# PRESS RELEASE

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## Test run proves decisive

## For the production of stampings from high-strength steel with maximum flatness and precision, SKA in Attendorn uses Schuler’s highly rigid fine leveling machine

*Göppingen/Attendorn, August 05, 2015* – Precision stampings not only require cutting-edge press and die technology, but also high-performance levelers: several rollers straighten the sheet metal as it leaves the coil and eliminate any defects – such as cross bows which cannot be completely avoided in production – with the aid of an alternate bending process. The specific requirements for an optimum straightening process are defined by the material and finished component. In order to find the right machine, it was important for SKA and Schuler to define precisely which materials would be used in production for which end products.

“Until the end of the 90s, we used levelers with nine rollers as we used to produce guide rails from relatively soft materials,” recalls Guido Schneider, SKA’s Chief Technology Officer. However, the requirements regarding materials and tolerances for part quality have grown steadily over the years and this necessitated the use of classic multi-roller levelers. But even these machines were not completely suitable for the targeted production portfolio.

Schuler then offered to run tests with different strips of material on a leveler for one day, in addition to providing on-site expertise. “It turned out that the number of rollers was not the decisive factor,” reports Schneider. “In fact, a 17-roller machine with significantly higher rigidity was the better choice for us.”

One year later, in June 2014, the fine leveling machine was finally put into operation upstream of a 400-metric-ton press supplied by Schuler – one of seven at SKA. The overall system not only increased output and part quality, but even decreased energy consumption.

“The line has since been running without any downtime and has not given us any problems,” says Guido Schneider. “Looking back, I have to say that the test day was the decisive factor for us. Schuler proved that the fine leveler could straighten cross bows in exactly the quality we need. In the past, we often had to readjust the die on a press because the material properties changed within a few meters. Obviously, this also depends on the quality of the coil, but the Schuler device can generally balance out fluctuations so well that nothing is noticed in the die or product. I would definitely work together with Schuler again.”

**Captions**

Bild1.jpg: SKA’s new fine leveling machine is positioned upstream of a 400-metric-ton press, also supplied by Schuler.

Bild2.jpg: With just 17 rollers, the highly rigid machine effectively balances out fluctuations in the coil stock.

Bild3.jpg: Guido Schneider, SKA’s CTO, measures the flatness of the coil material compared to the straightened coil stock.

Bild4.jpg: Guido Schneider (right) with the extremely flat and precise component produced by the overall system.

*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 SKA – [www.ska-attendorn.de](http://www.ska-attendorn.de)***

*Based in Attendorn, Germany, SKA GmbH & Co. KG produces precision stampings for automotive safety systems, such as seat belt systems, seats and airbags. It uses modern press lines with up to 630 metric tons of force and dies four meters long, as well as sophisticated plant technology that enables minute part tolerances in large-scale production. The company also assembles around five million seat belt components per year and produces near-series prototypes, also with its own die construction. SKA – the acronym stands for “Stamping Knowledge Attendorn” – can look back on 25 years of experience. In 2014, its 75 employees generated sales of € 25.1 million.*