

Press release

WENZEL Group GmbH & Co. KG, 97859 Wiesthal

25 January 2021

Metrology manufacturer from Wiesthal is one of the 100 most innovative companies in the German SME sector

WENZEL receives the TOP 100 Award

Wiesthal - Award-winning innovation power: The WENZEL Group GmbH & Co. KG from Wiesthal has been awarded the TOP 100 Seal 2021. This is the third time that the company has been honoured with this award for particularly innovative medium-sized companies, following 2016 and 2018. WENZEL had previously proven its innovation power in a scientific selection process.

WENZEL is one of the world's leading suppliers in industrial metrology. The company specialises in solutions for coordinate measuring technology in quality assurance and manufacturing as well as industrial computer tomography. The focus of WENZEL's innovation strategy is the digital transformation of industry. "Certainly, the last few months have not been easy in terms of always keeping the focus on innovation. But with the confidence that we will overcome the hard times from 2021 onwards, we have continued to invest in order to gain new competitive advantages," explains managing partner Dr Heike

Metrology is an essential part of quality assurance and is increasingly becoming an elementary component of customized production. Optical sensors are increasingly needed to measure parts quickly and directly, and the quality of the measurement results is largely determined by the user-friendliness of the application software. Computer tomography has also gained a firm place in measurement technology. WENZEL has developed its own products and solutions for all these tasks and complemented them with strong partnerships. The combination of own developments with leading partner solutions is for WENZEL as a solution provider the guarantor that the customers do not only acquire a qualitatively leading measuring machine, but that these are also renewed again and again with the suitable innovations during the more than 20 years of use.

In the last 12 months, WENZEL has developed many new products and successfully launched them on the market. In addition, excellent service ensures that customers enjoy the machines for a very long time. The machine manufacturer invests more than 10% of its turnover in research and development. This is above the industry average. "In this market environment, as the largest family-run company in the industry, we simply have to be innovative," explains Dr. Heike Wenzel.

Evaluation of the TOP 100 award winners by innovation researchers

On behalf of compamedia, the organiser of the innovation competition TOP 100, the innovation researcher Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Franke and his team examined the innovation power of WENZEL. The researchers used around 120 test criteria from five categories as a basis: Innovation-promoting top management, innovation climate, innovative processes and organisation, external orientation/open innovation and innovation success. The core question is whether innovations are the result of a planned approach or a product of chance, i.e. the repeatability of innovation performance. And it is about whether and how the corresponding solutions succeed on the market (more information on the test criteria at www.top100.de/pruefkriterien). Due to the current situation, there was also a special section in this round in which the entrepreneurial reaction to the Corona crisis was examined.

Official award ceremony takes place in November

Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Franke, the scientific director of TOP 100, is impressed by the award-winning medium-sized companies. "The TOP 100 companies have consistently oriented themselves towards being as innovative as possible," he notes.

On 26 November, there will be another reason to celebrate: all the winners of the current TOP 100 year will come together to receive congratulations from Ranga Yogeshwar at the 7th German SME Summit in Ludwigsburg. The science journalist has been mentoring the innovation competition for ten years.



Picture 1: The management Prof. Dr. Heiko Wenzel-Schinzer and Dr. Heike Wenzel with the TOP-100-Award in front of the shop floor measuring machine "SF 1210", which was launched in 2020. (Source: WENZEL)



Picture 2: The management Dr. Heike Wenzel and Prof. Dr. Heiko Wenzel-Schinzer with the TOP-100-Award in front of the compact industrial computer tomograph exaCT L, which was also launched last year (2020). (Source: WENZEL)

TOP 100: the competition

Since 1993, compamedia has been awarding the TOP 100 seal of approval for special innovative strength and above-average innovative success to medium-sized companies. Since 2002, the scientific management has been in the hands of Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Franke. Franke is the founder and director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. With 25 research awards and over 200 publications, he is one of the leading innovation researchers internationally. The mentor of TOP 100 is the science journalist Ranga Yogeshwar. Project partners are the Fraunhofer Society for the Promotion of Applied Research and the BVMW association of medium-sized businesses. The magazines *manager magazine* and *impulse* accompany the comparison as media partners. More information and registration at www.top100.de.

More information as well as general picture material on the TOP 100 competition can be found on the Internet at www.top100.de/presse or by sending an e-mail to presse@compamedia.de.

About the WENZEL Group

The WENZEL Group is one of the leading suppliers in the field of industrial metrology. WENZEL's product portfolio includes coordinate measuring machines with tactile and optical sensors, multi-sensor systems, optical high-speed scanning and 3D X-ray measuring technology based on computer tomography. In addition to the measuring machines, WENZEL also offers extensive metrology software, which is used by many thousands of users for the measurement and analysis of parts in the automotive industry, aircraft and mechanical engineering, plastics and medical technology, among others. Special solutions support reverse engineering as well as the analysis of gears and turbine blades. Today, WENZEL looks back on an installed base of more than 10,000 machines worldwide. Subsidiaries and representatives in more than 50 countries support sales and ensure after sales service for our customers. The WENZEL Group employs about 600 people worldwide.

Contact person for the press

Steffen Hochrein | Phone: 06020 201-6114 | Fax 06020 201-66 6114

steffen.hochrein@wenzel-group.com | www.wenzel-group.com