3.jpg: At plant tours, Schuler Automation's products could be seen.

Please name Schuler as the photo source.

About the Schuler Group – www.schulergroup.com

As the technological and global market leader in metalforming, Schuler supplies machines, production lines, dies, process know-how and services for the entire metal-working industry. Its clients include car manufacturers and their suppliers, as well as companies in the forging, household equipment, packaging, energy and electrical industries. Schuler is also the market leader in coin minting technology and supplies systems solutions for the aerospace and railway industries. The company employs around 5,500 people and is represented by its own facilities and sales offices in 40 nations around the world. In fiscal year 2011/12 (ending Sep. 30), Schuler posted sales of € 1,226.1 million. The Schuler Group can trace its roots back to a locksmith shop founded in Göppingen, Germany, by Louis Schuler in 1839. The company has produced metal-working machines since 1852. The Austrian Andritz Group today holds a majority share in Schuler.

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