

Continuing on the course to success

Diamond tool specialist, LACH DIAMANT, celebrates 90 years and expands Saxon premises



Die Diamanten verhelfen Werkzeugen für Dreh-, Fräs- und Bohroperationen mit zu hoher Widerstandsfähigkeit, so dass zukünftig unter Einsatz von „Cool Injection“-Kühlung direkt sogar Titan und Stahl bearbeitet werden kann. Alle Werkzeuge werden nach ISO mit CNC-gesteuerten Messmaschinen geprüft.

The diamonds help give tools for turning, milling and drilling operations a greater resistance, so that in future it will even be possible to directly process titanium and steel by means of "Cool Injection" cooling. All tools are tested using CNC-controlled measuring machines, in accordance with ISO specifications.

For almost a century the Hessian family business, Jakob Lach GmbH & Co. KG, named LACH DIAMANT for short, has been active within the market. In 2011, the plant in the Saxon town of Lichtenau celebrated its 20th anniversary. On July 13, Managing Directors Horst Lach and Graduate Engineer Robert Lach were able to celebrate the opening of the third phase of the corporate headquarters building.

Achieving corporate success through innovation

A glance into the history of the company shows that the ability of family members to adopt a broad perspective and to innovate has contributed considerably to its success. Established in 1922 as a diamond cutting facility for jewelries, Lach Diamant later specialized in industrial diamonds (PCD). Today the company is a global pioneer for the development and manufacture of diamond tools. The large number of patents and awards speak for the success of the company. For example, the most recent patented development from the company enables the machining of even carbon-containing materials such as cast iron or steel and titanium, using diamonds. "Through our new 'Cool Injection' development, we have optimized the cooling medium, thus making the diamond even harder. In future our customers will also be able to machine carbon-containing materials," says Horst Lach, who manages the company with his son, Robert.

Previously, Lach Diamant made a discovery in the form of electrical discharge machining, which revolutionized the economic production of rotary PCD tools for the automo-

tive, plastics and wood material industries. "With the new tools it was possible to process aluminum, and thus to manufacture lighter engines. Due to the light weight, the environmental performance of the vehicles was also improved," recalls Horst Lach. The specialist tools also experienced rapid sales within the aircraft industry and in the construction of wind power plants. Today the family company's established customer base includes Airbus and Volkswagen/Audi, as well as regional companies from the electronics, machine construction and medical technology industries.

A location for high-tech machining technology

This Saxon success story began in 1991. Having begun with just three, the team at Lach Diamant now includes 50 employees. They assemble tools for turning, milling and drilling operations using polycrystalline, synthetic diamonds – thus providing a greater resistance. "PCD can be reground several times and is therefore very economical," highlights Horst Lach. "We developed the necessary grinding machines ourselves."

With production having initially taken place within rented premises, in 1997 the company acquired its own building. As a result of the growing number of customers and orders placed, the first expansion followed suit in 2007. However, even these capacities were soon insufficient, meaning that a third construction phase was commissioned. With this third phase, the company doubled its existing operating space and, at 4000 square meters, the area of the building is almost quadruple that when originally built. "We have invested 3.5 million euros, and in the near future plan to take on up to 15 new employees," says Horst Lach. "As an ISO-certified company, we test all tools with an accuracy to the nearest thousandth of a millimeter (μ). To facilitate this, the extended measuring room with CNC-controlled measuring machines is now available." Today, Horst Lach is extremely proud when he looks back on the early days in Saxony. "We have always invested in the most up-to-date technology. Our success demonstrates that we conducted our business in the correct manner." As well as the headquarters in Hanau and the branch in Saxony, Lach Diamant has a subsidiary in Michigan (USA). The specialist tools are valued by customers around the world. "As a medium-sized family company in its third generation, we will strive with all our might to continue along this path, in order to live up to the trust that has been placed in us," promises Horst Lach.

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