

Press release

Talking about brilliant ideas

2018 ZIM projects of the year announced

Georgensgmünd (D), 7 June 2018: The Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM) is celebrating its tenth anniversary. This milestone coincides with the Innovation Day of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) held for the 25th time on 7 June 2018. During the event, Peter Altmaier, the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, announced the winners of the ZIM projects of the year award, which included toolcraft's Robot Cell project. Bernd Krebs, managing director and owner of toolcraft, accepted the award on behalf of the entire robotics team.

SMEs are hotbeds of ideas

More than 300 exhibitors and roughly 2,000 visitors gathered in the grounds of AiF Projekt GmbH in the Berlin district of Pankow to share creative ideas and to discover around 200 global innovations developed by inventive SMEs. The event centred around innovative products, processes and services that were developed with the financial support of the BMWi and included a large number that had been successfully launched with the help of the ZIM. Many of the attendees took the opportunity to gain first-hand information about the BMWi's programmes for supporting innovations, to build contacts with companies and research institutes and to enter into discussions with political and government representatives.

Robotics is on the rise

Robotics is one of the fastest growing industrial sectors in the world. Since they are flexible and cost-effective and can be used universally and save on space, robot cells offer the widest scope imaginable for the development of customised complete solutions. It is regularly the case that large parts need to be machined that will not fit on conventional CNC machine tools. Companies also sometimes need to automate several process steps as efficiently and in the smallest space possible. The lack of a complete solution in the field of processing cells with a single point of contact for hardware, software and electronics encouraged toolcraft to build a robot cell. The project Multi-Functional Robot Cell with Force-Induced Surface Finishing for Complex Free-Form Geometries was approved for funding by the Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM) in 2013.

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About toolcraft

toolcraft is a pioneer of forward-looking technologies, such as 3D metal printing and the construction of customised turnkey robotic solutions. The company tests and develops innovative engineering processes until they are ready to be used on production lines. As a provider of comprehensive solutions, toolcraft covers the entire process chain, from the initial idea to manufacturing, quality assurance and testing in the areas of CNC machining, 3D metal printing, injection moulding, spark erosion (EDM) and mould making. Its clients include market leaders in the semiconductors, aerospace, medical technology, optical, special machinery manufacturing, motor sports and automotive industries. Building close working relationships with collaborative partners as well as universities, other institutions of higher education and research centres is an important part of its corporate philosophy. The medium-sized family-owned company, located in Georgensgmünd and Spalt, was founded by Bernd Krebs in 1989.