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# Productivity tripled

## Powerline S blanking line with punch and cut-to-length shear accelerates production of edge profiles for Wirth GmbH

*Göppingen/Landsberg, July 23, 2015* – The German company Wirth GmbH faced a decision two years ago: whether to add a punch to its 20-year-old blanking line or buy a completely new machine? In the end, the Managing Director, Production Manager and machine operators made a joint decision in favor of the Powerline S with integrated, fully automatic punch supplied by Schuler. The machine was put into operation a few weeks ago and is already demonstrating the wisdom of the acquisition.

“We received an order for 34 metric tons of edge profiles which a single employee was able to complete within eight hours with the new coil line,” reports Production Manager Rainer Roth. “That’s a huge saving. With the old machine, it would have taken at least 24 hours and required two employees.” At the very least, these would have been needed to load the heavy, up to six-meter-long parts onto the punch-nibbling line for perforation after decoiling, straightening and cutting to length.

As the new system does away with such heavy physical work, it also quickly found favor with the operators. Moreover, staff were involved from an early stage in the decision-making process. As Roth says: “Although they had to adapt initially, they enjoy working on such a modern machine.” With features such as the automatic loading and rewinding of the coil, as well as coil edge regulation and many other functions – straightening, perforating, punching, notching, embossing, part marking and cutting – Schuler’s Powerline S has a far higher level of automation than its predecessor.

## Acquisition necessitated by expanded product range

Wirth GmbH ultimately realized the need to invest in advanced technology when the company added purlins and crossbars – the load-bearing elements for hall roofs and walls – to its range of edge profiles: “It complemented our product portfolio and the market for such parts is growing,” explains Managing Director Holger Schadwinkel. “We therefore needed favorable production possibilities in order to keep up with the competition. Our old line couldn't offer us such conditions, though.” After all, purlins and crossbars are generally perforated and the existing machine did not have an automatic punch unit.

“We knew that Schuler had built such lines,” adds Roth. “So we sent an enquiry and defined what exactly we expected.” One condition was that the same control software should be used as on Wirth’s other machines. “Schuler agreed – despite the fact it had no experience with this system,” says Schadwinkel. “That was ultimately what made us choose the Powerline S.”

## “Machine delivering on its promise”

“With a project like this, it’s only natural that there are one or two difficulties along the way,” reflects Roth. “Some minor details are not noticed until the machine is actually in operation. But Schuler met all our wishes and presented us with working solutions. The acceptance process was also perfectly organized from start to finish. I was particularly impressed with this aspect.”

And the final verdict? “The machine does exactly what it promises,” says Production Manager Roth. “Schuler met all our requirements in full.” “We’re in safe hands with Schuler,” agrees Managing Director Schadwinkel. “They’re true professionals.”

## Internet

[www.schulergroup.com/Power\_Line\_S](http://www.schulergroup.com/Power_Line_S) (PDF with 0.4 MB)

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**Captions**

Bild1.jpg: Edge profile manufacturer Wirth in Landsberg near Halle (Saale), Germany, launched production on a Schuler Powerline S a few weeks ago.

Bild2.jpg: The highly automated blanking line has lifted the company’s production of edge profiles to a new level.

Bild3.jpg: Managing Director Holger Schadwinkel and Production Manager Rainer Roth were able to expand the company’s product spectrum with the new machine.

Bild4.jpg: This is mainly due to the integrated and fully automated punch for perforating load-bearing elements like purlins and profiles.

Bild5.jpg: The Powerline S allows the automatic loading and rewinding of coils.

Bild6.jpg: Schuler’s range of services naturally also includes extensive consultation.

*Please name Schuler as the photo source.*

***About the Schuler Group –*** [***www.schulergroup.com***](http://www.schulergroup.com)

*Schuler is the technological and global market leader in forming equipment. The company offers cutting edge presses, automation, dies, process know-how and services for the entire metal forming industry and lightweight vehicle construction. Its clients include car manufacturers and their suppliers, as well as companies in the forging, household equipment, packaging, energy and electrical industries. Schuler is the market leader in coin minting presses and supplies systems solutions for the aerospace, railway and large pipe industries. In fiscal year 2014, Schuler posted sales of € 1.18 billion. With around 5,400 employees, Schuler is represented in 40 countries and is a member of the Austrian ANDRITZ Group.*

***About Wirth GmbH –*** [***www.wirth-gmbh.com***](http://www.wirth-gmbh.com)

*Founded in 1992 and based in Landsberg near Halle (Saale), Germany, Wirth GmbH offers edge profiles and lightweight steel sections for industrial and commercial construction, machine construction and utility and speciality vehicle manufacturing. The product spectrum includes not only load-bearing crossbars and purlins up to 4 mm in material thickness, but also high-precision body sheet metal up to 12,000 mm in length for buses. The company also produces vacuum lifting equipment for transporting and assembling roof and wall elements made from sheet metal or glass. With around 50 employees, Wirth GmbH generated total sales of approx. € 7.5 million.*