



Press release

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ABL-TECHNIC Entlackung recognised as a leading innovator

Überlingen – ABL-TECHNIC Entlackung GmbH is one of this year's leading innovators in the German SME sector. The Leutkirch-based company will be presented with the *Top 100* award, now in its 24th year, by Ranga Yogeshwar, Professor Nikolaus Franke and compamedia. The independent panel of judges particularly praised the success of ABL-TECHNIC's innovations.

ABL-TECHNIC Entlackung GmbH is the leading provider of industrial paint stripping solutions. Founded in Leutkirch in 1973, the company has continually grown and advanced in technology. ABL today has 25 plants around the world, employing over 600 people. "Paint stripping requires a significant amount of know-how and experience," says CEO Stefan Jost. "The continuous exchange of information between our plant managers ensures that we continue to strengthen our technology leadership in this area," he adds. In terms of innovation, the company is five years ahead of the competition. Hand in hand with the global automotive industry ABL has improved the value chain and as an example whereas imperfectly painted parts used to be scrapped, they can now be paint stripped and reused.

Recently the company has made a further quantum leap forward. Working closely with a machine manufacturer it has developed an emission washing process that can filter out dust from thermal emissions by utilizing waste water. "Our aim for the future is to condense the water and collect it so that we can make the best possible use of the energy and create a clean processing cycle," explains Jost. This super low emission plant method, or SULEP, protects the environment and puts ABL-TECHNIC in pole position, particularly in the Chinese market. The company plans to almost double the number of people it employs in Asia by the end of 2018.

The *Top 100* competition

Since 1993, compamedia has been awarding the *Top 100* seal of approval to SMEs with a particular ability to innovate and above-average success rates for innovations. Professor Nikolaus Franke has coordinated the project since 2002. He is the founder and director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration and a visiting professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is one of the world's leading innovation researchers and has won 18 science awards and published over 200 articles. The *Top 100* is mentored by science journalist and television presenter Ranga Yogeshwar and organised in partnership with the Fraunhofer Society for the Promotion of Applied Research and the German Association for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses (BVMW). manager magazin provides media support for the company benchmarking competition. Further information is available at www.top100-germany.com.

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