



Press-information

Released for publication

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Company profile:

From a manufacturer of special-purpose machines to a world-wide supplier of Building Kit Systems

Since it was founded in 1974, "item Industrietechnik und Maschinenbau GmbH" has concentrated on its customer-driven approach and uncompromising philosophy of continuous improvement to advance from a manufacturer of special-purpose machines to a manufacturer and supplier of industrial-standard Building Kit Systems. Today, item is active throughout the world.

Working closely with industrial partners

"item Industrietechnik und Maschinenbau GmbH" was founded in 1974. As an engineering design office and manufacturer of special-purpose machines, the company, with its headquarters in Solingen, Germany, soon became a preferred partner of industry. item responded to the constantly growing demand for innovative, special solutions for industrial applications, by shifting its emphasis across to special-purpose machinery. Where, initially, the fields of assembly and grinding technology were at the centre of the company's activities, there was a gradual but deliberate move in later years towards assembly and in-process testing equipment and the interlinking of automated and manual work stations.

Special-purpose machines as modular or container concepts

The company, operating today world-wide, recognised at an early stage that the conventional special-purpose machine constructions using steel involved excessive investment costs and high personnel costs.

Since the manufacturing and assembly phases were also highly complex, construction and delivery periods resulted in a long-term commitment of capital. Subsequent modifications of such designs were either impossible or prohibitively expensive.

Starting with the idea for designing machinery modules so versatile that individually tailor-made machines can be built to suit each application as it arises, item developed the modular steel system for special-purpose machines.

First designs involved machine bases as containers, which allowed not only the functional elements but also all the necessary safety guards to be integrated. The individual functional modules could, on the one hand, be easily interlinked to suit requirements, and, on the other hand, they were also much easier and cheaper to manufacture.

The item Profile System takes off

With its modular & container concept, item had indeed created a ground-breaking system for special-purpose machines.

In keeping with its innovative nature, however, the Company used that system as the starting block for optimising the remaining mechanical operations.

For feed and transport systems, the solution presented itself in the form of aluminium profiles that were specially designed to meet the requirements and loads typically encountered in this field. Since the elements were already in existence and ready for fitting, only minimal machining was necessary, leading to considerable reductions in construction time and machining work compared to the conventional steel constructions used in transport systems.

Existing profile systems did not always meet the requirements of universal special-purpose machine concepts. For this reason, the container concept could not completely do away with steel constructions. In addition, the available fasteners still involved too much machining. And so item developed its own universally applicable Profile System and combined this with a much improved, sturdy but simple fastener system.

From the Profile System to the MB Building Kit System

Since this generation of modular Profile Systems in conjunction with the new fasteners meant a further, permanent reduction in the work involved and the costs of machine base construction and the function modules for special-purpose machines, the overall costs of the machines fell.

Over the following years, item continued to develop new components to ensure more rapid, more versatile and thus more economical machine construction. The simple Profile System developed into the item MB Building Kit System, consisting of aluminium profiles, sophisticated fasteners and versatile function elements.

The launch of this innovative item MB Building Kit System in 1984 soon led to the concept becoming a standard in the market.

In order to signal to customers that there was a clear internal division between special-purpose machine building and the development and sale of the MB Building Kit System, the special-purpose machine building section was moved in the early 90's to separate premises. In doing so, emphasis was still placed on geographical proximity and close exchange of information between the users and the developers.

As a result of the consistently innovative development of new components and close co-operation with existing and new customers, the item MB Building Kit System has proven its worth world-wide in numerous fields of industry as both a time-saving and a cost-reducing solution for a wide range of applications.