

Press release

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European centre of competence for electric injection
moulding machines

Wiehe location booms

In 2009, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag Plastics Machinery GmbH established a European centre of competence for electric injection moulding machines at its location in Wiehe, Germany. Two years later, shortly after the global financial crisis, the Japanese-German manufacturer of injection moulding machines, headquartered in Schwaig near Nuremberg, is pleased to report exceptionally positive developments at the Wiehe factory.

“The Sumitomo Group recognised the signs of the times in 2009, and decided to make the Wiehe factory the European centre of competence for electric machines,” explains Frank Stengel, who has managed the Wiehe location since 2006. “Expanding our factory as the central production location for the Sumitomo Group’s electric injection moulding machines for Europe and North and South America - despite the financial crisis – was exactly the right step.” Today, the factory for injection moulding machines, founded in 1950 and owned by Demag since 1990, greatly benefits from the trend toward more electric drive technology in plastics processing. The sales percentage of all-electric injection moulding machines increased disproportionately and currently accounts for 60% of the location’s total production. In light of this technological development, the Wiehe factory promises to be a key success factor in the long term – not only for Sumitomo

(SHI) Demag, but also for the injection moulding machine segment of the entire Sumitomo Group.

Technology packages for the all-electrics

For two years now, the factory in the German state of Thuringia has focused on developing and manufacturing all-electric injection moulding machines. With the IntElect and SE model series, featuring a clamping force range of 500 to 4500 kN, the factory supplies all of Sumitomo (SHI) Demag's electric models for the European and North and South American markets. The all-electric IntElect model series was launched 2003; the fourth generation is now in production. For K 2010, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag enlarged the IntElect range with four models in the clamping force range of 2200 to 4500 kN, and now offers the all-electric series in eight sizes from 500 to 4500 kN. The factory in Thuringia builds the all-electric Sumitomo models SE-DU und SE-HD, designed in Japan, with clamping forces between 500 and 4500 kN. Currently, the engineers in Wiehe are focusing their development work on providing technology packages for a wide variety of applications, such as multi-component injection moulding, precision injection moulding, micro injection moulding, and additional high-performance applications using the all-electric systems.

65 percent growth in the small machine division

Traditionally, the Wiehe factory is known for its small machines. In addition, it manufactures hydraulic Systec injection moulding machines – offered by Sumitomo (SHI) Demag from 350 to 20000 kN – with clamping forces of up to 1200 kN. When markets recover, the demand for smaller injection moulding machines develops very early on and is particularly high – another

reason why the Thuringian factory experienced a surge in orders this year. A special highlight in 2011: geobra Brandstätter's large order of 80 Systec machines for the production of its Playmobil toys.

At the end of August, the Wiehe factory reported a 65% increase in small machine orders year over year. The boom in orders is due to requests from emerging markets such as China, Mexico and Turkey, as well as activities in the established North and South American, Southeast Asian and European markets.

At the Wiehe location, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag employs approximately 280 people. The factory's production capacity will be expanded further by the end of 2011.

Sumitomo (SHI) Demag Plastics Machinery GmbH: company profile

Sumitomo (SHI) Demag Plastics Machinery GmbH, Schwaig/Germany, is one of the world's largest manufacturers of injection moulding machines for the processing of plastics. The Japanese-German company was formed in the spring of 2008 by merging the injection moulding activities of Sumitomo Heavy Industries (SHI) and those of Demag Plastics Group.

The global development and production network of Sumitomo Heavy Industries and Sumitomo (SHI) Demag consists of four plants in Japan, Germany and China with more than 3,000 employees. The product portfolio encompasses all-electric, hydraulic and hybrid injection moulding machines with clamping forces of between 180 and 20,000 kN. With almost 100,000 machines installed, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag is present in all important markets throughout the world.

With more than 4,200 machines sold each year, Sumitomo Heavy Industries counts as Japan's largest manufacturer of injection moulding machines. The main Sumitomo plant in Chiba produces machines with low and medium clamping forces. Around 95 % of all machines supplied by Sumitomo Heavy Industries have an all-electric drive.

The main Demag facility in Schwaig/Germany focuses on the hydraulic Systec and the hybrid high performance, high-speed EI-Exis machines. Recognising the increasing importance of electric drive technology for injection moulding machines, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag has expanded the former Demag factory in Wiehe/Germany into an international centre of competence for electric machines. Thanks to the new production capacities, Wiehe now supplies all electric injection moulding machines for the European and American market with its IntElect and SE series and also the hydraulic Systec series with clamping forces of up to 1,200 kN.

Sumitomo (SHI) Demag continues to operate the former Demag plant in Ningbo/China which has been active since 1999. Since 2007 the subsidiary located there, Demag Plastics Machinery (Ningbo) Co., Ltd, had its own, newly built plant and after reaching full capacity, moved to a larger factory with a production area of 11,000 sqm. Injection moulding machines from the Dragon and Systec C product lines with clamping forces of between 500 and 8,000 kN are produced here for Asian markets.

In addition to injection moulding machines, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag offers customised and standardised

systems for the automated handling of moulded parts, technical solutions for special applications in process engineering, tailor-made service concepts and various forms of financing for investments in injection moulding machines.

With its seamless sales and service network of subsidiaries and representations, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag is present in all major industrial markets.

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<Frank_Stengel>



Frank Stengel, Plant Manager in Wiehe since 2006:

“Expansion as the European centre of competence for electric machines was exactly the right step.”

Photo: Sumitomo (SHI) Demag

<IntElect_100>



The Wiehe factory builds all of the Group’s electric machines for the European and North and South American markets – including the all-electric IntElect series in eight sizes from 500 to 4500 kN.

Photo: Sumitomo (SHI) Demag