56 07/23

Kurtz Ersa Magazine

For Customers and Business Partners of Kurtz Ersa Corporation

HIGH QUALITY SOLUTIONS.

DRIVEN BY KURTZ ERSA.

Electronics Production Equipment

Future Services – our service of the future

iF DESIGN AWARD for i-CON TRACE

Moulding Machines

THINK BIG – High Quality in Low Pressure

Flying Ray for for large parts

Automation

Strong presence at Automatica 2023

Mounting systems for more efficiency

GLOBAL. AHEAD. SUSTAINABLE.

kurtz ersa

Positive trend continues

Ralph Knecht,
CEO of the Kurtz Ersa Corporation

The first half of 2023 was characterized by high dynamics in many sectors. Energy markets are under pressure and are changing significantly. The automotive industry is undergoing an unprecedented transformation with opportunities and risks for all market participants. Not to forget the still tense situation in Ukraine.

Dynamism brings change. And change creates new opportunities. Our latest customer magazine offers many answers and solutions to current questions. How do we shape sustainable growth while taking CO_2 targets into account? How do we secure our sales markets despite changing conditions in globalization? How do we ensure the flow of goods in the face of tight procurement markets and stricter legislation for supply chains?

Our sustainability initiative "GoGreen250" is in full swing. Various initiatives have been launched or are already being implemented, such as our PV systems at the Wiebelbach and Bestenheid sites, which also feed the 70 charging stations for our workforce and visitors. We have also started to structure our sustainability activities globally and include our foreign sites. You can read all about this in this issue.

A lot has also happened on the product side – the VERSAFLOW 3/45, which has sold over 2,000 units, the iF Design Award for the i-CON TRACE, and the Kurtz Moulding Machine with e-Drive, an all-electric motor, are just three highlights of many that demonstrate Kurtz Ersa's innovative strength. With our Flying Ray, we are preparing to take the step towards "metallic 3D printing for large parts" – a highlight that we were able to show at GIFA in Düsseldorf, among other events.

I am very pleased that we are attracting more attention from our customers in the field of automation together with SCHILLER AUTOMATION, which we also saw in the high level of interest at Automatica in Munich. The services from Sonnenbühl in Swabia act here as an integral part of our customer offering, and the intensive cooperation with Kurtz Ersa Automation increases performance within the Group.

As you can see, we are pulling out all the stops to offer our customers the best solutions and proactively use current trends for our benefit. Sophisticated service concepts are just as important as digital services or the reliable supply chain and punctual delivery dates.

Our stable development in the first half of the year means that we are continuing to look for reinforcements at full speed. We currently have around 100 vacancies to fill. Here, too, there is a lot of dynamism, as in all Kurtz Ersa divisions.

I wish you an exciting read, Glück auf!

Your Ralph Knecht

Sustainable on the road under the **GO**GREEN**250** flag

The overall goal of the sustainability initiative launched in 2020 is CO_2 neutrality by 2029 – coinciding with the 250th anniversary of the Kurtz Ersa Group. Enclosed is an overview of the progress in our six defined fields of action – these represent the entire scope of Kurtz Ersa and thus ensure a holistic view. ››

Sustainable Development

Here, everything revolves around the energy and resource efficiency of our products as well as innovative and resource-saving technologies. In addition to the goals defined in our development process, several projects are currently being implemented that focus on increasing energy efficiency, reducing emissions, and the sustainable product life cycle of our machines.

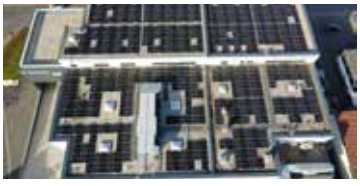
Sustainable Procurement

Currently, the focus is on the preparations for the requirements of the Supply Chain Sourcing Obligations Act (LkSG), which will also apply to Kurtz Ersa from January 2024. In order to be able to implement these various obligations in the own business unit as well as in connection with direct and indirect suppliers, the software "Osapiens" was procured, which will be implemented by Q3/2023.

GOGREEN250

Sustainable Production

A lot has been done in this field of action in recent months – for example, all German sites have been supplied with 100 % green electricity since January 2023. We are also pursuing ambitious targets for our own electricity generation: At the beginning of April 2023, our first photovoltaic (PV) plant with around 202 kWp in Wertheim went online. Two further PV plants with a total of over 1,000 kWp were completed in Wertheim and Kreuzwertheim in June. Also this summer, 70 charging points will go into operation at four German locations to enable CO_2-neutral charging of our vehicle fleet. As an attractive employer, we offer our employees the opportunity to use the charging stations to charge their private e-vehicles. In addition, large-scale conversions to LED lighting have been commissioned at several sites, resulting in significant energy savings.



Sustainable Selling

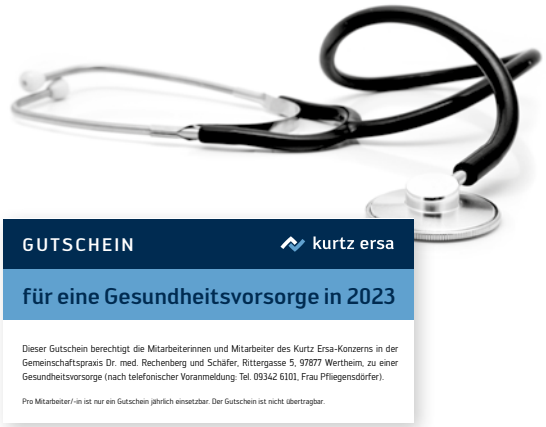
The introduction of a new CRM system will further reduce energy requirements and is an important aspect of the "Sustainable Selling" field of action. Among other things, this tool will help to reduce the amount of energy previously used for sales, customer care and services. Positive effects for the CO_2 balance result above all from reduced travel. The switch to a lower-CO_2 vehicle fleet to significantly reduce fuel consumption and CO_2 emissions is also making further progress. Currently, 23 % of all vehicles in the fleet are electric or hybrid vehicles.

Sustainable Management

In 2023, Kurtz Ersa will again invest around 1 % of its EBIT in sustainable measures, e.g. in the development of the e-charging structure, PV systems and the conversion to LED. In addition, this field of action drives the topics of compliance and social responsibility, which is why a new Code of Conduct was developed and published in July. An ESG rating will again give us an overall view of our further development. ESG stands for Environment, Social and Governance and measures the voluntary contribution of companies to sustainable development that goes beyond legal requirements. We will once again work with EcoVadis on this and expect to communicate the results by the beginning of Q3/2023. Our aim is to improve in each of the four categories "Environment and Emissions", "Labor and Human Rights", "Sustainable Procurement" and "Ethics".

Sustainable Living

As part of this field of action, various occupational safety measures and occupational health management measures were implemented. The focus of occupational safety was on training for managers, while occupational health management included flu vaccinations. In April 2023, health days were also held at several German sites. In cooperation with our health partner BARMER, there was a varied program on the topics of allergies, including lung function measurement, cold prevention and strengthening the immune system.



The Supply Chain Sourcing Obligations Act

Challenge and Opportunity for Purchasing

With the Supply Chain Sourcing Obligations Act (LkSG) passed in 2021, respecting human rights and protecting the environment in global supply chains will become an obligation for German companies and companies operating in Germany. We at Kurtz Ersa are aware of this responsibility and expressly endorse the objectives of the Supply Chain Act. We have underlined this approval once again by joining the UN Global Compact last year – and by creating a dedicated position for sustainability and LkSG management in Purchasing 2022. This gives the LkSG the necessary strategic relevance. Dietmar Borgards, CPO, and Neele Teich, Sustainability and LkSG Manager in Central Purchasing, explain what the LkSG means for Kurtz Ersa from a purchasing perspective.

Key points of the supply chain due diligence act

Due diligence management system

- Strategy and anchoring
- Risk analysis
- Prevention and remediation measures
- Complaints procedure
- Effectiveness monitoring
- Reporting

Due Diligence

- in its own business area, vis-à-vis direct suppliers, in the case of indirect suppliers, in the case of actual indications, that a violation at indirect suppliers appears possible
- Duty to endeavor - no warranty obligation

Affected companies

2023: Companies with 3,000 or more employees in Germany
2024: Companies with 1,000 or more employees in Germany
(incl. temporary workers)
Also foreign companies with branch office in Germany

Reference of the due diligence obligations

Due diligence obligations apply in relation to certain human rights

Control and sanctions

- BAFA receives strong powers of intervention
- Fines and exclusion from public procurement possible

Source: Federal Office of Economics and Export Control https://www.bafa.de/DE/Lieferketten/Ueberblick/ueberblick_node.html

What changes does the LkSG bring for the central purchasing department?

The Supply Chain Act brings fundamental changes and will not only challenge us as Purchasing, but also our authoritative cooperation as an interface function, e.g. with our Development and our suppliers. From the past three years, we are already used to adapting to rapidly changing framework conditions. Now we have to reconcile security of supply and the flexibility this requires with the exercise of our due diligence. To this end, among other things, our central purchasing processes and our risk management must be adapted.

What are currently the biggest challenges in implementing due diligence?

We currently see the lack of transparency in our supply chains as one of our greatest challenges. Obtaining information to better assess the supplier's risk disposition involves significantly more effort. And sometimes it is not enough to just send out a questionnaire to get a picture of the supplier.

It is also problematic that the law still leaves a lot of room for interpretation. Uniform standards are lacking in many places, and so the path to LkSG compliance feels a bit like walking in fog that will hopefully clear soon. Here, we are increasingly relying on the exchange with the Agency for Business and Development, associations, other friendly companies and, of course, with our suppliers.

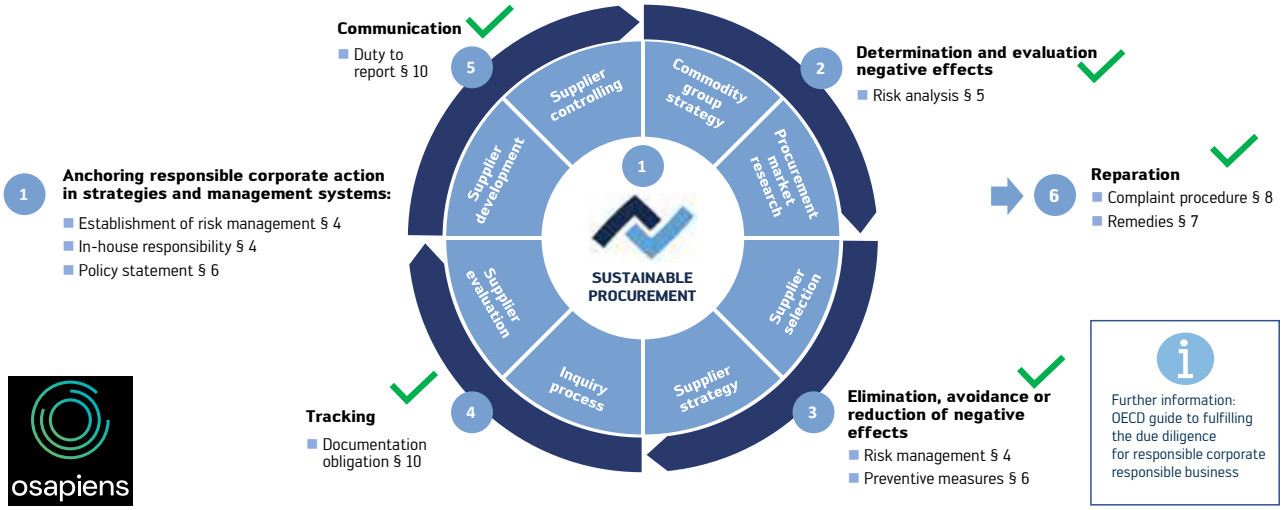
What opportunities does the LkSG offer?

The Supply Chain Act enables us to create more transparency in our supply chains and optimize our risk management. This enables us to identify risks at an early stage, take responsibility and initiate positive developments. The LkSG also enables us to engage more closely with our suppliers, identify and tap new potential and drive forward existing ones. This will make purchasing more resilient in the long term.

Where do we currently stand?

We first took a close look at the existing purchasing processes and expanded the supplier selection and approval process to include social and ecological criteria. It quickly became clear that the complexity of the processes and data could only be handled with digital support. In addition, we had to document everything in a comprehensible manner. Therefore, the next step was to select a suitable software solution for performing risk analyses, supplier surveys, and the creation and management of action plans. In the end, we decided in favor of osapiens. Here, a partnership-based cooperation was also an important selection criterion, because the Supply Chain Act and, in perspective, the EU Directive on Corporate Due Diligence will accompany us in the coming years and require close cooperation. We have found a strategic partner in osapiens. We started the project with osapiens on April 3 and plan to have our system operational by September 1.

Osapiens as a starting point and component of central purchasing processes



What are our next steps?

We still have some way to go on the road to LkSG compliance. We consider the implementation of training courses and supplier days to be essential, because only if we sensitize our colleagues and our suppliers to the contents of the Supply Chain Act can we jointly protect human rights and the environment in our supply networks and promote the topic of sustainability. To this end, we are working on appropriate training materials and plans for employees and suppliers. We are sure that we will ALL master the requirements of the LkSG together!

Ersa General Sales Manager Rainer Krauss (left) symbolically hands over the 2,000th VERSAFLOW 3/45 selective soldering system to Tamás Börcz, General Manager of Flex in Zalaegerszeg; Photo: Flex Ltd.

Fits seamlessly into the Flex electronics production in Zalaegerszeg: the anniversary machine VERSAFLOW 3/45, which is already the 26th Ersa selective soldering machine at the Hungarian site; Photo: Flex Ltd.

Together successful for over 15 years: Flex in Hungary, Ersa from Wertheim (in yellow) and Hungary representative Microsolder Kft., represented by Managing Director Csaba Peto (fourth from left); Photo: Flex Ltd.

Ersa installs 2,000th VERSAFLOW 3/45

Jubilee selective soldering machine officially handed over to Flex in Hungary

Ersa GmbH recently installed the 2,000th selective soldering machine of its bestseller VERSAFLOW 3/45 in Hungary. For the official handover of the anniversary machine to the EMS service provider Flex in Hungary, Ersa General Sales Manager Rainer Krauss traveled with a delegation to Zalaegerszeg at the beginning of March.

Also present were the Budapest-based sales partner Microsolder Kft., represented by its Managing Director Csaba Peto, and the responsible Ersa Area Sales Manager Tom Berx. The partnership between Flex Hungary and Ersa started in 2008 with a first selective soldering machine, followed by 25 more VERSAFLOW 3/45s to date. Tamás Börcz, General Manager of Flex in Zalaegerszeg, said: "We have extremely diverse product portfolios with a wide range of sizes and components – requirements are constantly changing, and we have to respond quickly and adequately. We evaluated extensively and made a decision in favor of Ersa when it comes to selective soldering, as their soldering systems offer extremely flexible options for highest throughput and best quality."

The great acceptance of the modular and expandable Ersa selective soldering machines around the world is due to their versatility. Mixed assemblies with THT components and SMD assembly on both sides can be optimally produced with it. In contrast to wave soldering, the heat input into the assembly is much lower and no solder masks are required. The solder masks used in wave soldering protect SMD components on the underside of the PCB from remelting and rinsing when in contact with the solder wave. These are also required for very small production runs and must each be manufactured individually – this time and cost factor is eliminated with selective soldering.

Thanks to this technology, individual components of a board can be soldered with individual parameters, whereas under wave soldering, the temperature and wetting time in the solder wave must be selected for the entire assembly. Selectively soldered assemblies are also less likely to become contaminated, as only a few areas need to be soldered and come into contact with flux and solder. Selective soldering is unbeatable if, in addition to the top side of the assembly, the bottom side is also populated with SMDs (with a low proportion of THT components).

In addition to high-performance hardware, first-class service is also crucial for Flex Hungary. Commenting on the relationship, Ersa Sales Director Rainer Krauss said: "With our sales and service network, we are globally positioned and always close to our customers to provide the same level of quality in terms of hardware and service everywhere – at Flex Hungary, this is our sales partner Microsolder, who has supported us for many years in the integration and service of new and existing systems. We have enjoyed a successful partnership with Flex Hungary for 20 years, and we would like to continue this in the future." Zoltán Tuboly, Manufacturing Engineering Manager at Flex Hungary echoes the sentiment adding: "I can only agree and thank the Ersa team for continued strong support over many years."

Strong partners since 2008: the Flex team in Hungary with Tamás Börcz (fourth from right), General Manager of Flex in Zalaegerszeg, the guests from Ersa in yellow and the Hungary representative Csaba Peto from Microsolder Kft.; Photo: Flex Ltd.

ENGAGED ELECTRONICS FOR THE FUTURE!

As one of the most important EMS service providers in the French market, Cofidur EMS implements demanding projects in electronics production with 400 employees – for example for industry & commerce, aerospace/rail transport & defense, telecommunications and lighting. To this end, the company maintains a 43,000 m² production area with high-performance soldering systems, and 2022 sales amounted to 55.8 million Euro. Recently, an Ersa vacuum reflow soldering system type EXOS 10/26 was added to the Cofidur machinery at the Laval site.

April 18, 2023, test bay 6, Ersa Manufacturing, today reserved for Cofidur EMS from France. It is 8:30 a.m. and Ersa service and application engineer Oleg Besarab is putting the finishing touches to the EXOS 10/26 so that customer acceptance for the vacuum reflow soldering machine can take place within one day. Only when all points have been successfully processed according to protocol is the 7,875-mm-long, 5,000-kg machine loaded in order to start the 900-km journey to Laval in northwestern France. Oleg has been with the company since October 2019, his first project back then: EXOS 10/26, 22 heating chambers, four cooling zones, vacuum chamber after the peak zone to reduce the void rate by 99 % (!), the customer's name was Cofidur EMS, as it is today. In the meantime, the EXOS project clock stands at well over 100 machines.

Hand in hand: Cofidur and Ersa systematically work through all relevant machine functions during machine acceptance

09:00, the customer arrives: Gregory Metz, Process Engineering Manager, and Gaétan Machard, Process Engineering Technician, accompanied by Remy Lutz, Manager Kurtz Ersa France, and Sylvain Chevrier, Ersa Service and Application Engineer in France. After a quick cup of coffee, it's down to the nitty-gritty, all ordered functions are checked, soldering test are to take place and a temperature profile is to be kept. Maintenance and service are left out today, as the Cofidur team is already familiar with the EXOS 10/26 and knows the strengths and special features of its vacuum reflow soldering system.

Just a few weeks later, the second Cofidur EXOS replaced an existing reflow oven that had processed close to six million PCBs in recent years. The Kurtz Ersa France team had just three days to commission the new machine, on the fourth day things got serious and the freshly installed EXOS took over the part of its predecessor – 3-shift operation, 5-day week, trimmed for mass production. "For our second EXOS, we were able to draw on the experience of our first reflow soldering system – that was quite an adventure, since the EXOS 10/26 installed at the beginning of 2020 was one of the very first machines of this type to be delivered. Our new one will have an exciting application in the

Everything ready in the test bay for customer acceptance of the EXOS 10/26 reflow soldering system

field of lighting – for this we need a cleanly balanced temperature profile," says Grégory Metz, who has been working for Cofidur EMS for over 23 years. In addition to the vacuum chamber, which enables pore-free solder joints for power electronics and high-reliability technology, Cofidur was particularly convinced by the fact that the maintenance-friendly, lubricant-free roller transport system familiar from the selective world is also used there.

Cofidur EMS is not only in contact with Ersa through reflow soldering technology – the two companies have known each other for ten years and the exchange became more intensive until the concrete project with a VERSAFLOW 3/45 took place in 2016. The selective soldering machine is installed at the Cofidur site in Périgueux, where 150 employees carry out electronics production on 8,000 m^2 of production space in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region. "On the one hand, Ersa's reputation as a leading supplier of selective soldering systems precedes us, and on the other hand, the excellent advice provided by Rémy Lutz and his team at Kurtz Ersa France," says Grégory Metz, who greatly appreciates the direct contact with the manufacturer. As does the fact that the responsible service technician can be on site in 30 minutes if necessary. For the second selective soldering system of the same type ordered for Laval, Cofidur EMS dispensed with an on-site acceptance test: "We already knew the VERSAFLOW 3/45 and what the selective system was capable of – so we only carried out a video acceptance test," says Gaetan Machard. The Laval VERSAFLOW is also operated in three shifts and can be used for numerous applications thanks to its flexibility and quick changeover capability – the selective soldering system covers almost all Cofidur business areas and processes both lead-free and leaded applications.

Kick-off customer acceptance of the EXOS 10/26, which goes to Cofidur EMS in Laval, northwest France

Cofidur's machinery is very well utilized at the two sites in Laval and Périgueux – in 3-shift operation, both the reflow machines and the selective systems are fully loaded. It is quite possible that after the EXOS, another soldering machine project will soon appear on the horizon ...

i-CON TRACE wins iF DESIGN AWARD 2023

Renowned design award for the Ersa IoT soldering station

At the iF DESIGN Award Night 2023, Theresa Klembt and Jörg Nolte accepted the award at the Friedrichstadt-Palast on May 15. Our thanks go to the Ersa team as well as the Katana design office for the realization of this groundbreaking product!

GREEN MEANS GO – unique operating concept including mobile app control: When all conditions for an assigned soldering task are met, the LED interface of the i-CON TRACE gives the green light and the soldering process can start

Ersa GmbH is one of this year´s winners of the globally renowned design award iF DESIGN AWARD. The i-CON TRACE IoT soldering station won in the "Industry/Tools" category. The iF DESIGN AWARD is announced every year by the world´s oldest independent design organization, iF International Forum Design GmbH, based in Hanover (Germany).

The Ersa i-CON TRACE is the first soldering station that can be controlled by smartphone or mobile device – making it perfect for the digital age. Specially designed for use in digitally networked environments, the i-CON TRACE with integrated WLAN, Bluetooth and network card enables 100 % connectivity in digitally networked manufacturing processes and seamless traceability in manual soldering. Complicated parameter settings or cryptic menus? Not with the i-CON TRACE – thanks to the intuitive operating concept with on/off switch and three LEDs, the user can concentrate fully on the soldering process. Equally convincing: the patented Tip´n´Turn concept of the associated i-TOOL soldering iron with bayonet lock, which enables safe and fast soldering tip changes virtually in the blink of an eye.

With seamless process documentation, the i-CON TRACE brings complete transparency to the manual soldering process. It can also be fully integrated into MES-controlled production processes. This means that the recording of an entire soldering task can already be downloaded and stored in a higher-level control system. The i-CON TRACE convinced the 133-member jury, made up of independent experts from all over the world, with its appealing design, which is continued in the intuitive operating concept. The competition was fierce, with nearly 11,000 entries from 56 countries hoping to win the seal of quality. "We are very pleased about the iF DESIGN AWARD for the i-CON TRACE – after all, the award shows that we have struck a nerve with our soldering station for the digital age, both visually and in terms of applications," summed up Hansjürgen Bolg, Division Manager Ersa Tools, Rework & Inspection, after the award was announced.

The patented Tip´n´Turn concept enables tip change in record time. Safe changing of the soldering tip in the blink of an eye – using the storage stand or by hand. Convincing: the significantly cooler handpiece of the i-TOOL TRACE, whether for short operations or in continuous operation

The participants of the 2023 Technology Forum in front of the Ersa site in Wertheim

Ersa Technology Event

4th Technology Forum focuses on „*Digital Services*“

The Ersa Technology Forum took place for the fourth time on June 21 and 22 in Wertheim. The technology event, which has long been an integral part of the electronics production calendar, brought together 300 experts and decision-makers from the DACH region to examine the core topic of "digital services" from all sides. The two-day event once again offered an attractive platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas within the electronics production community. Dr. Vinzenz Krause, founder and managing director of the Academy for Exponential Change in Munich and expert in the implementation of disruptive business models, led the program as moderator.

At the beginning of the top-class lecture program, Andreas Westhäußer, Head of Service & After Sales at Ersa GmbH, presented the "Service of the Future". Under the keyword "servitization", he showed, among other things, how numerous service processes can be significantly accelerated with the help of Kurtz Ersa CONNECT. Lutz Wilke from LPKF Laser & Electronics SE took over and dealt with fast, highly accurate in-house PCB prototype production (manufacturing a double-sided PCB with


The get-together facilitated many high level conversation


Erwin Beck from ASMPT GmbH & Co. KG showed the way for automation to the "Integrated Smart Electronics Factory"

In addition to the lecture program, the Technology Forum also featured intensive exchanges in the Customer Care Center (CCC) – often directly at the Ersa systems on display and at the booths of the participating partners

Hands-on unit at the HOTFLOW THREE: Ersa Product Manager Michael Haas presents the reflow soldering system, which scores among other things with its three-stage cleaning system

galvanic through-hole plating in a network of different systems). The next topic was "Soldering Technology for High Reliability Electronics" – Jürgen Friedrich, Head of Ersa Application Technology, addressed challenges in the design of high reliability assemblies and applications from a thermodynamic point of view. Sebastian Bechmann (Christian Koenen GmbH) and Axel Lindloff (Koh Young Europe GmbH) showed in the following lecture "From PCB to silicon chip" how printing and 3D measurement technology can be used for semiconductor packaging – the two also addressed the European Chip Act, which supports the development of a European semiconductor industry.

Day two started with "Automation – on the way to the Integrated Smart Electronics Factory", Erwin Beck from ASMPT GmbH & Co. KG highlighted relevant success factors for smarter electronics production. It came to Adrian Münkel (Ersa GmbH) to present "The Missing Link – Traceability in Hand Soldering" with the IoT soldering station i-CON TRACE. Stefan Huttelmaier from the Swabian Kurtz Ersa subsidiary SCHILLER AUTOMATION GmbH & Co. KG took a look at best practice applications with regard to press-fit technology in electronics production, Thomas Winkel (Viscom AG) spoke about "100 % cycle-time compliant 3D AXI inspection in the production line" using automatic X-ray inspection, and Odin Holmes from AI Group concluded with "The world is not DIGITAL enough!", including rapid prototyping in hardware development, resilience against chip shortages and open source approaches.

In addition to the lecture program, there was enough time for exchange and networking – whether during the breaks, at the exhibition in the Customer Care Center, which covered the entire spectrum of electronics production thanks to the participating partners, or at the evening event at Wertheim Castle. Hands-on sessions with Ersa HOTFLOW THREE, Reworksystem HR 600 XL, i-CON TRACE and VERSAFLOW ONE provided the practical reference. "These were two extremely valuable days for determining where electronics production stands – for Ersa, the business partners involved, and all the participants. We clearly determined where we stand and where the journey will take us. Digital services will essentially accompany us on this journey – but we must also take people along with us on this path," said Ersa General Sales Manager Rainer Krauss.

As Head of Sales Support, Nicolai Böhrer gives a tour of Ersa's Smart Factory, which was named "Factory of the Year" in 2021

Casual get-together in the evening at Wertheim Castle in summer time temperatures

Ersa General Sales Manager Rainer Krauss (middle) with keynote speaker Dr. Sebastian Smerat (right) and moderator Dr. Vinzenz Krause (left)

Get-together at midsummer temperatures ...

... and yet full concentration at the highly exciting lecture by Dr. Sebastian Smerat

INSIGHT BEYOND '23

ECONOMIC BENEFIT THROUGH DIGITAL EXPANSION!

Intensive networking also at the joint dinner in the former iron foundry

On the eve of the Technology Forum, Ersa hosted an exclusive "Insight Beyond" event at the Eisenhammer in Hasloch. Dr. Sebastian Smerat, Head of Customer Innovation Tribe at thyssenkrupp Materials Services, was the keynote speaker – around 100 guests came to listen to the digital transformation expert´s presentation on "Business success through digital service innovations".

In his keynote speech, the participants gained exciting insights into the world of the largest independent materials distributor in the western hemisphere, which is helping to shape the solutions of tomorrow as a successful partner for 250,000 customers worldwide. At thyssenkrupp Materials Services, it´s not just about procuring products and materials as cost-effectively as possible and optimally timing supply chains. The aim is to make the supply of materials secure and sustainable in the sense of smart materials trading through continuous digitization, automation and standardization of processes – and to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. thyssenkrupp Materials Services is constantly developing new products and services for the supply chain and service business. Materials Services can be anything from a provider of individual supply chain modules to a manager of the entire supply chain.

The starting point for thyssenkrupp Materials Services as a materials trader, taking steel trading as a concrete example, was the question: How much material do we have to store to achieve a good service level for the customer? The way to achieve this was, for example, the centralization of material groups, through which alone a cost optimization of 15 % could be achieved. For automotive OEMs, data-based timing analysis was used to achieve a 20 % increase in the accuracy of requested goods. Using an e-commerce platform, thyssenkrupp Materials Services succeeded in reducing customer overstocks through a digital marketplace solution. Black Swan events in the recent past or present – such as the Corona pandemic, supply chain problems or the war in Ukraine – showed that this digital approach can also work on a global level.

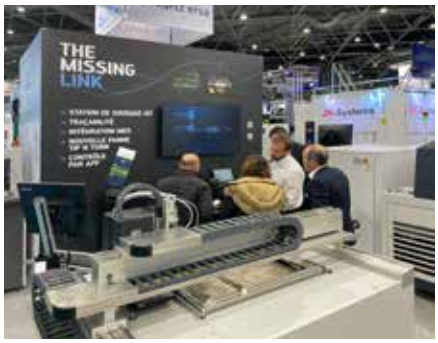
As an intermediary between the various players in the supply chain, thyssenkrupp Materials Services has a wide reach with its customer base to bring transparency to the supply chain (e.g. in terms of certificates, CO_2 emissions) and thus decisively advance the digital transformation. The important thing here is to demonstrate the economic benefits to the respective partner so that all those involved really get on board.

The iron hammer with its Hammermuseum and hammer forge provided an ideal backdrop for this inspiring lecture, the content of which reached far into the future against a historical backdrop. Immediately afterwards, the guests had the opportunity to experience the time-honored pile hammer of the hammer forge live in action, before a joint dinner in the former iron foundry ushered in a summery evening.

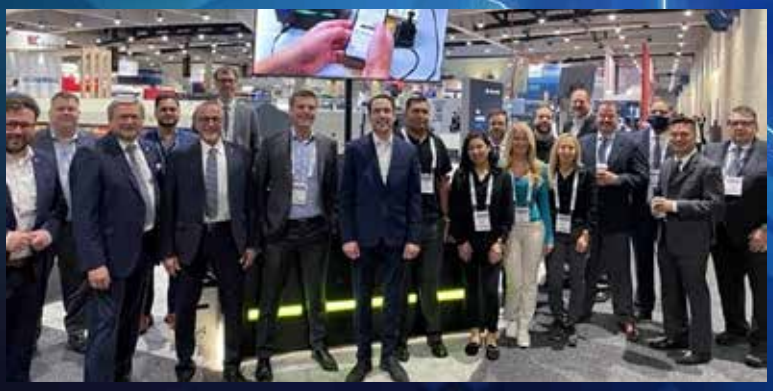
Global Industrie: *Au revoir Lyon !*

On March 10 it was time to say goodbye to Lyon! Kurtz Ersa France could look back on four extremely successful days at the fair, during which there were many exciting discussions in all product areas. The majority of these discussions will soon result in concrete projects. Global Industrie 2023 has once again shown that we, together with our sales partner Seica France, are among the most important players in the French electronics industry.

We have impressively demonstrated our competence as a system supplier of complete solutions over the entire production line through to comprehensive know-how transfer by means of the demonstrated real production line comprising solder paste printer (Ersa), HOTFLOW THREE reflow oven (Ersa), inspection systems SPI and AOI (Seica), i-CON TRACE soldering stations (Ersa) and HR rework systems (Ersa). We would like to thank our customers and visitors for this successful trade fair and assure you that Ersa will continue to do everything in its power to make sure that you can count on us as a reliable partner – now and in future!



Successful days *at the APEX*



Stronger together: the trade fair team from Kurtz Ersa, Inc. and Ersa GmbH at APEX 2023

What is a successful trade fair for us? Meeting customers, partners & friends, discussing new projects, having interesting conversations and understanding and implementing our customers´ requirements. That´s why we were part of the IPC APEX EXPO in San Diego! APEX 2023 was a great experience and a huge success for all of us. We would like to thank all interested visitors of the exhibition!

Trade fair SMTconnect:

Focus on Ersa Tools & Rework!

After three days at SMTconnect 2023, Ersa GmbH draws a thoroughly positive balance. Under the motto "Driving Manufacturing forward", the Nuremberg trade fair once again combined all relevant areas of electronics production – from development to production and services to the application of microelectronic assemblies and systems. For the first time, Ersa's trade fair presence focused entirely on the Tools and Rework Systems division – even though the system supplier covers the entire spectrum of electronics production, from featherweight soldering irons to soldering systems weighing several tons.

The perfect trade show showstopper was the i-CON TRACE IoT soldering station, which can be controlled via smartphone or mobile device and recently won the prestigious iF Design Award in the "Industry/Tools" category. Specially designed for use in digitally networked environments, the i-CON TRACE with integrated WLAN, Bluetooth and network card enables 100 % connectivity in digitally networked manufacturing processes and seamless traceability in manual soldering.

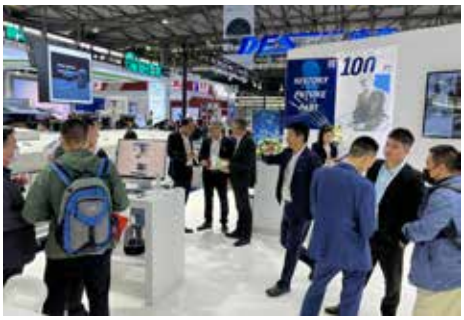
The show continued with the new i-CON MK2 series soldering stations, which provide more power in industrial hand soldering while reducing operating costs. Starting with 150 watts of power, the new soldering stations enable optimum performance and soldering results for manual applications. At the same time, all i-CON MK2 stations feature the completely newly developed Ersa soldering tip technology with fast heat-up or reheat process and precise temperature control. The associated i-TOOL MK2 fine soldering iron offers 20 % more soldering power and, as a 30-g lightweight, fits perfectly in the hand. When changing the tip without tools, the tip is simply exchanged via the patented Tip'n'Turn concept using a bayonet lock, and the heating element continues to be used.

Another important pillar of Ersa's trade fair presence was the rework systems, which make a lasting contribution to maintaining added value with professional rework. Whether hand-operated stations and "out of the box" tabletop units such as HR 100 and HR 200, semi-automated systems such as HR 550, or the high-end HR 600/3P system for automatic repair of SMT components such as BGA and MLF – Ersa provides a suitable answer to all rework requirements and can process everything "from micro to mega" (from 01005 to BGA with edge length 100 x 100 mm) and big boards (625 x 1,250 mm). "SMTconnect was a great platform to showcase our tools innovations – the direct dialog with visitors showed that our focus on Tools & Rework was very well received,"" said Hansjürgen Bolg, Head of Tools, Rework & Inspection Systems at Ersa.

Ersa drew a thoroughly positive balance with regard to the trade fair participation of its Tools & Rework division at the SMTconnect 2023 trade fair

The Ersa trade fair team at SMTconnect 2023 in Nuremberg

ELECTRIFYING PRESENCE
at Productronica China!



On April 15, 2023, the three-day 2023 Productronica China came to a successful close. The show attracted 822 exhibitors and showcased innovative solutions for electronics manufacturing to 70,833 visitors from 47 countries and regions in the 73,000-square-meter exhibition hall in Shanghai. The big plus compared to the last time underlines the positive economic sentiment, which is also targeted by the central government with a GDP growth rate of 5 % in 2023. Kurtz Ersa Asia has started the year with many new orders and welcomed the who´s who of the Chinese EMS industry at its stand, which stood out from the crowd with its bright and spacious design. The 144 square metre stand showcased the latest product innovations such as the i-CON TRACE, the EXOS vacuum reflow oven and the VERSAPRINT 2 stencil printer.

"The large number of visitors and the intensive technical discussions on the latest trends and technologies were a clear sign of how much the experts in the electronics processing industry were longing for a return to normality. E-mobility, automation and the digitization of processes were the key themes of the show," said Bernd Schenker, President of Kurtz Ersa Asia.

In addition to the main booth, Kurtz Ersa Asia participated in the Smart Factory production line, where a live PCB production took place. The PCBs had the shape of a rabbit, the SMDs were reflowed with a HOTFLOW 3/20 XL and the LEDs were soldered with a VERSAFLOW 3/35 Global Edition. "It was great to be here in Shanghai in presence. We wish all Kurtz Ersa customers growth and prosperity in the Chinese Year of the Rabbit," said Ulrich Dosch, Manager Key Accounts & Business Development.

FULL ELECTRIC DRIVE:

TECH PAK RELIES ON KURTZ POLY FOAMER

Kurtz Shape Moulding Machines with e-Drive, i.e. pure electric drive, have now arrived on the market. Today, Tech Pak Canada Inc., an "early adapter", reports on its experience with the Kurtz POLY FOAMER.

In the southwest coastal area of the Province of Nova Scotia Canada is a town called Yarmouth. Here is where you find the company Tech Pak Canada, Inc. which serves the local fishing industry with packaging products. Lobster, scallops, and various fish varieties including Cod and Salmon are processed here and shipped all over the world in boxes made by Tech Pak.

For many years, the TrueFoam family of companies have utilized Kurtz shape moulding machines for the production of various EPS packaging products, with fish boxes being the main stay of their offerings. Their subsidiary Tech Pak Canada, Inc. needed to increase capacity, and considered the Kurtz POLY FOAMER machine (formerly called A-LINE) to meet this growing demand.

In 2020, Tech Pak Canada, Inc. received their new Kurtz machine, equipped with e-Drive. The electric drive feature replaces the hydraulic system on the shape moulding machine, a trend which several companies in the food packaging industry are very excited about. The installation of the unit was not typical, however. During the global pandemic COVID-19, travel restrictions prevented Kurtz Service Technicians from being on-site. Therefore, Tech Pak´s resourceful plant manager, Robert Cunningham, had to rely on his many years of experience as well as the remote support of the Kurtz Service Team. The machine assembly, connection to utilities and final testing of all the machine functions was accomplished remotely!

The ability for the system to be connected remotely via an internet protocol allowed the same Kurtz technicians who helped build the machine in Germany to effectively communicate the process of bringing the POLY FOAMER to life in Yarmouth. The installation took longer than it would have under "normal" circumstances. But the experience gave Robert Cunningham a unique perspective. Shortly after assembly and connection to utilities, the machine was commissioned, and has been in production for the last two years while maintaining a very high efficiency standard.

According to Robert Cunningham, "The current technology available on this latest Kurtz shape moulding machine has advanced our capability by decades! Information available at the HMI (Human Machine Interface) allows for immediate feedback on machine function and confirmation of changes made in process." The interaction with the control screen is like putting a cell phone in the hands of a young person. Information is readily available, and it is useful when trouble shooting is an issue. What may have taken a number of days to find the source of a problem, can be solved in minutes – saving valuable production time which translates to higher operational efficiency and, in the end, a better service to their customers.

And due to the electric movement, it is very quiet as compared to a hydraulically operated system. A bonus is that hydraulic issues are a thing of the past. It was based on the experience of Tech Pak that another TrueFoam Limited subsidiary, Newfoundland Styro, Inc., will receive additional equipment from Kurtz in 2023 with e-Drive. TrueFoam is a valued customer of Kurtz Protective Solutions and a shining example of a trend across an industry which looks to optimize production efficiency with the latest in processing technology.

THINK BIG!

Great solutions from Kurtz Casting Solutions!

In mid-June, GIFA, the international foundry trade show, was held for the 15th time in the Düsseldorf exhibition halls. There were many new things to discover for the foundry industry. At the Kurtz Casting Solutions booth, there were forward-looking answers to the trend towards casting and 3D printing of large parts.

From June 12 to 16, once again – as every four years – the GIFA and thus the most important event of the foundry industry took place in Düsseldorf. For some time now, the term GIGA casting has been of particular interest to OEMs – this refers to castings which, due to their dimensions, open up a new size segment. As a foundry machine manufacturer focusing on low-pressure casting, Kurtz Casting Solutions has been offering machines with a larger clamping surface combined with powerful yet low-noise hydraulics since 2017. But a lot has happened at Kurtz since then – and this was proudly presented at this year's trade fair. The motto "THINK BIG" perfectly matched the appearance of Kurtz Casting Solutions, which presented the latest solutions for the production of large components.

THINK BIG – High Quality in Low Pressure

Particularly impressive was the exhibited low pressure die casting machine type AL22-18FSC, which ensures high dimensional accuracy and surface quality of the produced parts. This was a machine with a large clamping area, large clear width between the columns, a mold weight of up to 18 t and a ››

Centerpiece of the booth and the Kurtz answer to the GIGA casting trend: the Kurtz low pressure casting machine with more clamping area, multiple riser system, large furnace capacity and high closing and opening forces

» multiple riser system. Clamping forces of 38 t act in it with an opening force of 56 t. Thanks to its compact design and reduced overall height, it can be easily installed in existing halls.

THINK BIG – High Quality in 3D Printing

Another highlight was the build platform of our metallic multi-head 3D printer Flying Ray, which traveled to Düsseldorf representing our large-scale facility with two large components – a motorcycle swing arm and a planetary gear. Metallic 3D printing opens up many opportunities for the foundry industry, especially for prototype and low-volume production. With Kurtz Ersa's multi-head 3D printer, even large metal components can be produced in a single printing process. This saves time, resources and increases production efficiency.

THINK BIG – High Quality in Digitization and Servitization

Another important component of the trade fair presentation was the Kurtz Ersa CONNECT software solution. This ensures high plant availability and fewer unplanned machine downtimes, which leads to more efficient utilization of the entire machine fleet. Kurtz Ersa CONNECT also enables more efficient maintenance and repair of the machines, which in turn increases the service speed and thus contributes to customer satisfaction.

GIFA 2023 was a complete success for Kurtz Casting Solutions and the Kurtz Ersa Additive Manufacturing division. The interest in our high-quality solutions was huge and our team received many inquiries. The success of the trade show appearance shows that Kurtz Casting Solutions is an important player in the foundry industry and will continue to come up with more innovative solutions in the future. Lothar Hartmann, General Manager Casting Solutions, summed up: "Our booth staff was really looking forward to GIFA. Networking and personal exchange were the focus of our efforts. The open booth design with lots of seating provided the optimal basis for intensive discussions. It was good to be able to be 'very close' to our customers and partners again." Following the trade fair, we dealt with a number of inquiries and created individual solutions for our customers.

Kurtz Ersa exhibited numerous cast and 3D-printed parts, which once again worked excellently as "ice-breakers" for many conversations

A piece of Spessart at the Düsseldorf GIFA: The Kurtz trade fair stand invited numerous customers and partners to traditional food and drinks from the Spessart on three evenings with "Franconian Happy Hours"

Once again it became clear that personal contact is the basis for good cooperation - especially to tackle projects together and implement them successfully

THINK BIG!

Design for Additive Manufacturing

Focus on structural optimization and lightweight construction

Changes in component design go hand in hand with new manufacturing technologies such as additive manufacturing. Metallic 3D printing is the future, but it is by no means trivial – especially for large components measuring more than 600 x 600 mm. For prototyping or small series with batch sizes from one to five, the technology is definitely a perfect fit!

The planetary gear (here with diameter 450 mm, also possible with 900 mm) proves that even components of the greatest complex shapes can be produced without any problems

Bionic structures are extremely valuable for additive manufacturing, as they allow considerable savings to be made in operating costs, for example by eliminating assembly work. In addition, bionic structures offer added value because they are accompanied by functional optimizations. The design is based on nature´s "blueprints" and adapts them to technical applications. At the same time, a bionic structure leads to lower weight, optimized material use and load distribution within the component – in other words, to improved performance overall.
Kurtz Ersa develops components in collaboration with the customer using the additive powder bed process LPBF (short for: Laser Powder Bed Fusion), optimizes them and demonstrates the advantages of a bionic design. Lightweight solutions and the production of small series with complex shapes are central goals. Complex geometries are often not feasible with conventional technologies – or only at significantly higher costs. Metallic 3D printing reduces the number of process steps required for shaping or joining, for example.

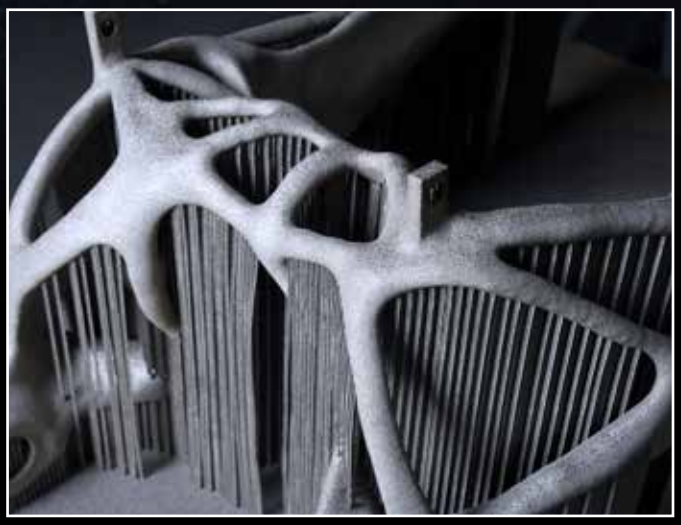
THINK BIG: High Quality in 3D Printing

With an installation space of 1,500 x 1,000 x 500 mm, the Kurtz Ersa Flying Ray is optimally equipped for the metallic 3D printing of large components. In the basic version, eight power adaptive lasers are used simultaneously on eight swivel arms. The multi-head printer was developed in a modular design to enable adaptation according to individual customer ideas and component requirements. Modular design options include: Number of lasers, number and length of axes, center distance and overlap area of the swivel arms.

Let´s fly!

kurtz ersa FLYING RAY

Motorcycle swingarm (625 x 370 x 280 mm) manufactured on 1/3 of the possible build platform of the Kurtz Ersa Flying Ray



Bionically optimized motorcycle swing arm: The supports are removed in post-processing

Compact testing and packing station
from SCHILLER AUTOMATION

Customer recommendation becomes project

The contact to a new customer for SCHILLER AUTOMATION was initiated by a recommendation from an existing customer. The project focused on the rapid testing and packaging of flat components, which the existing customer then processed further.

SCHILLER AUTOMATION GmbH & Co. KG has been an integral part of the Kurtz Ersa Group for one and a half years now and has since enriched the portfolio of the business unit dealing with automation solutions at Kurtz Ersa. The following new customer project on the testing and packaging of flat components quickly gained momentum – on the one hand, thanks to extraordinarily fast response times on the part of SCHILLER AUTOMATION, and on the other hand, thanks to an initial visit that took place immediately to clarify the project cornerstones and task definition. The challenges of the project were many and varied. First of all, the cycle time was specified to be less than one second per component. The quality inspection of the front and back of the component had to be maintained at the given cycle time. In addition, accurate handling and outstanding precision in stacking the component were imperative. The customer required special magazines to be designed to ensure further repackaging into transport containers. Likewise, data tracking was to be strictly adhered in order to ensure that batch, result and position data could be accessed at any time. And finally, of course, the operation of the handling system had to be within the limits of the required cycle time. An additional complicating factor was that the implementation of the project was led by a tight schedule. SCHILLER employees also had to contend with the general procurement problems for electronic components.

SCHILLER AUTOMATION came up with a brilliant solution for the customer and first created a clever rough plant concept using sample parts provided by the customer. SCHILLER's rough concept made an impression and was supplemented by production know-how and experience in close exchange with the customer. The system concept was then optimized by incorporating the discussion results in several iteration loops with the customer and suppliers for image processing and punching technology. At the same time, possible technical risks were identified and defined. »

» Due to the excellent approach in the project preparation, SCHILLER AUTOMATION was awarded the contract before its competitors and brought home the order. The following items were included in the final order:

- Unwinding of the coil with subsequent rewinding of the residual material
- Punching machine with triple tool (tool provided by customer)
- Interlinking of the die cutter with an inspection and packaging line
- Quality inspection on front and back side including turning of the part
- Evaluation of the quality inspection based on the inspection results
- Discharge of NIO parts
- Removal from running conveyor belt and stacking of components into special magazines
- Magazine handling
- Data tracking with data backup

The handling of the order was supported by professional project management and very good preliminary work in the bidding phase. The close cooperation with the customer and the very good coordination from the concept phase to implementation was fast, smooth and led to success. The technical risks defined in the preliminary phase were always kept in mind. These were eliminated by carrying out preliminary tests at an early stage, such as turning the components. As a result, the specified cycle time was achieved – and the system could be pre-accepted, delivered, installed, commissioned and finally accepted within a very short time. The customer's expectations were more than met. As a result, further systems are already being planned and space has been allocated in the customer's production.

Relocation of components "on the fly"

View into the magazine well of the special magazine

Position-corrected removal of components from the conveyor

Workstation system in a five-fold fleet network, integrated in Kurtz Ersa Automation goods carrier circulation system. Each equipped with fully automatic workstation, connected buffer storage and sensor-controlled working height adjustment

ALWAYS WELL SOLVED: KURTZ ERSA WORKSTATION SYSTEMS

When fully automated production solutions are not feasible, yet efficiency increases, quality improvements and process stability are needed, semi-automated or manual workstation solutions from Kurtz Ersa Automation are the right choice.

Fully automatic workstation for handling and processing heavy-duty product carriers. Workstation system integrated in goods carrier circulation system with connected buffer storage and sensor-controlled working height adjustment

The type and equipment of the workstation system are defined by the cycle time to be adhered to, the quality level to be ensured and the specific production method of our customers. "One fits all" may be feasible in some areas – but our focus is on understanding the individual requirements of our customers, translating these into customized concept designs and implementing the required workstation solution in close coordination with the production managers. Whether assembly activities are performed at the respective workstations or quality inspections are carried out, the experienced system designers at Kurtz Ersa have the right solution for every requirement.

During the initial exchange, the first cornerstones must be set as part of the requirement engineering. Is a single workstation solution required, for example, because the available space at the place of use is limited? Or are you aiming for a system in a fleet network, in which several workstations arranged in chronological dependency are integrated?

Kurtz Ersa actively supports the further process design with the experience gained from years of system consulting. Which type of component supply is suitable? What should be considered when designing a specific assembly device? Where should the

Dual workstation system integrated to Kurtz Ersa Automation product carrier circulation system. Integrated vision-based worker assistance system, combined with goods carrier release at IO inspection result

end product storage be located from an ergonomic point of view and where to put assemblies that have been classified as NIO (short for: not-in-order) in an EOL check (short for: end-of-life check)? We keep track for you.

When designing workstations, the first thing to do is make some basic decisions.

- How much space is required, which ultimately determines the dimensions of the work table?
- Should the worker work in a seated, standing or flexibly changeable position?
- Is the workstation height to be flexibly adjusted electrically or manually?
- What is the organization and size of the subcomponent supply?
- What are the requirements in terms of workplace lighting?
- What points need to be considered in the electrical system planning?
- Does the planned process require an ESD-compliant implementation of the workplace system?

Furthermore, the optional equipment possibilities are almost unlimited. Does the customer want a fully automatic integration of his workstation system into a goods carrier circulation system with connected buffer storage and sensor-controlled working height adjustment? No problem. If the integration of screwdriving solutions, press processes or sealing ring applications is required, we will integrate the appropriate solution. Do you want to integrate a vision-based or pick-to-light worker assistance system? No problem either. If the traceability of production results is required, we integrate the appropriate tracing process.

Whether in the context of planning a new production process or revising existing processes to increase output, quality levels or efficiency – Kurtz Ersa workstation systems are always a good choice. And should a production interruption ever threaten, Kurtz Ersa Automation also integrates collaborative robotics into a production solution on request – including yours!

Video workstation systems:

Workstation system in a four-fold fleet network, integrated on goods carrier circulation system from Kurtz Ersa Automation

Kurtz Ersa: Automation is the future!

automatica 2023, the world´s leading trade fair for intelligent automation and robotics, took place in Munich from June 27 to 30. Kurtz Ersa participated for the second time and was able to convince with a successful trade fair appearance – as it did at the premiere.

There was once again a lot to discover in the exhibition halls of automatica this year: a wide variety of offerings related to digitization and artificial intelligence, sustainable production processes, as well as new applications for automation specialists and on the topic of "Future of Work". The motto of Kurtz Ersa´s automation division was "AUTOMATE YOUR PRODUCTION WITH US.", which illustrated our Group´s focus on the automation of production processes. In this context, the two divisions Kurtz Ersa Automation and SCHILLER AUTOMATION once again demonstrated how well they have grown together in the meantime and jointly develop innovative solutions for industry.

As special plant manufacturers with in-depth process know-how, Kurtz Ersa and SCHILLER AUTOMATION offer automation solutions for a wide range of industries, e.g. electronics production or medical technology, from image processing to large-scale projects as system suppliers. The claim for this year´s trade fair appearance was to further expand the awareness of our still young group division and to be more successful than last year – this goal was achieved brilliantly. Significantly more customer contacts were counted than in 2022, which was certainly also due to the variety of exhibits on show. The two machine exhibits were particularly impressive. The highly flexible dispensing system developed by SCHILLER AUTOMATION demonstrated how contours can be dispensed with high precision using a wide variety of adhesive or sealing materials. Dispensing heads from several suppliers are used in the dispensing system. SCHILLER AUTOMATION handles the handling of the components and the integration of the dispensing equipment in a compact automatic station. By including the dispensing axis in the path control, it is possible to run contours at optimum speed and to regulate the dispensing quantity to the appropriate volume depending on the contour shape. The second highlight – and even more eye-catching due to its size – was a cobot-supported goods carrier circulation system. The industrial robotics assembly solution with integrated component control for electronics production impressively demonstrated how fast and precise automated processes can be. The icing on the cake was the affiliated Vision Quality Check (VQC): The artificial intelligence-based VQC workstation monitors the quality of produced parts. A special eye-catcher at the booth was the waiter cobot that handed out smoothies to order – a welcome refreshing change that practically demonstrated how versatile and flexible collaborative robots can be used.

Managing Director Dr. Michael Wenzel looks back on automatica 2023 with satisfaction: "Our booth staff had a lot to do during the trade show, and the booth was well attended on all four days of the show. There were lots of promising discussions and inquiries, which are now being processed promptly. The trade show appearance was a complete success and we are very pleased to have gained insight into so many exciting customer projects. The quality of the discussions proves that our company will play an important role in the automation of productions in the future. With the most professional project management, customers receive tailor-made solutions from us that raise their productions to a new level of efficiency. Customers benefit from our comprehensive process knowledge, especially for electronics production."

There was a pleasingly large crowd at this year's booth of Kurtz Ersa and SCHILLER AUTOMATION. The number of visitors from last year was exceeded

Premiere for SCHILLER AUTOMATION: For the first time, Sonnenbühl brought an exhibit at a trade show. The flexible dispensing station for high-precision contouring of various adhesive and sealing materials met with great interest from visitors

Another highlight in 2023 was the circulation system for electronics production, an industrial robotics assembly solution with integrated component control and AI-based vision quality check

The cooperation worked perfectly: the two automation subdivisions "passed the ball" to each other, so that customer inquiries could be optimally handled

25

Kurtz Holding

years

We celebrate 25 years of Kurtz Holding!

Exactly a quarter of a century ago, Kurtz Holding GmbH & Co. Beteiligungs KG was founded as the central management holding company of the Kurtz Ersa Group in Kreuzwertheim. Two goals were in the foreground: on the one hand, the strategic leadership of the business units by a corporate management – today's Global Board. On the other hand, the leveraging of synergies and best practice for all commercial and related areas – today's central divisions. At that time, we started with the Finance division – of which two founding members are still on board: Edwin Meixner in Controlling and Anita Dosch in Finance. After a very successful start, the corporate functions were successively expanded. Today, the holding company bundles the competence areas of Finance/Controlling, Human Resources (People & Culture), Training with the Hammer Academy, IT/SAP, Software and Industry 4.0, Purchasing/Disposi-

1998

Foundation of Kurtz Holding as holding company

2003

Foundation Kurtz Zhuhai Manufacturing/China

2014

Foundation HAMMERMUSEUM / Company chronicle / Anniversary celebration

2016

- Kurtz Ersa Mexico, Tlajomulco de Zuniga
- Foundation Hammer Academy

2018

- Foundation Branch Vietnam
- New Central Warehouse

tion, Supply Chain/Logistics, Real Estate, Quality Management/ Sustainability and Communication. This means that the holding company currently employs 113 people.

It has always been important for the business units to be able to act autonomously, quickly and close to the market in their customer-customer processes and technical innovations. At the same time, we want to be a leader in processes and hold this together via the common bracket of the holding company.

Thanks to our outstanding employees, both in the holding company and in the business units, we have made enormous progress in this area over the past 25 years. In the past 15 years, we have also gradually added our foreign subsidiaries, above all Asia and Americas. We are very proud to be able to speak and feel like Kurtz Ersa today – and not a collection of individual companies.

In the year the holding company was founded, Kurtz Ersa generated sales of 80 million Euros with 800 employees – last year, we turned over 360 million Euros with a team of 1,500. A remarkable increase of 450 percent, which is even higher considering the difficult economic conditions of the recent past! This also involved the transformation from a conglomerate to a mechanical engineering company.

We are proud of what we have achieved and would like to thank all employees in the holding company and the business units – in other words, all Kurtz Ersa employees worldwide – who have accompanied us on this path and whose joint success is our Kurtz Ersa today. To the next 25 years a traditional GLÜCK AUF!

2019

- Inauguration extension China factory

2020

- New extension Machine Factory Ersa GmbH
- Foundation Kurtz Ersa Hammer Academy GmbH

2021

Foundation Kurtz Ersa India

2022/23

Expansion Central Warehouse

2023

Birthday party with the two founding members

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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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