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LPKF Laser Plastic Welding division completes restructuring

LPKF's Laser Plastic Welding division in Fürth, Germany is getting fit for further growth with new production rooms, and a larger management team. The implementation of new production processes has positive effects on clients and economic efficiency. "In the past, LPKF had compelling solutions in the form of outstanding individual systems for laser plastic welding. We have now begun the production of basic customizable machines, which is beneficial to our clients," explains Markus König, one of the managing directors of the LPKF production site in Fürth.

The first step in the restructure was moving out of the smaller rooms in Erlangen into the spacious production buildings in Fürth. The second step was the construction of an additional building that contains the Application Center. The Application Center is equipped with several testing rooms, laser systems and measuring devices for welding tests and to qualify the processes of the clients.

To complete the transition to multi-model production, the management has been taken over by two recognized experts: Lars Ederleh and Markus König. Lars Ederleh, who was previously the managing director of LaserMicronics GmbH, is primarily responsible for Marketing, Service and Sales. Markus König is responsible for Operations and Development, and therefore also the production organization and cooperation between the production sites.

Total restructuring of production flows took place at the beginning of April 2016. Instead of the design and production of individual unique machines, the work now concentrates on cyclic assembly of high-performance basic machines. These models are then used to recognize custom modifications in subsequent fast and cost-efficient processes. Cyclic assembly opens up greater flexibility for complex technical developments which benefit whole production lines rather than individual systems. The first throughput of a complete line has now been completed, and the advantages have met the expectations. "Our customers are very keen on this concept. We have been able to slash the construction time by almost half, and therefore also significantly reduce the lead times and manufacturing costs. We can also prepare quotes much faster than before, and it makes it easier to provide services – which naturally benefits our customers in particular," says Lars Ederleh.

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About LPKF

Established in 1976, LPKF Laser & Electronics manufactures milling machines and laser systems used in circuit board and microelectronics fabrication, medical technology, the automotive sector, and the production of solar cells. LPKF's worldwide headquarters is located in Hannover, Germany and its North American headquarters resides near Portland, Ore.