

EMBARGO

Not to be released until 5.30pm on Friday, 19 June 2020



Press release

19 June 2020

Refratechnik Group wins top innovator award

Überlingen – Cast off the old and embrace the new: innovative mid-sized companies such as the Ismaning-based Refratechnik Group see change as an opportunity rather than something to be afraid of. It is this mindset that impressed the judges in the TOP 100 competition, now in its 27th year. From 19 June, Refratechnik will officially be able to call itself a TOP 100 company. During the rigorous selection process, the level C company (more than 200 employees) scored particularly highly in the Successful Innovations category.

The TOP 100 company develops, manufactures and installs refractories for high-temperature industrial processes. The production of cement, steel and other basic industrial materials, for example, requires extremely high temperatures. To shield industrial furnaces from this heat, protective layers are necessary, which must be renewed regularly. Refratechnik has become a global market leader in this field thanks to its many innovations.

One of the Bavarian company's most recent innovations is the use of rice husk ash – a by-product of the carbon-neutral combustion of rice husks in biomass power plants – as a raw material in the manufacture of refractory insulating materials. These new products made from renewable biogenic silica are currently entering production. The company has also given a patented 'energy boost' to its existing range of products, which have been successful on the market for some time. They now have a much higher insulation capacity while maintaining the same performance levels, and thus save a lot of energy.

The company's ideas usually come from the inhouse R&D department, which has a strong scientific and technical focus, while partnerships with universities provide further input. The family-owned business also has a charitable foundation, the Alexander Tutsek Stiftung, through which it funds art and research. In the field of science, the focus is on research projects and on training engineers, technicians and master craftsmen, which brings fresh ideas to the company. The sales team also has a strong technology focus and includes specialists in engineering, mining, mineralogy and materials engineering.

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, and is the founder and director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. The TOP 100 is mentored by science journalist 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). Media support for the company benchmarking competition is

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