



GERMANY – SÜDWESTFALEN

## BÄCKER REVEALS €1.7 MILLION MACHINE INVESTMENT

**BÄCKER** has made a sizeable investment in its machines this year, modernising around a third of its machine park. The manufacturer tells *Torque Magazine* about its new capabilities and the expanding PlacoGrip Control Elements product range...

### How is business?

Despite the pandemic, 2020 was the best-selling year in the company's history. 2021 has also got off to a very good start so far. We are well above our budget.

We are very broadly positioned with our product portfolio and benefit from our independence from individual industries.

The greatest challenge during the pandemic is the supply of raw materials and rising material prices. Again and again we receive "Force Majeure" messages in which the raw material producers limit or stop their deliveries. Prices are extremely unstable and difficult to predict. This situation will probably last well into next year.

### What kind of markets and sectors do you typically serve?

Our range of standard parts comprises a total of three product groups. These are PlacoGrip® – operating elements (clamping levers, different types of handles, hinges), PlacoTec® – standard elements (plastic screws, nuts, washers) and PlacoCap® – protective elements (protective and cover caps).

We deliver to various markets and industries. We supply wholesalers from the fastening and fastening industry as well as end users. Industries include electrical engineering, medical technology, mechanical and plant engineering, automotive, leisure and sports equipment, the plumbing industry and rehabilitation technology.

Our extensive product range of standard items includes over 5,000 items in a total of 23,000 different variants and dimensions; From 0.04g to the 800g injection moulded part.

In addition, we also produce special parts made of plastic, including to customer designs.



**BÄCKER** underwent a huge modernisation programme for its machine park earlier this year



The PlacoGrip Control Elements product range has been expanded with three quick-release systems

### Can you give us an overview of the PlacoGrip Control Elements product range?

Our PlacoGrip operating elements product group includes clamping levers, locking bolts, a wide variety of handle variants, handwheels, hinges, adjustable feet or vibration dampers.

These products are used wherever fastening, clamping or adjustment is required.

We always focus on the needs of our customers and have just expanded the product group to include three quick-release systems. Vertical clamps, horizontal clamps and push rod clamps are very easy to use and have high clamping forces of up to 2,500 Newtons. The clamping height is infinitely adjustable here with an almost constant clamping force.

### You've recently invested in new injection moulding machines – what kind of difference have these made?

In April of this year, we modernised around a third of our entire machine park and replaced it with new, more powerful and – above all – more energy-efficient injection moulding machines. The investment totalled €1.7 million. The raw material supply for the plants was also brought up to date. The material is now transported to the machines by means of a vacuum suction device, making it much quieter and also filtering the dust from the raw material.

The background to the modernisation is that the new machines can produce around 1.4 seconds faster per stroke, so a 20-25% higher output is possible. We can now inject plastic parts up to a weight of 800g.

By investing in technology and continuously improving our processes together with modern machines and systems, we see a positive future ahead.

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