**Ein Bild, das Zeichnung enthält.

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**Press release**

* **Smart molds for Industry 4.0 and Smart Factory from BBG, one of the best mold-makers in Germany**
* **Finalist of the "Excellence in Production" competition presents molds that actively support production**

*Mindelheim/Germany, 24 November 2020.* BBG, a manufacturer of molds, machinery and plants, presents smart molds for use in Industry 4.0 applications and in smart factory environments. The company is among the finalists in the "Excellence in Production" competition for Germany’s best toolmaker in 2020.

The technology developed by BBG can be used, for example, in encapsulation molds for refining glass and polycarbonate sheets with polyurethane or for manufacturing components on the basis of the PUR-RIM process. Furthermore, it is suitable for all types of molds used to produce safety-relevant or Class A components that place high demands on the manufacturing process and documentation. Smart molds also facilitate fully automated production lines.

Typical customers include manufacturers from the automotive, pharmaceutical, and aerospace industries, who are required to document the production data of components due their obligation to produce proof of production.

**Lower cost, a higher level of productivity and process accuracy**

According to BBG, smart molds reduce the cost for material and energy consumption while increasing productivity and process accuracy. In addition, the process data required for documentation can be gathered for every component and can be stored long-term.

To this end, molds are equipped with a large number of sensors that collect data on process parameters such as temperature, flow velocity and pressure during the entire manufacturing process.

Special sensors developed by BBG are also able to detect metallic inserts in steel molds reliably. Measurements are therefore reliable even with the panes inserted.

All information can be processed on-site at the mold or forwarded to the higher-level control systems of other production lines. Any deviations from the target values specified are displayed and can be corrected immediately. Furthermore, the correct sequence and the performing of work steps can be specified and can be controlled by the mold itself. In this way, an operator always knows that the work steps have been carried out correctly in the specified order, and which ones will be next.

**Comprehensive data documentation for every component**

The data collected is stored so as to ensure that it can be retrieved and processed individually for every component manufactured. At the same time, the entire manufacturing process is documented fully and in real time. “Smart molds are at the top of our wide range of products, which starts with simple and cost-efficient prototyping molds”, says Hans Brandner, the managing partner. “What the customer needs is what counts for us. We develop the right mold customized to meet every requirement.”

**Making it to the finals of the "Excellence in Production" competition for the second time after 2018**

According to Brandner, their strict focus on customer benefit is also key for the renewed success at the "Excellence in Production" competition. BBG has been nominated this year for the second time - after 2018 - as one of the best toolmakers in Germany. In the category "External toolmaker with fewer than 50 employees", BBG has again made it to the top three. The winner will be announced at the award ceremony on November 18, which will be held on-line for the first time this year.

“Excellence in Production" is organized by the Werkzeugmaschinenlabor WZL of the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) and the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology, which are both headquartered at Aachen/Germany. Around 300 specialized companies and in-house corporate departments regularly participate in the competition, which has been organized every year since 2003, and compete against each other in four different categories.

**BBG’s customers are active the world over**

BBG GmbH & Co. KG, a manufacturer of molds, machinery and plants, is a renowned specialist for the plastics-processing industry. In addition to end-to-end production lines, BBG designs, develops and manufactures molds for processing polyurethane (PUR), PVC, TPE and other elastomers, as well as a wide range of composite materials. This includes production processes such as PUR-CSM (PUR Composite Spray Molding), LFI (Long Fiber Injection), RTM (Resin Transfer Molding), SMC (Sheet Molding Compound) or GMT (Glass Mat reinforced Thermoplastics), which are selected depending on the desired qualities of the finished products. The company also focuses on solutions for lightweight construction, the processing of composites and the production of fiber composite components in a large number of industries.

BBG, the family-owned business, which is run by Hans Brandner and is located in Mindelheim/Allgäu, supply their products to their customers all over the world, with the Asian market playing an important role in addition to the markets in Europe and North America. With a headcount of around 170, BBG generated worldwide sales to the tune of 25.4 million Euros in 2019.

**Photos:**

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Photo 1:

The data collected in intelligent molds can be processed and displayed directly on-site or forwarded to the control systems of other production lines, such as mold carrier systems or encapsulation equipment (photo: BBG).

Ein Bild, das sitzend, geparkt, LKW, Tisch enthält.

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Photo 2:

BBG, a manufacturer of molds, machinery and plants, presents smart molds for use in Industry 4.0 applications and in smart factory environments (photo: BBG).

**Please visit for a download of the press release (Word documents) and print-quality photos**

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