# Press Release

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## New production hall for increased growth

**Minister for Economic Affairs Möllring learns about Schunk Sintermetalltechnik investments in Thale**

**Thale, Germany, February 23rd, 2015 – Schunk Sintermetalltechnik recently celebrated the dedication of a new production hall at the Thale location in Saxony-Anhalt. The company invested over €5.5m to considerably expand its productive capacity to meet the growth it has been experiencing in order volume. Guests at the party included the Minister for Economic Affairs of Saxony-Anhalt Hartmut Möllring, state parliament member Ulrich Thomas, Thale's mayor Thomas Balcerowski and many more.**

"This expansion is good news for the region," said Möllring. "Schunk is already one of the largest employers in Thale. The company's latest investment is creating jobs, increasing productivity and enabling the utilization of growth potential. Our state profits from this as well."

"This is a very important investment for us," said a visibly pleased Ralf Stein, Managing Director of Sintermetalltechnik in Thale. "The new 4,500 square-meter production hall enables us not only expand our production capacity, but also to supply our customers even faster and with more consistent quality." The new hall now houses the mechanical processing, thermal post-processing and packaging/shipping departments. "Housing all of these departments under a single roof has enabled us to further improve our material flow," said Stein in summing up the advantages. Stein followed up by saying that this would enable Schunk Sintermetalltechnik to meet the exceptionally high quality standards of its most important target industry, the automotive industry.

The expansion of capacity and installation of new systems at Sintermetalltechnik in Thale was accompanied by an increase in the number of employees. "Thanks to this investment and our growth in turnover, we created 58 new jobs," said Managing Director Stein. With about 400 employees at present, Schunk Sintermetalltechnik is already one of the largest employers in Thale and one of the largest 100 companies in Saxony-Anhalt.

**A time-honored, yet state-of-the-art process**

Schunk Sintermetalltechnik, which is part of the Schunk Group, specializes in the production of sintered and powder metallurgical injection-molded components. In these processes, metal powder is mixed with a binding or lubricating agent and shaped under pressure. This enables the production of components with maximum precision and quality in very large quantities. Customers in the automotive and aviation industries use Schunk Sintermetalltechnik products in applications such as turbochargers, timing belt and chain wheels, camshaft adjusters and oil pumps.

(2,698 characters incl. spaces)

**Image material**

Einweihung neue Halle Schunk Sintermetalltechnik Thale.jpg: Symbolically inaugurating the new production hall of Schunk Sintermetalltechnik in Thale (from left to right): Ulrich Thomas (state parliament member), Ralf Stein (Managing Director of Schunk Sintermetalltechnik Thale), Andre Gast (Head of Production), Thomas Balcerowski (Mayor of Thale), Eik Schrader (Head of Ratiobau), Minister for Economic Affairs Hartmut Möllring and Martin Skiebe (district administrator of the Harz district).

**Schunk Group**
The Schunk Group is an internationally active technology company with around 8,150 employees in 29 countries. The company offers a broad spectrum of products and services in the fields of carbon technology and ceramics, environment simulation and air conditioning technology, sintered metal technology and ultrasonic welding technology. Turnover of the Schunk Group is around €940m.