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Press release

28 June 2019

Award: Oemeta in the TOP 100

Überlingen – Oemeta Chemische Werke GmbH from Uetersen has made it into the TOP 100 in the innovation competition's 26th edition. The company was honoured for its achievement by the mentor of the competition, Ranga Yogeshwar, the scientific head of the assessment, Professor Nikolaus Franke, and compamedia at Jahrhunderthalle, Frankfurt, on 28 June. Based on a scientific classification system, TOP 100 rates the innovation management of SMEs and the successful innovations that have resulted from this. The company, with 220 employees worldwide, made a big impression in the independent selection process, especially in the category 'innovative processes and organisation'.

At its headquarters in Germany, Oemeta's 130 employees produce water-miscible metal working fluids, cutting and grinding oils and various other lubricants that are used in machining production in major industries, such as the auto and aerospace industries. Wherever friction occurs, or where drilling, grinding or milling takes place, metal working fluid is required to dissipate the heat. The TOP 100 company, which has been working to optimise these products for over 100 years, is focused on incremental innovations or gradual development. 'Step by step, we collect, order and check which potential ideas for new metal working fluids could arrive on the market,' explains CEO Thomas Vester.

Since 2008, the top innovator has been getting new ideas off the ground on the basis of a technology road map. The Schleswig-Holstein-based company has regular exchanges with raw material manufacturers and universities about new materials and techniques – especially regarding metal working fluids made from non-toxic chemicals. This recently resulted in a completely biocide-free cooling lubricant, which protects both the user and the environment. As Oemeta generates 70 per cent of its turnover abroad, the varying regulations force the team to constantly rethink: 'We are always having to adjust and optimise our formulations.'

Oemeta Chemische Werke GmbH

Oemeta is an owner-managed fourth-generation family company. It has been developing industrial lubricants for the metal, glass and ceramic processing industries and supplying them worldwide for over 100 years. Due to their focus on water-miscible metal working fluids and a wide spectrum of expertise, these northern Germans have become technology leaders in this specialist area. High quality and reliability characterise the products, which are mostly a result of market proximity and close customer contact. Intelligent, individual and economical solutions are developed on the basis of close collaborations, resulting in modern, innovative and technologically

Contact partner

Oemeta Chemische Werke GmbH

Malte Krone
Ossenpadd 54
25436 Uetersen
Germany
Telephone: +49 (0)4122 924 184
krone@oemeta.com
www.oemeta.com

Contact partner

compamedia GmbH

Sven Kamerar
Nussdorfer Strasse 4
88662 Überlingen
Germany
Telephone: +49(0)7551 9498
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advanced high-performance products. Products developed by Oemeta have always set the standard in the industry. Inventions such as the two-component cooling lubricant or the multifunctional oil improve the processes of well-known manufacturers in the auto and metal processing industries in the long term and reduce costs. With three production sites, seven foreign subsidiaries and over 30 sales partners, Oemeta is present in the most important industrial nations with its product and service philosophy.

TOP 100: the competition

Since 1993, compamedia has been awarding the TOP 100 seal for innovative capability and above-average innovative success at SMEs. Professor Nikolaus Franke has been the scientific lead since 2002. Franke is the founder and director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration. The science journalist Ranga Yogeshwar is the mentor for the TOP 100. The project partners are the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung and the German Association for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses (BVMW). *manager magazin*, *impulse* and *W&V* accompany the company comparison as media partners. More information at www.top100.de.

Contact partner

**Oemeta Chemische
Werke GmbH**

Malte Krone
Ossenpadd 54
25436 Uetersen
Germany

Telephone: +49 (0)4122 924 184
krone@oemeta.com
www.oemeta.com

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compamedia GmbH

Sven Kamerar
Nussdorfer Strasse 4
88662 Überlingen
Germany

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000