

Press release

## **Another five years of growth toolcraft celebrates its 30th anniversary**

**Georgensgmünd (D), July 2019:** This year marks toolcraft's 30th anniversary. Five years on from its last landmark anniversary, the company has been able to further expand its production capacity. The three managing directors are proud of how the medium-sized company has grown. From investments in new technology and the ongoing expansion of the company's machine park to the ever greater level of trust placed in its staff, toolcraft has grown at a rapid pace in recent years.

### **Investments in the future**

The company has been producing customised robot cells on an additional floor space of 2,700 m<sup>2</sup> since 2017. The robotics department has also developed a training cell called the Academia Box. It was built to be used in schools, universities of applied sciences and universities so that the employees of tomorrow can come into contact with the technology today. The original robot cell, RoboBox, was named ZIM (Central Innovation Programme for SMEs) project of the year at the Innovation Day organised by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) on 7 June 2018.

The company started producing laser-melted precision parts in 2011. It established a metal laser melting centre to meet the steadily increasing demand for 3D-printed parts. "Over the last few years, we have invested around 12 million euros in the expansion of innovative production technology," reports Christoph Hauck, the managing director of toolcraft primarily responsible for additive manufacturing. "This includes our investment in a simulation-based software environment." Besides purchasing additional laser melting machines, toolcraft has also acquired a vacuum furnace, which complies with aviation standards. The two areas of robotics/engineering and additive manufacturing have just as positive prospects for the future as the production of precision parts in general. In particular, the visualisation of processes using state-of-the-art software is in greater demand than ever before.

### **Quality testing – certifications**

Ensuring the utmost quality is essential in the aviation industry. Even the slightest of shortcomings can have serious consequences. The company therefore achieved a further milestone in 2018 when its 3D metal printing process obtained Nadcap certification. The quality of the process is also certified by TÜV Süd. Product quality can be quickly and reliably verified using the non-destructive surface testing system. This area also meets Nadcap requirements.

### **Extraordinary growth – multiple awards**

n-tv has paid tribute to Germany's best small and medium-sized businesses with the Hidden Champion Award for the seventh time. The award is presented by the German Association for Small and Medium-sized Businesses (BVMW). In the "Change" category, the award honours SMEs which are successfully tackling the digital challenges of the future and performing pioneering work in their respective industries. The award ceremony was held in Frankfurt am Main in November 2017. Two of toolcraft's three managing directors, Bernd Krebs and Christoph Hauck, went home with the award for third place in the

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"Change" category. In 2016 and 2019, toolcraft were also presented with the "Bayerns Best 50" award by the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy for the second and third time.

### Factors of success – staff and strong regional ties

toolcraft's strong regional ties are not only evident from its preference for regional suppliers and partners, but also from its close involvement in local politics. For example, to mark its anniversary, the company is making a donation to the town of Georgensgmünd to support the continued expansion of its children's playgrounds. This is because despite – or rather due to – its ongoing growth, ensuring a good work-family balance is important to the managing directors. To help it improve its own measures and models in this area, the company joined the Familienpakt Bayern (Bavarian Family Pact) in 2018. "We want to remain a company with flat hierarchies where everyone treats each other in a friendly, informal manner and feels at home," says Bernd Krebs, founder and owner of toolcraft. With this in mind, the company's staff and their families all celebrated the 30th anniversary together on 13 July.

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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.