

Frank Donsbach joins the managing board at schwartz GmbH

As of 1 July 2017, Frank Donsbach has been appointed general manager of Sales and Technology at schwartz GmbH, a global market leader in heat treatment equipment for press hardening lines. Donsbach had previously been employed at Otto Junker GmbH, heading their Induction Melting Equipment division since 2001 and additionally serving as chief operating officer since 2012.

With Donsbach's appointment, schwartz GmbH expands its senior leadership team. Alexander Wilden, formerly the company's sole managing director, cedes his previous responsibility for the fields of sales and technology to Donsbach but remains commercial director and continues to oversee the operations of the company's subsidiaries, schwartz HTS (China) and schwartz, Inc. (USA). Moreover, Wilden will act as chairman of the new managing board.

"Strong growth of the schwartz group over the last four years had created the need to share tasks and burdens – putting more shoulders to the wheel, as it were," said Wilden. "I am very happy we managed to convince Mr. Donsbach to join us. With his many years of experience and extensive know-how in industrial furnace manufacturing he will be key to the expansion of our existing market position in the press-hardening segment as well as to the development of new business fields."

Company profile

schwartz develops, designs and manufactures innovative heat treatment systems for press hardening, hardening, annealing, forging and brazing applications. In each of these processes, the heat treatment may be carried out in normal atmosphere, protective gas and in dried air.

Especially for the heat treatment of aluminium, schwartz designs and builds equipment based on high-convection heating methods such as Jet Heating. This technology minimizes heat-up times, thereby allowing more compact equipment layouts. Systems of this type are used for heating and solution-annealing aluminium billets and parts in aluminium forging lines.

Worldwide, the schwartz group has more



Dipl.-Ing. Frank Donsbach

than 21,000 square metres of manufacturing floor space and employs close to 200 people at its six sites.

At the headquarters site in Simmerath, around 4,500 sq.m. of floor space are dedicated to the manufacture, assembly and hot test of heat treatment equipment. A workforce of around 140 people is currently employed here.

In 2011, the manufacturing subsidiary schwartz HTS, which is short for schwartz

customer support base set up in Chongqing in mid-2017, the company can supply services even faster to customers in Southwest China.

2012 marked the launch of Schwartz Inc. based in Oswego (Illinois), USA, to provide services and support to the customers in the Nafta region and South America.

With the acquisition of Hütte GmbH in 2016, schwartz GmbH expanded its production capacity in Germany while establishing a more broad-based presence in the sector of heat treatment systems for aluminium. This expansion is further extended with Hütte GmbH's relocation, in May 2017, from Düren to the former Schumag AG site in Aachen. The company has around 14,000 sq.m. of production floor space at this new site.

Now as before, all equipment is fully assembled, heated up and subjected to a factory inspection process at its production site (Simmerath, Aachen or Kunshan) prior to shipment.

Exhibitor at Aluminium China 2017

At Aluminium China 2017 in Shanghai in July, schwartz GmbH presented its innovations in heat treatment equipment technology for aluminium components. Dedicated to enabling automotive manufacturers and suppliers to maximize production efficiency, schwartz has introduced a number of technical innovations on equipment delivered to its customers.

In addition to reduced power consumption and lower emissions at the operator's site, schwartz technology offers a host of further advantages, such as

- furnace casings ensuring leak-tightness and hence, low energy losses for many years
- universally suitable conveyors for different component shapes
- accurate positioning to facilitate automatic loading and unloading
- air guide systems adaptable to the specific product
- ultra-close temperature tolerances on the product exit side through the use of air knives
- and exceptionally durable, rugged conveyor chains, deflection shafts and sprockets with tensioning devices to minimize wear.



Heat treatment system for automotive suspension components

Heat Treatment Systems Asia (Kunshan) Co. Ltd, was founded in China near Shanghai. The sales office in Beijing was opened in 2015 to be close to the Asia-Pacific region. From its

customer support base set up in Chongqing in mid-2017, the company can supply services even faster to customers in Southwest China.