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Kurtz Ersa Magazine

For Customers and Business Partners of Kurtz Ersa Corporation

SUSTAINABILITY.

DRIVEN BY KURTZ ERSA.

Machine Builder: Riding the Green Wave

Kurtz Ersa develops sustainability strategy

Ersa Innovations to touch

2nd Technology Forum with in-house exhibition in Wertheim

Future-Proof: Alpha 140

Entry into metallic 3D printing

GLOBAL. AHEAD. SUSTAINABLE.

kurtz ersa

Annual rings

Rainer Kurtz,
Chief Executive Officer
of the Kurtz Ersa Corporation

The preoccupation with the topic of sustainability has literally taken over us in the meantime. “GOGREEN250” is our ambitious program for CO_2 neutrality, which we want to have achieved for Kurtz Ersa by our 250th anniversary in 2029 at the latest. For a year now, we have been working consistently on this topic in several working groups, and many employees are also actively participating with constructive suggestions for sustainability. Some managers have already rolled up their sleeves and taken up a spade – simply planting a tree brings you very close to nature and you can see the success of your own work every day.

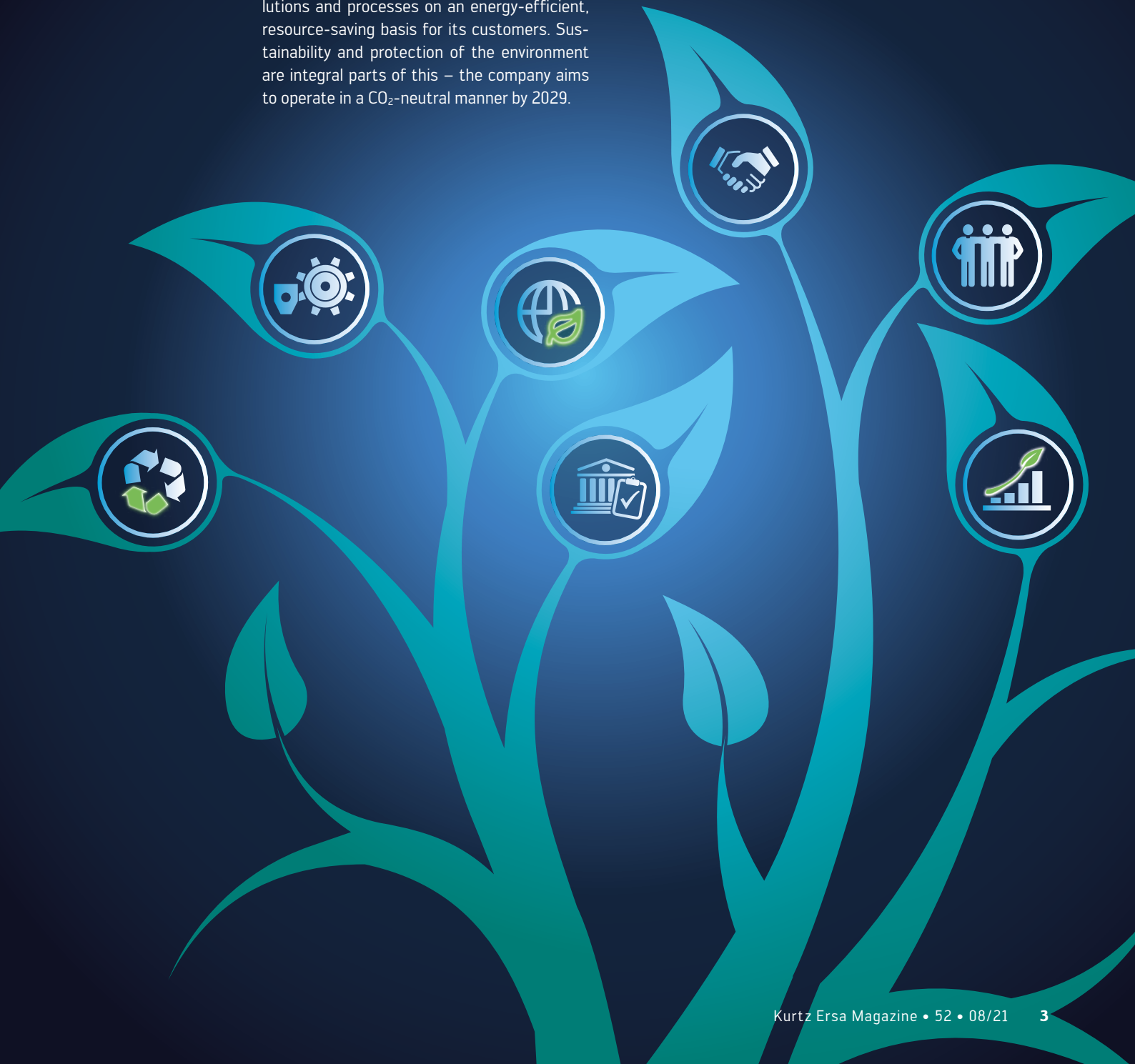
A more intensive view of the environment automatically leads to more empathy in our dealings with one another. Thus, our corporate principles are also under scrutiny, and we are currently adapting them to the new spirit. A key component of GOGREEN250 is the goal of helping our customers reduce their carbon footprint through particularly energy-efficient and low-emission products. This will keep us particularly busy over the next few years. Sustainability sometimes also involves looking back. Here, the year 2021 offers two internal anniversaries at once: 50 years of foam machines at Kurtz and 100 years of Ersa have produced significant annual rings in our corporate family tree. In 1921 Ersa was founded in Berlin and since 1971 Kurtz has been dedicated to the construction of moulding machines for styrofoam.

In all of this, we are constantly aware that as a family-owned company, we have particularly good prerequisites for sustainability within us. No matter if customer, supplier or employee – it is the people we see behind it, respect and appreciate. We are all one family. The annual rings of our company tree should continue to contain the message: “We are there for each other!”

Glück auf!
Yours, Rainer Kurtz

Sustainability – Essential Part of the Kurtz Ersa Corporate Culture

Since 1779, Kurtz Ersa has stood for the highest quality and reliability – today, as a pure machine builder, the group realizes optimal solutions and processes on an energy-efficient, resource-saving basis for its customers. Sustainability and protection of the environment are integral parts of this – the company aims to operate in a CO_2-neutral manner by 2029.



Machine Builder:
Riding the Green Wave

The declared goal of the European Green Deal is climate neutrality by 2050. With future-proof technologies, mechanical and plant engineering, which itself only causes CO_2 emissions of 1 %, offers a huge lever, especially for energy-intensive industries, to reduce CO_2 emissions worldwide by 70 %. Kurtz Ersa Magazine talks about sustainability with Dr. Daniel Kronenwett, Partner of the global Automotive & Manufacturing Industries Practice at the strategy consultancy Oliver Wyman, and Kurtz Managing Director Uwe Rothaug.

What was the reason for the cooperation between Oliver Wyman and Kurtz GmbH?

Uwe Rothaug: Our positioning as a pure machine builder was not always as clear as it is now, when our systems are on a par with megatrends such as e-mobility in the automotive industry or recycling and the use of alternative materials in the plastics industry. By working with the strategy consultants from Oliver Wyman, we have defined a sustainable long-term strategy for the future.

What are the links to the EU´s "Green Deal"?

Dr. Kronenwett: As a political campaign, the Green Deal aims to bring Europe to "net zero" – or zero emissions – by 2050. This declaration of intent was the first step. The second is to provide the necessary funds in the form of subsidies, funding and financing for specific technologies that support the decarbonization goal. To this end, the impressive sum of one trillion Euro is on the table, which will be distributed in Europe for this purpose. A concrete lever for Kurtz Ersa, for example, is the increased shift towards e-mobility and becoming somewhat independent of the combustion engine. Another point of intersection is the "circular economy", i.e. the recycling of raw materials, the avoidance of plastic, and the question of how biodegradable materials can be used in the production process.

What efforts are needed for industry to achieve climate neutrality by 2050?

Uwe Rothaug: We believe that the 2050 targets defined in 2019 are already outdated. Several major corporations have already publicly committed to being emission-free much sooner. The USA and China are also now investing massively in this more sustainable direction. The goal for the Kurtz Ersa Group is: We want to be CO_2-neutral by 2029 – in terms of our own production and the entire supply chain!

Dr. Kronenwett: There is an incredible momentum around the Green Deal – far beyond Europe. The will is there, but achieving the goals set will be quite a challenge, in my opinion. Many companies are moving forward. But by no means all companies have set themselves correspondingly ambitious targets in the spirit of a "Green Wave". In our recent joint report with CDP, we found that only 10 % of the largest European companies have set a target along the Paris goals with a maximum warming of well below 1.5 °C. Consequently, huge efforts are still needed.

What technologies should Europe focus on, what framework conditions do we need?

Dr. Kronenwett: This is where politics is called upon to exert a certain steering effect via subsidies, funding and financing – let´s take high-temperature applications using hydrogen technology as an example, without which genuine decarbonization in industry will be very difficult. Especially for medium-sized companies like the owner-managed family business Kurtz Ersa, it could become difficult to develop corresponding innovations and introduce them to the respective markets without political framework conditions. In the coming years, funding and support for corresponding pilot projects within Europe will certainly be necessary, which will then have an impact beyond the continent.

How do you see the chances of Europe becoming the lead market for green technologies?

Dr. Kronenwett: I see very good opportunities because Europe is home to extremely innovative companies – the industrial SME sector in particular has proved and is proving to be a great driver of innovation here. An excellent example is your radio frequency technology, which won the Bavarian Energy Award and can help to massively reduce energy and steam consumption in the production process. The Europeans were indeed the first to launch a Green Deal – and are now scaling up their technologies for widespread use. Advantage for Europe and an opportunity of the century! Of course, the climate crisis cannot be limited to Europe and can only be tackled on a global scale. Countries like the U.S. are now following suit with major infrastructure programs, many of which are green. The chances are good that Europe will become a supplier to the world in this context. Incidentally, this also requires a strong footprint of European companies on the ground – a pure export business does not work in the case of either China or the USA.

What should a sustainable technology portfolio look like?

Dr. Kronenwett: This can best be answered at the meta level and, of course, looks different for each individual company in mechanical and plant engineering. Three approaches to the development of a future technology portfolio can be distinguished. First, there are incremental strategies that further optimize existing technologies or make them "smarter" through digital, IIoT-based solutions – for example, in the direction of energy efficiency in the production process or capacity increases in plants for the production of renewable energies. The second approach focuses on breakthrough technologies that first demonstrate their breakthrough power in pilot projects and often need to be subsidized before they scale and develop positive business cases across the board. The third portfolio approach revolves around "Carbon Capture & Storage" technologies and helps to build a technological bridge – against the backdrop of a large number of existing "brownfield" plants and the time until renewable energies are sufficiently developed.

When will the Corona pandemic move to the background and climate protection to the foreground?

Uwe Rothaug: Crisis management has been learned and is continuously adapted to the circumstances. The issue is present at management level, but we have long been working again specifically on the further development of our business areas – with health management as an integral part. We are much more concerned with the green transformation, which we want to ride in the spirit of the "green wave" in order to protect our planet for future generations.

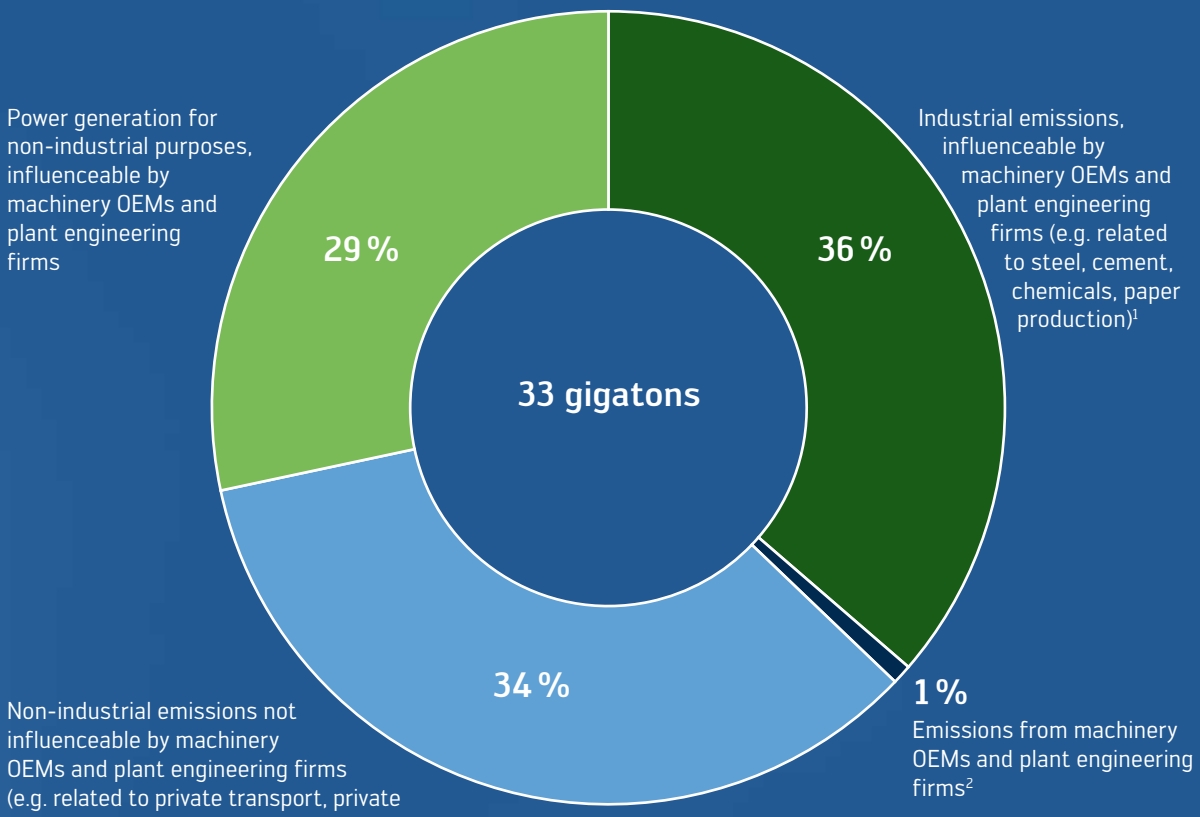
Dr. Kronenwett: From my conversations with many board members and managing directors, you can hear that the questions they are currently dealing with are actually more forward-looking: How do I make my portfolio fit for the future, how do I shape the green transformation, how do I take my team with me into this new world? What skills do I need to do that? Against the backdrop of increasing political pressure and, incidentally, the capital markets, "lip service" is no longer enough. It is now crucial for companies to define serious goals and develop clear strategies that actually lead to structural changes – in the product portfolio, in their own production process, in the supply chain. The good news is that those who act early have the chance to ride the "green wave" in a positive sense and participate in large, emerging growth markets.

Dr. Daniel Kronenwett, Dipl.-Kfm., MBA, received his doctorate from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

Partner in the global Automotive & Manufacturing Industries Practice at Oliver Wyman in Munich. Advises companies in the automotive and manufacturing industries as well as in the private equity sector – his focus is on strategy development and M&A as well as restructuring and reorganization.

Almost 70 % of CO_2 emissions could be influenced by equipment & solutions from Machinery OEMs and Plant Engineering Firms

Global CO_2 emissions by sector



Source: IEA 2017, Oliver Wyman Analysis
[1]Includes the industrial part of energy production for electricity and heat.
[2]Direct emissions from company facilities, heat generation and energy use (Scope 1) and indirect emissions from energy purchases (Scope 2).

YESTERDAY, TOMOR
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Origin and future of the Ersa success story: thinking ahead from the beginning!

Founded in Berlin on November 18, 1921, Ersa is celebrating its birthday exactly 100 years later at Productronica in Munich – a perfect time to honor the company's fantastic development. However, "100 Years of Ersa" is more than just a flashback to the company's history on just one day. Rather, the anniversary communication is looking ahead to the next 100 years.

Under the motto **Yesterday, Tomorrow and Beyond.**, the anniversary campaign tells the success story pointing to the future, linking people with machines, tradition with new beginnings, the successful present with an even better future, today with the next generation, pioneering achievements with megatrends, and values with visions. The campaign is characterized by a strong image, clear messages and employee portraits, which thus express the high level of identification with the company, their pride and the team spirit they live.

Communicative highlight at Productronica

While the anniversary logo has already been visible on products, flags and on fleet vehicles since March, active anniversary communication from the second half of the year spans an arc to the highlight at Productronica, which coincides with the official 100th birthday of Ersa's business registration. A landing page, regular social media postings, charity campaigns and anniversary videos are also part of the planned measures. We look forward to meeting partners and customers who have played a significant role in the Ersa success story and with whom we will celebrate "100 years of Ersa" together!

Kurtz Ersa establishes India presence

Ersa has been active on the Indian subcontinent for over 30 years. Recently, the permanent change of the world's largest democracy turned into a real transformation: International corporations invest locally in production capacity. Local companies are expanding their production capacity and stepping out of the Asian shadows. Chinese, Taiwanese and Korean companies are starting new production lines and plants in India. A lot of movement in a country with huge potential. That's why Ersa has been specifically expanding its service there with India partner Bergen since 2015 – for example, by regularly imparting service and process know-how via roadshows or webinars.

The Indian service team also carries out the commissioning of complex machines, often already performing the FAT (Factory Acceptance Test) with the customer at the Wertheim plant. Increasingly, machines manufactured in Zhuhai are sold and delivered to India via Chinese and Taiwanese customers; installation and aftersales are handled by Kurtz Ersa India. Multiple customer feedback, on-site experience, the importance of the market as well as infrastructure measures in electrification, digitization and automation led to the decision to establish an own India presence under the name "Kurtz Ersa India – Smart Production Technologies Private Limited". After the starting shot in January 2021, this was done in record time. In the meantime, five employees have moved into their new office in the Electronic City in Bangalore – Gopakumar Gopinathen is in charge of "Service & Process Know-how", Sameer Verma is responsible for sales and marketing.

Indian start-up in record time

As a subtenant of Krypton India Solutions Pvt. Ltd., the Kurtz Ersa India team uses the existing infrastructure from bus transfer to canteen – an application center is also directly available. Krypton has numerous Ersa machines, rework systems and soldering stations, so that interested customers can be demonstrated the machines in operation at any time. As soon as possible Kurtz Ersa India will grow by further skilled employees.

Kurtz Ersa India – Smart Production Technologies Private Limited moves into quarters as subtenant of Krypton India Solutions Pvt. Ltd. in Bangalore

Responsible at Kurtz Ersa India: Gopakumar Gopinathen (left) heads the "Service & Process Know-How" department, Sameer Verma (right) is in charge of sales and marketing

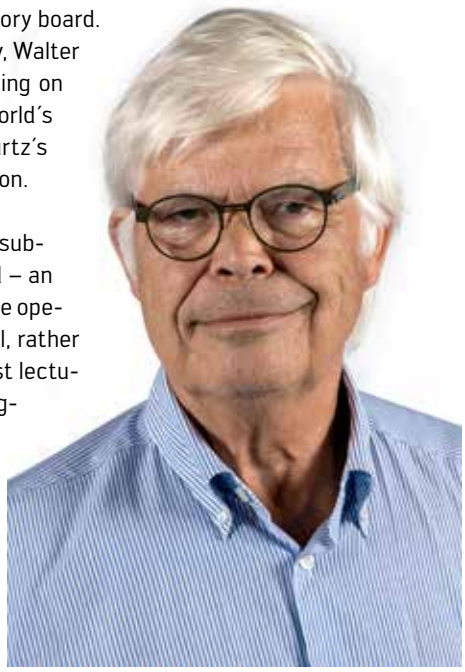
Kurtz Ersa again Top Employer!

Once again Kurtz Ersa is one of the top employers in Germany. In the category "Machine and Systems Engineering", the Northern Bavarians landed in an excellent 6th place – even ahead of companies such as STIHL, Festo, John Deere, Jungheinrich and MAN. Once again, the ranking determined in cooperation between FOCUS-BUSINESS and the employer rating portal Kununu identified the 1,000 best employers in Germany with 500 or more employees – over 950,000 companies and more than 4 million ratings on Kununu were analyzed. "We are very pleased with this result, as it confirms our strategic focus on mechanical engineering. The award is even more valuable for us, as it represents recognition for our work in particularly difficult times – thanks at this point also to the entire Kurtz Ersa workforce," said Kurtz Ersa HR Manager Verena Alina Frankl.

The excellent placement in the FOCUS ranking was preceded by numerous awards in 2020 – including a top result in the Capital study "Germany's best trainers", a top ten ranking among the most family-friendly companies in mechanical and plant engineering (Freundin), "Best Employer for women" (Brigitte) and in mechanical engineering (MaschinenMarkt), as well as seamless IHK certification over many years as a training company.

Walter Kurtz turns 75

On May 19, 2021, entrepreneur Walter Kurtz celebrated his 75th birthday. The Haslocher has played a major role in shaping the successful development of the Kurtz Ersa Group over the past decades – with more than 35 years of operational business activity and as a long-standing member of the advisory board. As a newly graduated engineer for iron and steel with a specialization in foundry technology, Walter Kurtz initially took over special topics in the Kurtz iron foundry before increasingly focusing on foam machines. With the machine factory as his center, he expanded Kurtz GmbH into the world's leading manufacturer of foam machines, including the associated processing machines. Kurtz's ideas were the basis for many customers around the globe to optimize their foam production.



From 1978 to 1981, Walter Kurtz built up the North American market, and in 1984 the first subsidiary was established there. Further sales and service bases in Europe and China followed – an important step for successful market penetration. In July 2009, Walter Kurtz moved from the operational management to the Kurtz Ersa Advisory Board. This did not mean retirement at all, rather Walter Kurtz passed on his extensive expertise to the next generation – whether as a guest lecturer at the Mosbach Dual University for Plastics Technology, as a lecturer at the Würzburg-Schweinfurt University of Applied Sciences or in the group's own Hammer Academy.

The history of the family company is also close to Walter Kurtz's heart: He was instrumental in the realization of the Kurtz Ersa Hammermuseum, which was opened in 2014, and in doing so, he incorporated his invaluable knowledge about the iron hammer. The jubilarian, who is the proud grandfather of eleven grandchildren, celebrated his 75th birthday in the closest family circle – together with his wife Ursula, who is a whole five days older than her husband Walter.

Placement workstation with VERSAGUIDE

Easy operation of the VERSAGUIDE through step-by-step instructions

Avoid assembly errors with optical control

Preh expands Ersa Wave Soldering System with VERSAGUIDE System

Climate control, seat adjustment, touch screen – almost all car drivers have had contact with Preh's innovations. The automotive supplier from Lower Franconia develops and manufactures human machine interfaces (HMI) for passenger cars and commercial vehicles as well as e-mobility control units. To eliminate zero slippage and rework, Preh retrofitted the Ersa POWERFLOW wave soldering system installed in 2019 with the VERSAGUIDE assistance system.

Jakob Preh founded his company in Bad Neustadt an der Saale in 1919 at the beginning of the broadcasting era. As an expert in radio and later television electronics, Preh initially manufactured electrical installation parts and developed radio receivers. This was followed in the late eighties by the production of electronic heating and air-conditioning control systems – the company's entry into the automotive industry. In 100 years, Preh grew into a global automotive supplier, today employing around 7,000 people at ten locations (sales 2019: over 1.5 billion euros). The Preh corporate claim "Passion for Excellence" implies continuous optimization of all process steps. Example: A complete control system was subsequently added to the Ersa POWERFLOW wave soldering system – consisting of four placement workstations including VERSAGUIDE assistance system, a PCB buffer and a lifting or lowering station. After the soldering process, a VERSAEYE module takes care of the automatic optical inspection (AOI).

As part of a zero-defect strategy, Preh decided to use VERSAGUIDE to eliminate rework already during assembly. Background: In the automotive sector, only 100 % intact parts may be installed to ensure the functional reliability of the components used later. Rework is usually ruled out for the high-mass components often used at Preh, since not enough thermal energy can be introduced into the PCB. VERSAGUIDE supports and controls manual PCB assembly, so that assembly errors and costs for costly rework are avoided. The system is mounted above the assembly workstation – and, as with Preh, can be easily retrofitted.

Modular center console control center from Preh for BMW; source: Preh GmbH

▶ Image recognition prevents assembly errors

Via image recognition, the inspection criteria can be set and monitored. Features such as character strings, patterns, colors and textures are reliably detected, and individual components can be read into the software as an image. For error-free inspection, the camera must capture all components to be assembled and the complete PCB. VERSAGUIDE then guides the user through the individual work steps.
The main view is divided into three parts: "Work instruction" shows the correctly assembled PCB. Depending on the complexity, you can insert explanations or work with intermediate results. The camera live image shows the initially empty PCB. By means of an anchor point this is fixed by software. This way, an x/y offset or a rotation can be corrected. Red frames indicate where the next action will take place. VERSAGUIDE also recognizes a wrongly placed component. Which components follow in which order is shown in the third view area below the live view. Individual "checkpoints" result step by step in the finished PCB.

▶ Traceability from start to finish

This is how the Preh line works: The PCB is booked into the system at the placement workstation. VERSAGUIDE points to the start of the assembly process and provides step-by-step support for assembly and inspection. As soon as the board is ready for soldering, VERSAGUIDE sends a signal via the IO cables to the outside, whereupon a release button is activated. After pressing this button, the PCB is transported to the POWERFLOW where it is soldered. Finally, the PCBs are transported to the VERSAEYE module for inspection and documentation of the soldering quality. If the solder joints meet the defined criteria, the software reports its okay. With the products previously inspected at VERSAGUIDE plus recorded DMC, the AOI result is added in the guidance computer.

▶ Good business relationship at short distance

The automotive supplier has been relying on Ersa soldering equipment since 2005 – the 120 km between the two headquarters are quickly bridged. In addition to the extended wave soldering system, several HOTFLOW (reflow soldering systems), VERSAFLOW (selective machines) and i-CON soldering stations are in use at the Bad Neustadt plant. "Whether it´s PCB layout, traceability or PCB transport – Ersa is our No.1 contact for the entire soldering process," says Justin Oppelt, Department Manager Electronics Manufacturing at Preh.

Headquarters of Preh GmbH
in Bad Neustadt an der Saale; source: Preh GmbH

Preh GmbH at a glance:

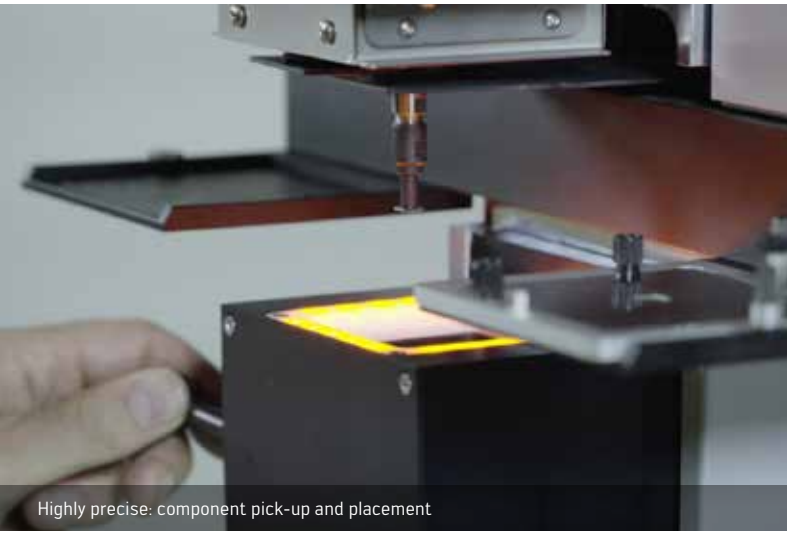
- Founded in 1919 by Jakob Preh
- 7,000 employees worldwide, 2,000 of them at the headquarters in Neustadt an der Saale (Germany)
- Innovation leader in the fields of human machine interfaces (HMI) for passenger cars and commercial vehicles as well as components for e-mobility applications
- Annual sales in 2019: € 1,5 billion
- Locations in Germany, USA, Mexico, Sweden, Portugal, Romania, China

Functions of the Ersa VERSAGUIDE:

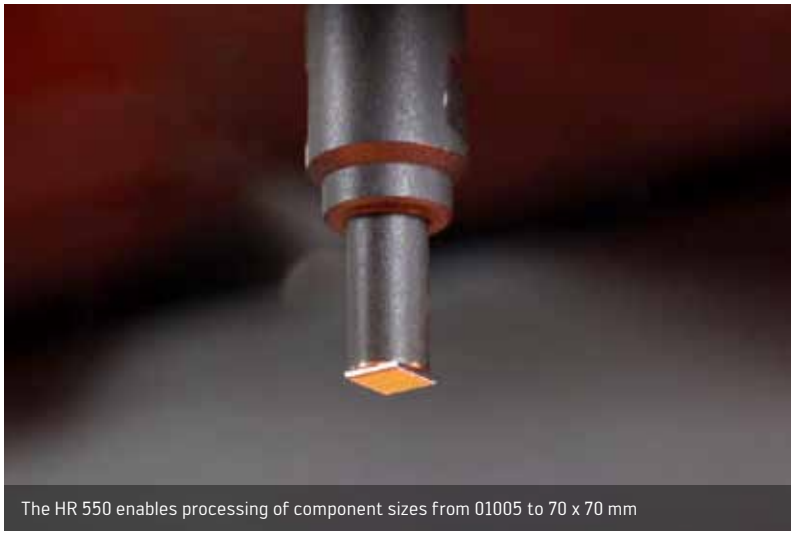
- Check for correct components
- Color check
- Assembly process
- Structure check
- Checking of strings for barcodes
- Recording of the work result

Use in InnoSenT prototype construction: Ersa HR 550; source: InnoSenT

Self-explanatory pictograms make it easier to use the system



Highly precise: component pick-up and placement



The HR 550 enables processing of component sizes from 01005 to 70 x 70 mm

Ersa Best Practice: InnoSenT

Ersa HR 550 – reliable precision for assembly of prototype boards

The trend towards miniaturization in the entire electronics sector also influences the sensor technology used – sensors should be as small as possible and at the same time extremely powerful and robust. These requirements give rise to numerous tasks that demand high flexibility and accuracy at the same time. For the best possible production and development results, the radar technology company InnoSenT relies on advanced machinery, which has recently included an Ersa HR 550 Rework System.

Founded in 1999, InnoSenT GmbH is now one of the world´s leading companies in radar technology. The manufacturer and developer of innovative sensor solutions offers the entire range of engineering services and electronics production at the company´s headquarters in Donnersdorf – from customer-specific development to prototype production and series production of its own products to contract manufacturing (EMS). Thanks to its focus on quality and innovation, InnoSenT is considered a technology driver in industrial and automotive sensor technology and has been on the road to success for years.

Reliable processing of very small assemblies

In order to meet the requirements for increasingly difficult assemblies, InnoSenT was looking for a system that could reliably assemble and solder very small assemblies and also carry out rework if necessary. Specifically, the task was to process special radar high-frequency chips with unusually small dimensions of less than 1 mm². For this, the system must correctly pick up the chip with its 150 µ diameter connections, align it and solder it in a safe, controlled process. The high-precision component placement of the HR 550 with force detection as well as the computer-assisted component placement dependably meet this challenge.
Overall, Ersa hybrid heating technology is ideally suited for processing such miniature components. The energy input for soldering is a combination of medium-wave infrared radiation and convection components. The components, some of which are very sensitive, are heated gently and homogeneously. The use of component-specific nozzles is unnecessary, which makes the system universally applicable. Compared to hot-air technology, Ersa IR technology eliminates the risk of unintentional blowing away of very small components with low weight. Damage to surrounding components caused by hot gases is also ruled out.

The high-precision vacuum pipette integrated in the heating head ensures precise component pickup and placement of the smallest components. In view of the increasing variety of component types and solder connections, InnoSenT attaches great importance to flexibility – the HR 550 enables components with sizes from 01005 to 70 x 70 mm to be processed. In addition to placement and soldering processes, prototyping often involves replacing components or making changes to the circuit after extensive testing with regard to service life or function. Rework of this kind can also be carried out safely and reliably with the HR 550. The intuitive HRSoft2 software also contributed positively to the decision in favor of the system: Thanks to the clear operation and clear user guidance by means of pictograms, even new employees learn to use the system very quickly. Since all rework processes and system statuses are automatically documented and stored, the Ersa HR 550 Rework System meets all InnoSenT´s documentation and traceability requirements. It is possible to trace at any time which parameters were used to process a particular assembly – an essential requirement, especially for the manufacture of products from the automotive and railroad industries. In practical use, the HR 550 fully met expectations and worked extremely reliably. InnoSenT is very satisfied with its choice and performance and glad to have a reliable partner at its side to master upcoming tasks and future challenges.
Due to the short distance of about 100 km between InnoSenT and the Ersa Demo Center in Wertheim, on-site demonstrations and test soldering could be carried out easily and at short notice. The two companies are very closely linked, and not just because of their physical proximity. InnoSenT has been relying on Ersa´s 100 years of experience in soldering technology since 2016. In addition to the rework system, several soldering stations such as i-CON VARIO 4, EASY ARM solder fume extraction systems and other soldering equipment are in use.

Finally again: Real Ersa Event!

TECHNOLOGY FORUM WITH

Three days in Wertheim am Main

Ersa General Sales Manager Rainer Krauss and Business Unit Manager Tools, Rework & Inspection Hansjürgen Bolg welcome to the Technology Forum with in-house exhibition 2021 in Wertheim am Main

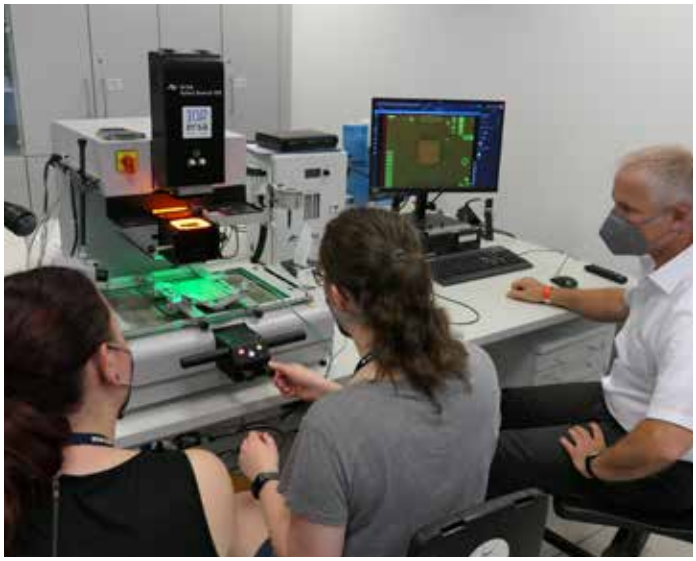
For the second exclusive Technology Forum with in-house exhibition, Ersa GmbH welcomed around 200 participants from June 15 to 17. As with the first edition last year, the event had set itself the goal of comprehensively covering current trends in all process areas of electronics manufacturing – from stencil printing to reflow, selective and wave to automated rework, Industry 4.0, automation and metallic 3D printing. In the introduction, Ersa General Sales Manager Rainer Krauss and Hansjürgen Bolg, Business Unit Manager Tools, Rework & Inspection, referred to the strategic approach "GLOBAL. AHEAD. SUSTAINABLE.", with which Ersa and all companies of the Kurtz Ersa Group implement holistic solutions including service sustainably and efficiently on a global level – be it via their own subsidiaries or via corresponding partner companies.

In addition to technical innovations from the world of selective soldering and reflow soldering (Ersa EXOS 10/26 combined with sophisticated automation solutions) as well as highly automated rework (in the form of the HR 500 and HR 600 XL systems), the Kurtz Ersa Alpha 140 3D printer was presented with live demos, among other things – the participating business partners completed the presented program with cutting-edge electronics manufacturing equipment, ASM SMT Solutions, for example, with a THT placement machine.

Part of the Technology Forum: LIVE machine demos, e.g. on the VERSAPRINT 2 stencil printer, which combines 100% inspection with maximum efficiency

IN-HOUSE EXHIBITION

The "hardware" program was supplemented by a content-rich mix of lectures focusing on automation, Industry 4.0, stencil printing, 3D printing or "additive manufacturing", cleaning methods and nitrogen systems. Lively exchanges took place not only during the lectures, but also in dialog with the technology experts directly at the systems and in the exchange with the participating partners. The panel discussion on press-fit technology with six physically present participants and further digitally connected experts provided an opportunity to look beyond one's own horizons. The technology of pressing electronic components onto PCBs is increasingly being used for high-current applications and normal connectors.

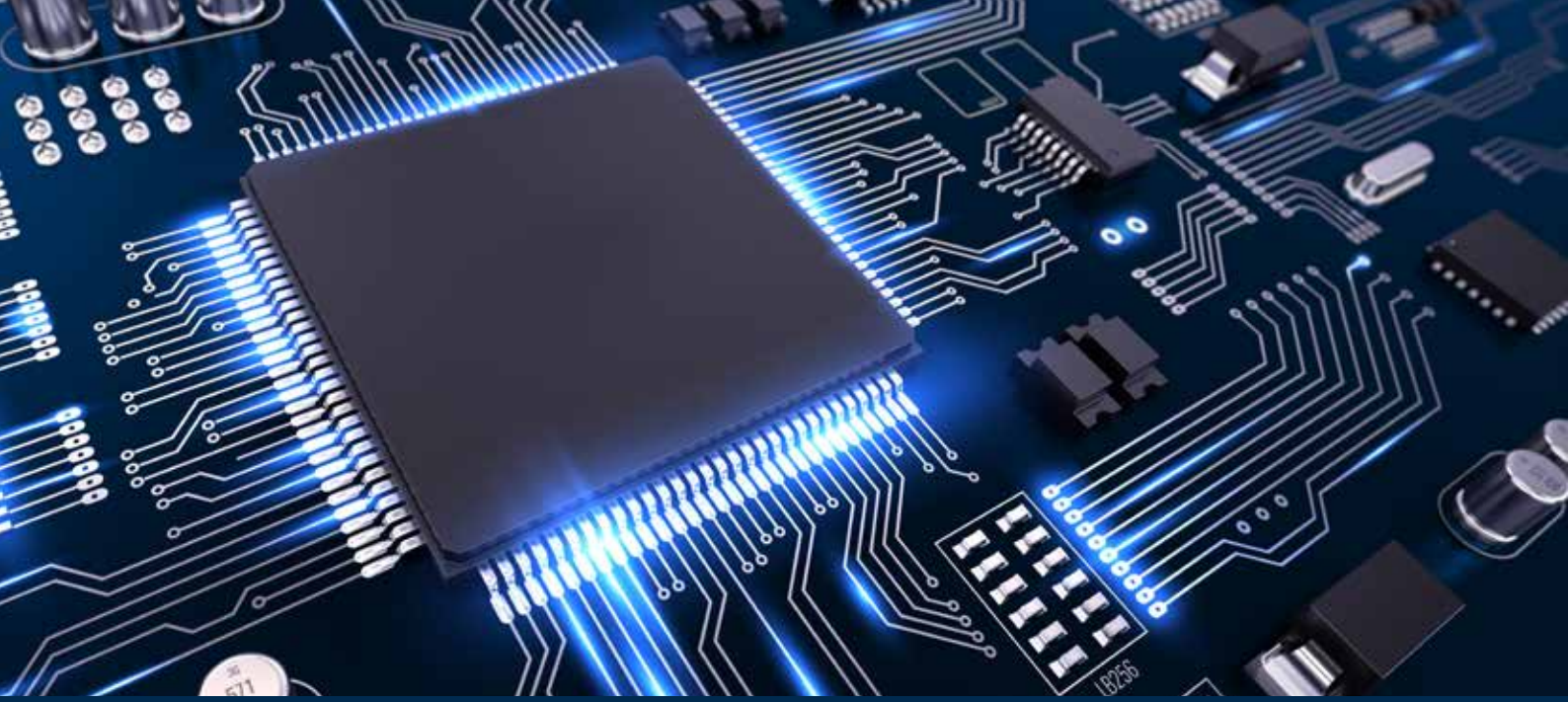


The participants were able to experience the advantages of "guided rework" with high-performance optics and flexible heating technology "hands-on" on the Ersa hybrid rework systems

Perfectly prepared with comprehensive hygiene concept and musical background

Organizer Ersa received high praise for the successful event, which was unanimously appreciated by the participants for the perfect organization and a perfectly worked out and lived hygiene concept. The enthusiasm of all participants that a face-to-face meeting could finally take place again was literally tangible. "After many months at a distance, the Technology Forum finally allowed us to experience once again the feeling of togetherness that is so important for industries such as electronics manufacturing," emphasized Ersa CEO Ralph Knecht.

The best weather and an accompanying social program with a visit to the Kurtz Ersa hammer mill in Hasloch, barbecue on the roof terrace and live jazz music at the Ersa site in Wertheim put the famous icing on the cake of a successful event. "These were three great days, during which we brought the latest innovations for electronics manufacturing to customers and interested parties in cooperation with our partners – we will definitely repeat this again soon," said a satisfied Ersa General Sales Manager Rainer Krauss at the end of the Technology Forum.



Soldering in electronics manufacturing

Meeting on 18.05. online, on 13. and 14.10. in Wertheim near Ersa

On May 18, the technical conference series "Soldering in Electronics Manufacturing" started as an online event due to the situation. The face-to-face event, jointly organized by several companies, will take place on October 13 and 14 at the Ersa Training and Seminar Center.

The interest in the online event, which provided compact information on the topics of the symposium, was enormous – a total of 115 participants dialed in. To kick things off, Dr. Hans Bell, a long-standing expert in the field of packaging technology, gave a brief overview of soldering technologies, presented holistic processes and addressed challenges in reflow soldering – above all the increasing miniaturization of passive and active components and the growing complexity of the internal structure of the components. Kurt-Jürgen Lang, Senior Key Expert Processing at Osram Opto Semiconductors, focused on essential materials of the assembly with "Solderability of SMD components" and presented package trends and current chip designs such as "bottom only terminations". In addition to solder heat resistance vs. solderability, reflow profiling and solder pad as well as paste design, the fundamental topics in October will be the properties of base materials and solder resist (speaker: KSG GmbH) and the characterization of PCB surfaces (speaker: Fraunhofer IZM).

The third block of topics, "Properties of solders", was presented by Dipl.-Ing. (FH) Günter Grossmann, Head of the Center for Industrial Electronics and Reliability Technology at Empa in Dübendorf (Switzerland) – covering topics such as: Metallurgy (structure, soldering process), solder pastes and fluxes, stencil printing and reliability. Finally, Dipl.-Ing. (FH) Jürgen Friedrich, Head of Application Technology at Ersa, presented the topic block "Soldering with liquid solder" – from hand and repair soldering to energy transfer as well as thermal process windows in wave and selective soldering. In October, the two-day presence symposium will then go into depth.

▲ The speakers at a glance

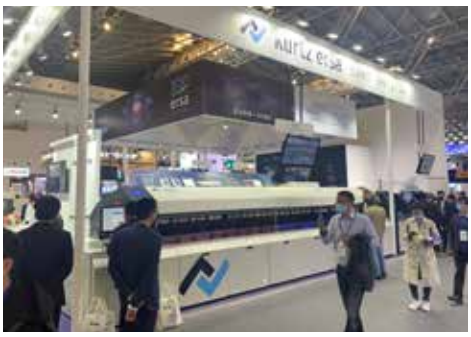
Support and organization team: Laura Schulz and Nicolai Böhrer, Ersa GmbH ▶

The Kurtz Ersa Asia team at NEPCON China 2021 with our customer from QingDao ZhongQing Electronic Software Co., Ltd.

NEPCON CHINA: KURTZ ERSA ASIA SHOWS THE FUTURE OF ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING

Strong presence trade show for Ersa and Kurtz Ersa Asia Ltd.

NEPCON China ended on April 23 at the Shanghai World Expo and Convention Center with a great response from customers and interested parties on all three days of the fair. A spacious booth was the perfect platform for the Kurtz Ersa Asia Ltd. team to present itself as the No.1 system supplier for electronics manufacturing. Under the anniversary motto "100 years of Ersa", the most comprehensive spectrum of technologies for electronics production was spread out – Ersa soldering systems with the successful models of reflow, selective and wave, printer (VERSAPRINT 2) and automated rework (HR 600 XL) had a strong presence.

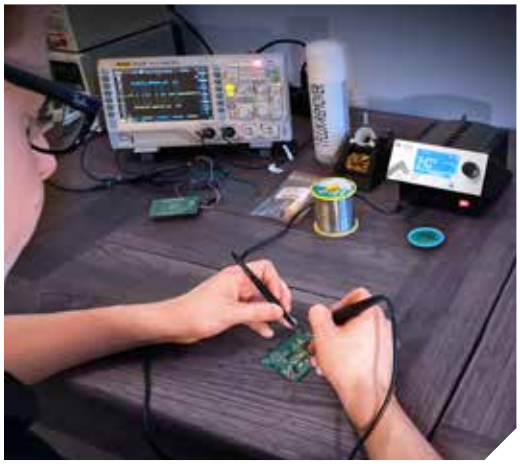


The mood was positive throughout – no wonder, as it was once again possible to exchange ideas directly at NEPCON China. In addition to numerous fruitful dialogs, the team around Kurtz Ersa Asia General Manager David Chen was also able to book a direct deal: The extremely fast growing QingDao ZhongQing Electronic Software Co., Ltd. ordered two reflow ovens and a selective soldering system directly at the booth. *"NEPCON China is an important driver for future technologies such as digitization, electromobility and 5G – all relevant technology groups from China meet here in Shanghai, this is where the future is shaped,"* said Ulrich Dosch, Manager Key Accounts & Business Development at Kurtz Ersa Asia, at the end of the three-day trade fair.

Ersa supports model sport Deggendorf

The youth group of the MSV-Deggendorf RC-Modellsportverein e.V. can really take off as soon as meetings are possible again! We are happy to support the club with an i-CON PICO soldering station and other accessories. These include an INDEPENDENT gas soldering iron, which can be used to carry out mobile work directly on the airfield without any problems. "Our experience has shown that the hobby of aeromodeling not only brings a lot of joy to young people, but is often the foundation stone for the craftsmen and engineers of tomorrow. Many thanks for this donation," said group leader Andreas Muckenthaler. We wish the youth group much fun and success in building and repairing the model airplanes.

Ersa supports with soldering equipment



Ersa soldering station i-CON 1V plus equipment in use

Soldering support for mu-zero HYPERLOOP

It´s great when students are passionate about something, actively shaping the future, and gaining practical experience for their professional lives in the process. mu-zero HYPERLOOP is developing a working, levitating hyperloop prototype – and we´re happy to support the team with an Ersa i-CON 1V soldering station and other soldering equipment. Hyperloops are high-speed transportation systems that travel at nearly the speed of sound in a largely airless tube on air cushions. The electronic system of the prototype from mu-zero HYPERLOOP e.V. networks the control units and ensures safe operation during a test run. With the i-CON 1V, the team now has a professional soldering station at its disposal, which makes soldering the self-developed circuit boards much easier. The Hyperloops are a preview of tomorrow´s traffic concepts, which are already being worked on today!

20 years AB Electronic Devices S.L. in Spain

At the beginning of April, the Spanish Ersa representative AB Electronic Devices S.L. celebrated its 20th anniversary. Over the course of two decades, the Madrilenians have become the leading electronics manufacturing company in the Spanish market, providing their customers with everything that makes electronics production successful. AB Managing Director Adolfo Barbé and his team celebrated the anniversary in their own special way – with a celebration cake, the top tier of which was adorned with a full-scale Ersa SMARTFLOW 2020 selective soldering system. The Ersa team sends hearty congratulations to Spain and wishes continued success for the next 20 years!

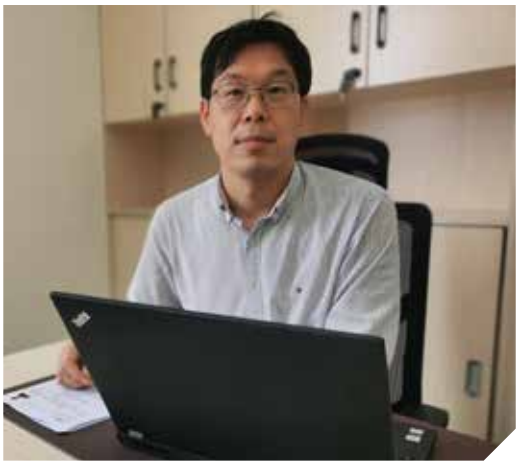
Managing Director Adolfo Barbé celebrated with his team

Strong team performance at Kurtz Zhuhai Manufacturing: The 2,000th HOTFLOW reflow soldering machine – a 3/26XL – is ready for delivery

2,000th HOTFLOW made in Zhuhai

Kurtz Zhuhai Manufacturing produces anniversary reflow soldering machine

Kurtz Zhuhai Manufacturing (KZM) reached the next milestone for its successful model in April with the production of its 2,000th reflow soldering machine – a HOTFLOW 3/26XL. Two years earlier, Sam Ho, Factory Manager at the Chinese site in Zhuhai, announced the completion of the 1,000th "Made in China" reflow soldering system. A real success story that started in 2013 with the first delivery to a Chinese customer. The team in Zhuhai is proud of its reflow customers, including several big players in electronics manufacturing operating in China with not infrequently 20 to 50 installed machines. This shows how important KZM is as a system supplier in terms of quality and performance for Chinese SMT production. The hybrid machine strategy with a combination of German engineering and the advantages of local procurement and production continues to be a complete success. More than ten different HOTFLOW variants are currently being built in China, and the standard delivery time there is four to six weeks. KZM's own development and design department directly takes care of the permanently increasing share of customer-specific modifications. "The success of the KZM reflow system is based on the close cooperation between Wertheim and Zhuhai as well as the high commitment of the KZM production team," said Kurtz Ersa Asia Managing Director Bernd Schenker on the occasion of the anniversary.



New to the Kurtz Zhuhai Manufacturing team: Andy Zheng

R&D Center in Zhuhai

Kurtz Zhuhai Manufacturing is now expanding its highly successful production site with an R&D center that will work closely with Germany. In advance, the IT infrastructure was created to ensure parallel and synchronized engineering. In addition, it will also be possible to react more flexibly, quickly and efficiently to special customer requirements or to market trends in the highly dynamic Asian market. In addition to mechanics and electronics, capacities are generated above all in the area of software. Andy Zheng brings many years of international experience to KE and is responsible for building and managing the R&D team in Zhuhai. Before joining KE, Andy already worked for many years in a leading position for a German machine building company, so that the intercultural bridge between China and Germany is also crossed without any problems.

FUTURE-PROOF:
ALPHA 140
DIRECT ENTRY INTO METALLIC 3D PRINTING

kurtz ersa

3D printing is a relatively young manufacturing process – selective laser melting, one of several 3D printing technologies, started in 1995 at the Fraunhofer Institute in Aachen as a German research project that resulted in patent SLM DE 19649865. The industrial world calls the process additive manufacturing or "AM". It has long since outgrown its infancy and is poised to dramatically change industries such as automotive and mechanical engineering or medical and aerospace engineering. Machine manufacturer Kurtz Ersa is also convinced of the AM potential – to such an extent that the company recently entered the machine market for additive manufacturing with the Alpha 140.

The Alpha 140 is particularly characterized by the fact that it combines innovative additive manufacturing technology with simple operation at low system costs. This makes the Alpha 140 the optimum solution for the tool-free production of metal parts, particularly suitable for small and medium-sized companies. The new system is extremely interesting for companies from the mould and tool making industry, as the Alpha 140 is the perfect system for quickly and cost-effectively mapping complex structures – such as moulds with internal, near-contour cooling – with maximum geometrical freedom. The 3D printer demonstrates its strengths particularly in the case of small batch sizes, because it saves on costly tooling. As a result, it is also attracting the attention of universities and research institutes. With its concept of "simple", "economical", and "open", the 3D printer meets the market demand for lightweight construction, special materials, customization, small batches, and limitless geometric freedom for the realization of completely new shapes. During development, the engineers dispensed with high-maintenance machine components, kept the system price low thanks to a user-centric machine layout, and relied on a wide range of usable metal materials by means of freely variable process parameters. The Alpha 140 thus marks the perfect entry into metallic 3D laser printing at the best price-performance ratio.

Optimized production process

Technically, the Alpha 140 relies on a fiber-coupled diode laser with 140 watts of power and thus offers optimal properties for precise processing of numerous materials. The focal diameter of 140 µm enables the production of fine details and thin wall thicknesses. Layer thicknesses between 30 µm and 90 µm allow a component and material-dependent optimized manufacturing process. The round build envelope of the Alpha 140 measures 140 mm in diameter and allows a maximum build height of 200 mm. The spindle-driven axis system allows high positioning and repeat accuracy of the laser system. With a footprint of just 1.70 x 0.95 m, the compact "plug and produce" machine is predestined for space-saving use in production environments and research laboratories – the connection by means of a cold appliance plug and optional air cooling ensures extremely simplified installation.

The components produced on the Alpha 140 achieve strengths comparable to those of conventional "Laser Powder Bed Fusion" (LPBF) machines and densities >99.5 percent but are up to 80 % more economical. The Kurtz Ersa Alpha 140, engineered by Laser Melting Innovations, thus makes a significant contribution to the European Green Deal, which has set itself the goal of a climate-neutral continent by 2050. Available materials and parameter sets for the Alpha 140 include stainless steels such as 1.4404, nickel-based alloys (e.g. IN625 and IN718), tool steel and aluminum alloys (AlSi7Mg). The open system design also enables in-house material qualifications and the development of new types of materials.

The gantry-mounted laser optics enable a constant focus diameter throughout the entire installation space. A laminar shielding gas flow creates optimum process conditions for the inert welding process and for protecting the laser optics. Optionally, a nitrogen generator integrated into the machine housing enables self-sufficient operation without an additional external shielding gas supply, thus reducing process costs and the necessary peripherals. And because the Alpha 140 is designed as a complete 3D printer, it also has its own software for data preparation – either via preset parameter sets without prior knowledge or via extensive manual influence – from component design to simulation and generation of support structures to data preparation, the entire AM workflow can be mapped in it. ▶

Strong cooperation: LMI and Kurtz Ersa

The Alpha 140 was developed by Laser Melting Innovations GmbH & Co. KG, a spin-off from the Aachen High Tech Campus. Around RWTH Aachen University, 3D printing has been an essential part of development activities for many years. Thus, the LMI team in Aachen also has a sound expertise of more than 20 years in the field of additive manufacturing. "In Aachen, the cradle of metal additive manufacturing, more than 200 top developers, specialists and young talents are continuously working on the topic of additive manufacturing. In addition to processes and machines, we have a particular focus on the benefits for industrial users, from component design through 3D printing and post-processing to the ready-to-use component. Here, we have direct access to a wealth of experience of more than 1,000 person-years. We make this available to our partners," says Professor Johannes Henrich Schleifenbaum, one of the LMI founders, describing the advantage of the location in North Rhine-Westphalia. The rapid market launch was achieved through cooperation with the machine manufacturer Kurtz Ersa, which has access to a worldwide sales and service network.

"3D metal printing complements our relationships in the manufacturing scene and fits perfectly with our strategy 'GLOBAL. AHEAD. SUSTAINABLE.', with which we present ourselves as technology leaders in our respective markets," explains Kurtz Ersa CEO Rainer Kurtz, who, together with Kurtz Managing Director Uwe Rothaug, is pleased with the "fantastically short 'time to market'" of the Alpha 140. After signing the cooperation agreement in August 2020, the assembly of the first 3D printer started ten weeks later, before the first delivery took place a few days before Christmas. Other systems have been installed and are already in production, e.g. at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the Fraunhofer Business Unit Functional Materials at the Hanau site (Institute for Materials Recycling and Resource Strategy [IWKS]), are close to the completion of the sale or have been ordered, as by the Technical University of Cologne or directly with industrial companies.

The Alpha 140 is manufactured in Kreuzwertheim in Northern Bavaria at the Kurtz manufacturing plant. A 24-hour service is also available thanks to a global presence – live presentations are possible in the strategically accessible demo centers of the Kurtz Ersa Corporation, and an Alpha 140 showroom will soon open in Aachen for interested parties. The cooperation is a classic win-win situation for both companies involved: For Kurtz Ersa, the process know-how of the LMI team in the field of additive manufacturing is the key to entering the new business field. For its part, LMI, as a young technology company, uses the sales and service channels of the established machine manufacturer Kurtz Ersa as a perfect complement to the roll-out of metallic 3D printing. The Alpha 140 is a remarkable start in the broad field of additive manufacturing, which will certainly be followed by further steps.

❶ Inert gas and axis system of the Alpha 140 ❷ Simple operation through intuitive human-machine interface incl. data preparation with own slicer ❸ Showtime: The Alpha 140 shows what it can do - in the Kurtz Ersa Group's Demo Center in Wiebelbach ❹ Mounting the Alpha 140 ❺ Cooperation partners (from left to right) – LMI: Founder Dawid Ziebura, Sven Scheres, Steffen Stahlhacke, Founder Prof. Dr.-Ing. Johannes Henrich Schleifenbaum and Kurtz Ersa: CEO Rainer Kurtz, Head of Technology Victor Romanov, Managing Director Uwe Rothaug

Ca Go Bike

Cargobike creates a craving for load!

Germany has 79 million bicycles, with 5 million sold in 2020 alone – an increase of 17 %. One in three of these were pedelecs, which are powered by an electric motor. Among them are many cargo bikes, which insiders call cargobikes. Three companies joined forces to set up series production for the Ca Go Box: T. Michel Formenbau GmbH & Co. KG, Schumpeter GmbH and Kurtz GmbH as the market leader for particle foam processing machines.

At the heart of the Ca Go Bike, which has been shaking up the cargo bike scene since its first appearance at Eurobike 2019 in Friedrichshafen, is the Expanded Polypropylene (EPP) transport box. Unlike established cargo bike manufacturers with conventional wooden board solutions, the Ca Go Bike relies on a modern safety cell including passenger protection, previously only known from the automotive world. In the realization of the innovative load donkey with a narrow track and lightweight frame, every little detail has been scrutinized for safety, quality and technology. The result is a cargo box that has been thought through down to the smallest detail, with a maximum permissible total weight of 70 kg, high everyday utility and relaxed, safe driving pleasure. Numerous awards for the Ca Go Bike – above all the German Design Award 2021 – prove that the concept is well received.

Form and above all function: EPP transport box

The EPP transport box dampens external vibrations and comes with a sophisticated interior: design was used here to optimize riding performance, load distribution and passenger safety. The EPP-sheathed bar, which is firmly bolted to the frame, acts as side impact protection and ensures stability. The high shoulder line of the box, which nevertheless ensures good visibility, offers increased safety for children riding along. In addition to cargo, the new e-bike also transports up to two young passengers – on shock-absorbing seats covered in weatherproof fabric complete with 5-point seat belts and adjustable headrests. "The Ca Go Bike is called the 'Volvo of cargo bikes' in the industry because it has significantly raised the safety standard for cargo bikes," says Thorsten Michel, Managing Director of T. Michel Formenbau GmbH & Co. KG. If only freight is to be transported, the seats can simply be folded up to provide more storage space.

The Ca Go child seats were developed with the highest standards of safety and quality in mind. Height-adjustable headrests, 5-point harnesses and a high shoulder line give the little passengers the best possible protection

Turnkey series production of the EPP box for OEM customer

For this ambitious project, a consortium of three companies was jointly at work, supplying everything from a single source, from the initial product idea to a 3D design study to turnkey series production handed over to the OEM customer Ca Go Bike. Schumpeter GmbH, as a Tier 1 supplier, developed the design and creation of the transport box plus assembly of the EPP box, Kurtz engineers contributed their know-how in terms of process analysis, and T. Michel was responsible for the tooling and a precisely fitting surface texture. Sampling was carried out in T. Michel´s Tec-Center on an automatic Kurtz T-LINE moulding machine, which led to the release process including certification. The fabric selection and material mix for the folding seats, which are manufactured in series on a Kurtz THERMO FOAMER, also came together at T. Michel. Not only the Ca Go Bike, but also the production is designed for sustainability – with short cycle times, low energy consumption and the longest possible maintenance intervals. And because every component of the Ca Go Bike was scrutinized, it is not just the transport box that is of the finest quality – the drive with up to 85 Nm, the battery for a range of up to 125 km, the lighting, on-board computer, brakes, suspension, grips, saddle and gears are all of the same caliber. Whether it´s a family carriage or a load master for couriers or tradesmen with a permissible total weight of 225 kg, the Ca Go Bike is already an important contribution to the urban mobility of tomorrow!

www.cagobike.com
www.michel-form.de
www.schumpeter.de

Saving lives
with the perfect transport box!

The transport of highly sensitive goods – such as corona vaccines or living cells – is becoming increasingly important and complex. Temperature profiles must remain within precisely defined ranges. Particle foams such as EPS or EPP are predestined for this purpose thanks to their excellent insulating properties and design possibilities. On a Kurtz T-LINE shape moulding machine, our long-standing business partner Schaumaplast produces, for example, EPP medical boxes that can be recycled several times and are multifunctional thanks to their thermosensitivity.

Highly innovative packaging made of EPP for the transport of highly sensitive goods such as vaccines or living cells

The recyclable medicine box in use ensures a lower CO_2 footprint

Kurtz GmbH has been working with particle foams for 50 years and develops customized systems for specific applications. Thanks to its own R&D Center, development work recently reached a new level – sustainable technologies such as the RF fusion process now also enable the processing of biomaterials and recycled material. Important expertise also for Schaumaplast GmbH & Co. KG. The Nossen site in Saxony specializes in the processing of EPP and E-TPU. The particle foam experts there develop intelligent transport solutions for temperature-sensitive pharmaceutical and biotechnological products. The boxes are manufactured on Kurtz shape moulding machines – the entire Schaumaplast machine park, distributed among subsidiaries in Germany, Poland and the USA, boasts an impressive 30 Kurtz machines.

A cooperation between Schaumaplast and the biotech company Codon resulted in a multifunctional reusable packaging for the transport of thermosensitive cell material, from which a customized EPP medical box with sophisticated thermal stability emerged. The Codon cell treatment method allows cells – such as undamaged cartilage tissue from a knee – to be propagated outside the body and returned. The cells are used as the body´s own human drug and "repair" damaged cartilage tissue. To do this, the harvested live tissue must survive transport from the clinic to the lab and back. To produce the demanding medicine box core, the Kurtz EPP shape moulding machine was the perfect system.

Recyclable transport box

After a complex procedure, Codon received approval for its method in 2017 as a drug for the regenerative treatment of articular cartilage damage in the knee. The method relies on secure transport of the biopsy (removed cartilage tissue) and graft. Disposable cardboard boxes with water-based cold packs or wet ice in plastic bags were previously used to transport the biopsy and graft. Too often, however, these transports fell below the permissible temperatures and thus damaged the valuable tissue.

The new EPP transport container, on the other hand, which copes with two temperature ranges and is also recyclable, is different. A temperature range of between 5 and 25 °C is provided for the biopsy specimen, while the transplant requires 2 to 8 °C. Different outside temperatures when shipping to cold and warm regions in the cold or warm season must not affect the packaged goods – in addition, as air freight, it must be able to withstand a pressure difference of 95 kPa and a fall from a height of 1.2 meters.

One box, two temperature ranges

Using phase change material (PCM) accumulators, i.e. hard plastic accumulators filled with special mixtures, combined with vacuum insulation panels, both temperature ranges are set in one and the same box. For biopsy transport, 4 + 2 elements with different PCM and initial 20 °C are used; for transplant, six identical PCM accumulators at initial +4 °C are used. For the special transport case of living cells, a positive melting point was required. "Various formulations were tried out for this until an optimum was found," says Martin Raack, Key Account Manager Cold Chain at Schaumaplast. Consistently high demands are placed on a box that appears simple on the outside and is produced on a precisely controllable Kurtz T-LINE shape moulding machine with a zero-defect rate. "The Schaumaplast Codon Box is an excellent EPP application example with an absolutely high-quality end product that masters a demanding task and also leaves a small CO_2 footprint thanks to its reusability," says Harald Sommer, General Manager Protective Solutions at Kurtz GmbH.

On the Road with Kurtz Ersa Automation

Excellent project management from the planning phase to delivery

This is what the Kurtz Ersa Automation team stands for, which, as a system supplier with its own products and Industry 4.0 solutions, fulfills all customer requirements with a spirit of innovation and absolute process know-how.

Setup of the fully automated THT workstations without soldering system

Kurtz Ersa Automation has established itself in a very short time as a top supplier of automation technology in electronics manufacturing, particle foam processing and casting production. Thanks to the group's know-how, the team knows the production processes inside out and can concentrate completely on the optimal, customized automation solution. This is what happened with Ersa customer ESCD from the far north.

Fully automated THT workstations

For an Ersa POWERFLOW N2 already installed at the customer's site, Kurtz Ersa Automation developed a peripheral system consisting of three fully automatic placement stations with sorting racks, height-adjustable tables, and automatic feeding of placement material. The customer benefited from a "one-stop solution", as electrical and mechanical interfaces to the soldering machine were optimally clarified internally. The requirements focused on even more efficient work during PCB assembly in the THT process, considering optimum ergonomics. In concrete terms, this means fully automatic feeding and removal of the workpiece carriers (WPC) to the manual workstations, which are height-adjustable and are followed automatically by the associated lifts. Thanks to the customer-specific RFID routing, the WPC are automatically moved through the system to the appropriate placement location.

The system was installed over the weekend by the same assembly team that had already carried out the internal commissioning. This ensured a smooth production start-up and hardly disturbed the customer's ongoing production.

Solution oriented implementation

Electronics service provider ESCD is located north of Hamburg – 600 km away from Kurtz Ersa Automation, but this was no obstacle for the automation specialists from Wertheim, either for project clarification or on-site assembly. In close cooperation, an optimal workplace concept was designed. After a rapid project planning phase, the Factory Acceptance Test took place in April, after which the commissioning team went "on the road" despite adverse weather conditions.

After functional testing at the manufacturer's site and transport across the country, assembly and marriage with the POWERFLOW N2 could begin. Despite the best preparation, there can be surprises: The WPC were conveyed so hot at the customer's site that they could not be touched and were soiled by the process. Through customer-specific adjustments, Kurtz Ersa found the optimal solution for smooth operation. Conclusion: The customer is enthusiastic about the way the team with Ersa and Kurtz Ersa Automation employees works, the plant runs perfectly!

Loading at the Reinhardshof site in Wertheim – at the end, everything is safely stowed for the journey north

Dr. Michael Wenzel

New Management at Kurtz Ersa Automation

On 01.04.2021, Dr. Michael Wenzel took over the management of Kurtz Ersa Automation GmbH. Dr. Wenzel received his doctorate in physics from the Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg in 1992. During his now 30-year career, the internationally experienced manager has served as managing director, consultant and interim manager of well-known companies in the fields of mechanical and plant engineering as well as automation. From 2003 to 2018, Dr. Michael Wenzel was also a member of the "Robotics & Automation" board within the VDMA. During this time, he held offices such as the chairmanship of the robotics department and the chairmanship of the robotics & automation trade association. Dr. Michael Wenzel has already been working for Kurtz Ersa for six months. Initially as delegate of the advisory board in an advisory capacity for Kurtz Ersa Automation. Dr. Wenzel is an expert in the successful business development of technology companies and an accomplished manager for all relevant areas such as development, production, sales, purchasing and service. The main task of the new managing director will be the sustainable growth of the Kurtz Ersa Automation business unit.

Focused on growth! Kurtz Ersa wants to be climate neutral by 2029

We all want to live in an environment worth living in. For this, more must be done for climate protection. Now, not someday. Kurtz Ersa explicitly supports the Green Deal, with which Europe wants to become the first climate neutral continent by 2050 – based on a new growth strategy towards a resource-efficient economy. And because words are followed by actions, Kurtz Ersa launched a tree planting campaign at the end of April to underline this goal. A total of 55 managers took action to put 59 trees and shrubs into the ground.

Meeting climatic challenges

Nearby Wertheim-based gardening service Weber advised on the selection of trees. The decision was made in favor of "climate trees", robust against heat, cold, drought and storms and thus able to cope with future climatic challenges. The planting campaign took place directly at Kurtz Ersa Logistik GmbH – creating a wind-calm area where bird boxes and bee hotels will be set up and where Kurtz Ersa employees can spend their breaks. Even if it is "only a few" trees or shrubs – they symbolize the planned goal of the European Green Deal. Kurtz Ersa is going one better and wants to become climate neutral by 2029!

WORLDWIDE PRESENCE.

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Technology fan?
In the HAMMERMUSEUM the history of Kurtz Ersa comes alive – experience the enthusiasm for technology with which we are also successfully on the move in the 21st century. Please refer to our website for current opening hours.

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