



Success Story

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New QinTron welding power sources for the BPW training centre

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HAIGER/SZOMBATHELY – Recently, BPW-Hungária GmbH began operating four new QinTron welding power sources by CLOOS for the training centre. By continuously investing in education and training of specialists, the company wants to face the skills shortage in Hungary. CLOOS and BPW maintain a close, long-term partnership. In the Szombathely production site, BPW-Hungária operates a total of 200 welding machines and 27 robot systems of the Haiger welding specialists.

BPW Bergische Achsen KG is the world's leading manufacturer for running gear components, axles and running gear systems for commercial and agricultural vehicles. The group was founded in 1898, has now 5,800 employees all over the world and produced and sold 12 million axles up to now. The BPW-Hungária GmbH in Szombathely is the second-largest production site of BPW where 1,400 employees produce up to 130,000 axles per year.

The welding department is the heart of the production. About a total of 350 employees work there, including 200 qualified manual welders and 50 robot operators. "The Hungarian skills shortage is a central challenge for us, particularly in this field," explains Human Resources Manager Tibor Novák. "In order to keep our employees with our company in the long term, we are continually investing in education and training." In its own training centre, BPW-Hungária educates more than 20 young people per year. The trainees have the choice between the traineeships mechanical engineering technician, construction mechanic, cutting machine operator and mechatronic technician. The apprenticeship is similar to the dual training system in Germany and normally takes two to three years. Furthermore, BPW-Hungária played the key role when implementing the dual mechanical engineering studies in Szombathely. Eight dual students have started their practical training at BPW-Hungária in September 2015.

Since the foundation of the training centre in 2008 BPW-Hungária has invested more than one million Euro.

The latest investments are four new QinTron welding power sources by CLOOS which have been in use since autumn 2015. A robust design, optimum ignition and welding characteristics and an excellent price/performance ratio are the main features of the QinTron. Besides, the comfortable operating elements ensure an easy, quick and intuitive handling and automatically adapt to the user's requirements. "The new machines are easy to operate and suitable for different welding processes," says József Kelemen, head of the technical training centre at BPW-Hungária.

The welding machines with infinitely adjustable voltage preselection are available in the capacity classes of 400 A, 500 A and 600 A. The modern inverter technology offers a great energy-saving potential at an optimum degree of efficiency. The multi-process system can be combined according to user specifications and is applicable for the MIG/MAG, TIG, MMA and gouging processes. Besides, the machines can be freely configured with regard to the type of cooling, the variations in control and the scope of the equipment. The modular design and the subsequent up-

grade capability allow maximum flexibility: individual extensions and retrofits are possible without too much effort.

"We are glad that the young people can get acquainted with the CLOOS machines already during their apprenticeship," says Károly Farkas, head of the welding competence centre. "Because later they will also weld with the machines and robot systems by CLOOS in the production." Both programming and welding will be much easier for the employees if they already get used to the CLOOS systems during their apprenticeship.

BPW-Hungária currently operates a total of more than 200 manual welding machines and 27 robot welding systems made by CLOOS. New systems and old robots are successfully in use, some for over a good 20 years; they are often operated in three shifts and on seven days a week. The Hungarian CLOOS representation Crown International takes care of the service and maintenance of the robot system at BPW-Hungária and conducts training courses directly on site.

"An efficient welding production is an important success criterium to further expand our market leadership," emphasises Károly Farkas. Therefore, BPW-Hungária will further invest in new machines, systems and technologies. Farkas resumes: "We are looking forward to continue the good cooperation with CLOOS and Crown in the future."



Photo 1: Piroska Makk (Managing Director, Crown International) and Tibor Novák (Human Resources Manager, BPW-Hungária GmbH) during the handover ceremony of the QinTron welding machines by CLOOS.



Video on CLOOS TV

Press contact:

Carl Cloos Schweisstechnik GmbH
 Industriestrasse 22-36, 35708 Haiger,
 GERMANY
 Stefanie Nüchtern-Baumhoff
 Tel. +49 (0)2773 85-478
 E-Mail: stefanie.nuechtern@cloos.de