# PRESS RELEASE

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| **Schuler AG**  Bahnhofstrasse 41  73033 Göppingen  Germany  **Simon Scherrenbacher**  Integrated Communications  Phone +49 7161 66-7789  Fax +49 7161 66-907  [Simon Scherrenbacher@ schulergroup.com](mailto:Ingo.Schnaitmann@schulergroup.com)  [www.schulergroup.com/pr](http://www.schulergroup.com/pr) |

# More accurate parts and less wear

## Automotive supplier Fischer & Kaufmann improves both product quality and die life with a TwinServo press supplied by Schuler

*Finnentrop/Göppingen, June 14, 2016* – Car manufacturers attach great importance to the precision of the parts they source. Suppliers like Fischer & Kaufmann (Fiuka) are very much aware of this. Based in Germany’s Sauerland region, the company recently improved the accuracy of its products and extended the life of its dies with a new TwinServo press supplied by Schuler.

“We already have a number of presses from Schuler and Müller Weingarten in operation,” reports Site Manager Tobias Heutger: “The quality and performance are always exactly right for us.” With the new TwinServo press, Fiuka now has the most modern line available on the market. “We are generally open for new technologies,” says Tobias Heutger. “Ultimately though it was the price-performance ratio which was decisive.”

## External drawrods reduce slide tilting

Compared to conventional lines, for example, slide tilting is reduced significantly by TwinServo presses. This effect results from the machine’s design: as the drive unit is no longer located in the crown but under the press, the slide is pulled down by the drawrods. Together with the play-free guides, this not only improves the precision of the manufactured parts, but also significantly enhances process reliability and prolongs die lifetimes. In addition, the externally mounted drawrods ensure that the machine can be used to apply larger off-center forces.

Boasting a press force of 1,600 metric tons, the new line has been at the Finnentrop site since December last year. And although it is still not running at full capacity four months later, there are already indications of improved productivity: “Compared to our conventional presses, we can more than double the number of strokes per minute from a maximum of 16 to 34 now,” says Site Manager Tobias Heutger.

The high rigidity and low deflection of the overall system also reduces the blanking shock, which in turn means that the machine is much quieter. A further decisive factor for Fiuka was the low height of the TwinServo press, due to its missing crown.

## New transfer system raises output

However, not only the press itself is a technological innovation but also the line’s automation system: in addition to the coil line and highly dynamic zig-zag roll feed (PowerFeed) for optimized material usage, Schuler also supplied a newly developed transfer system.

In the so-called IntraFeed system, the grippers responsible for transporting the parts are not mounted on rails but on movable carriages with their own drive units. This significantly reduces the length of the transfer rails and thus of the entire line. One positive side-effect is that the reduced mass being moved results in higher output performance.

Thanks to these movable carriages, the forming stations can also be arranged in variable distances from each other. This opens up new possibilities in die design, as more forming stations can now be accommodated in the press bed. It is feasible, for example, to serve the individual cutting and subsequent forming stations with separate carriages. This allows the gaps between each station to be arranged in the best possible way.

Fiuka was so impressed by the TwinServo press and IntraFeed that it already ordered the second machine of this type from Schuler last year. The identical line is currently being delivered.

### Captions

Bild1.jpg: A 1,600-metric-ton press with TwinServo technology supplied by Schuler has been in operation at Fischer & Kaufmann in Finnentrop since December 2015.

Bild2.jpg: The line has enabled Fiuka to improve not only part quality, but also die life, process reliability and productivity.

Bild3.jpg: The high output performance is also a result of Schuler’s newly developed IntraFeed transfer system.

Bild4.jpg: Schuler also supplied the highly dynamic zig-zag roll feed (PowerFeed) for optimized material usage.

*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 2015 (ending Dec. 31), Schuler posted sales of € 1.2 billion. With around 5,200 employees, Schuler is represented in 40 countries and is a member of the Austrian ANDRITZ Group.*

***About Fischer & Kaufmann -*** [***www.fiuka.de***](http://www.fiuka.de)

*Founded in 1938, Fischer & Kaufmann (Fiuka) has decades of experience in cold metal forming engineering. The family-owned company manufactures parts and components for airbag, chassis, engine, gearbox and exhaust systems at its base in Finnentrop, Germany, and since 2005 in Poland. The automotive supplier was an early adopter of servo presses and currently processes steel, stainless steel, titanium and aluminum sheets on lines with pressing capacities ranging from 150 to 1,600 tons. The company’s employees have extensive know-how in the engineering and design of the necessary dies.*