

Press release.

**WORLD MARKET LEADER 2018 - Champions.
Pioneer of Industry 4.0 and hidden champion: the Felss Group.**

According to Wirtschaftswoche on 29 January, the University of St. Gallen determined that Germany had produced world market leaders in around 1,200 to 1,500 products - everything from consumer and industrial goods to food is represented.

But these world market leaders are not always backed by world-famous brands. Especially the successful German middle class produces many "hidden champions". These are the names given to companies that are market leaders in their sector and yet largely unknown. Further criteria are an annual turnover of over 50 million euros and branches on at least three continents. According to the St. Gallen Ranking, this also includes the Felss Group with headquarters in Königsbach-Stein, near Pforzheim.

The globally active Felss Group has been producing metalworking machines for various industries such as the automotive industry for many years and offers the most sophisticated component production. Felss is regarded as a pioneer in connecting forming technology to industry 4.0. The company has set itself the task of maintaining and expanding the competitive strength of manufacturing companies in the field of forming technology by tapping the potential of industry 4.0 at an early stage and actively shaping the digital structural change of industry. To this end, Felss develops intelligent machines and innovative solutions - and is working to remain one of the industry's frontrunners in the future.

Felss has already been named one of the "100 companies for resource efficiency" in the past and one of "100 places for industry 4.0". In 2017, Felss received the Baden-Württemberg Environmental Technology Award, with the "Generation e4.0" machine being awarded in the "Energy Efficiency" category.

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About the Felss Group

The Felss Group produces under the brand name Felss Shortcut Technologies both metalworking machines and components for the automotive industry and other industries. The technical focus is on the cold forming processes rotary swaging, axial forming, bending and end forming.

The Felss Group is a globally active group of companies headquartered in Königsbach-Stein. In addition to two further German locations in Bretten-Gölshausen and Nesselwang, the company is based in Wujiang (China), New Berlin (USA), Triengen (Switzerland) and Ilava (Slovakia). Sales in 2016 amounted to 122 million euros. Felss employs around 632 people worldwide, 402 of them in Germany.

The Management Board of the Felss Group:

Andreas Egelseder (Chief Market & Technology Officer)

Rainer Schiessle (Chief Operations Officer)

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