



Title: KASTO wins in 2009 the "International Best Factory Award"
Topic: Best Factory Award 2009 for KASTO ...
Press text 10-2009-E / May 2009

Sub-Title/Pretext:

KASTO adds another trophy to their winning series with the "International Best Factory Award 2009" in the category "Manufacturing Businesses"

Text:

"If one wants to reach the top, one should follow the success of others." The management method benchmarking follows this guideline and offers businesses support in taking a good look at the competition as well as oneself – this is the governing principle of the *Export Akademie in Reutlingen*, which – together with the journal *Market and Medium-Sized Businesses* – yearly organizes the benchmarking competition "International Best Factory Award/Best Service Award". Since the start of this competition in 1996, the participating companies have been vigorously screened. Companies have to answer about 150 questions and the last three businesses left in the competition have to go through a personal interview.

Last Tuesday, April 28, 2009, the vice-president of the Bavarian State Parliament, Mr. Reinhold Bocklet, honored the best companies in manufacturing and service for 2009 during a ceremony.

This year's award for the best company in the manufacturing business went to

KASTO Maschinenbau GmbH & Co. KG, Achern

and was personally accepted by the managing partner Armin Stolzer. Since the family-owned business with a 165 year tradition was able to win against much bigger companies, the joy of the KASTO management about this award was even greater and this "International Best Factory Award 2009" continues the success of other technology and design awards in previous years.

The reasons of the jury to award this much sought after award to the medium-sized business KASTO, which sets worldwide standards for sawing machines and storage technology in hard and software as well as service, speaks volumes:

- lean and flexible organization and the ability to react quickly to market changes
- worldwide presence due to sales partners and participation in international exhibitions
- attractive profit sharing model resulting in loyal employees
- innovation on all business levels is the central element of the company's philosophy
- The brand name KASTO is systematically strengthened and expanded. Important component is here the positioning of KASTO in the trade press.

KASTO Maschinenbau GmbH & Co. KG finished last year with record sales of € 156 mio and has right now 670 employees. KASTO is the worldwide leading manufacturer of metal saws and automatic bar stock/flat goods storage and retrieval systems and has installed approx. 130,000 metal saws and 1,400 automatic storage systems so far. The continuing high innovation capability is underlined by more than 140 international patents as well as renowned awards and prizes in Germany and abroad (finalist Entrepreneur of the Year, MWP award and Red-Dot-Award).

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Description of pictures:



Picture 1
Shows the logo of the award given out by the journal *Market and Medium-Sized Businesses* and the *Exportakademie Reutlingen*.



Picture 2
Shows the KASTO team during the award ceremony: (from right: Armin Stolzer, Gerd-Volker Waltersbacher, Dr. Michael Kühner, Bruno Müller)



Picture 3
Shows the Managing Partner of KASTO with the Best Factory Award.



Picture 4
Shows the KASTO team during the award ceremony (from right: Dr. Kühner, KASTO; Bruno Müller, KASTO; Reinhold Bocklet, Vice-President of the Bavarian State Parliament; Armin Stolzer, KASTO; Prof. Rolf Pfeiffer, Exportakademie Reutlingen; Gerd-Volker Waltersbacher, KASTO).