



Press Release

HERRENKNECHT

Strong economy needs diversity

August 28, 2024

Schwanau, Germany

At Herrenknecht, over 50 different nationalities contribute to ambitious tunnelling projects worldwide and their successful completion. This diversity of backgrounds and expertise is more important than ever in times of a shortage of skilled workers. As part of the “Made in Germany - Made by Diversity” initiative, the company is therefore committed to promoting greater tolerance and combating xenophobia.

Under the motto “Made in Germany - Made by Diversity”, over 40 German family-owned companies are speaking out in favor of more tolerance and openness in society. Among them is Herrenknecht AG from Schwanau in southern Baden. The initiative was launched in connection with the state elections in Saxony, Thuringia and Brandenburg. “Right-wing extremist ideas are becoming socially acceptable again. This development worries us. Democracy and diversity are the basis for a strong economy and our prosperity. I would like us to have more awareness of this again,” demands Martin-Devid Herrenknecht, member of the Board of Management of Herrenknecht AG. Customers and partners who value Germany for its secure, democratic order are also becoming increasingly hesitant. “Isolation and exclusion, as called for by the AfD, for example, are fatal for us as a medium-sized company in the current economic situation,” he adds.

More than 50 different nationalities work together successfully at Herrenknecht. At the German site alone, 10 percent of employees are from neighboring France. The company has subsidiaries around the globe and on every continent. “Cultural diversity is a matter of course for us. We are proud of this; it makes us strong,” emphasizes Dr.-Ing E.h. Martin Herrenknecht, Chairman of the Board of Management. Especially in times of a shortage of skilled workers, it would be unthinkable to miss out on colleagues. According to Statista, there were 1.8 million vacancies in the industrial sector across Germany at the end of 2023. Talent is highly competitive, especially in STEM professions. This situation will become even more acute in the future when the baby boomer generation retires. “Immigration is essential in order to maintain and expand our economic strength,” emphasizes the Herrenknecht founder.

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For example, the long-established company has specifically recruited experts from South America and Eastern Europe. Numerous refugees have been able to start their professional careers at Herrenknecht and have integrated well into the company. Some of them are now training to become foremen. “What counts for us is not where you come from, but what you are willing to contribute,” he adds. Vacancies can be found on the family-owned company's website under the Careers section (<https://jobs.herrenknecht.com/>).

Photos



Picture 1

The official logo of the “Made by Vielfalt” initiative, launched by German family-owned companies.

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Herrenknecht AG

Herrenknecht AG is the only company worldwide to deliver tunnel boring machines for all geologies and in all diameters – ranging from 0.10 to 19 meters. The product range comprises tailor-made machines for traffic, supply and disposal tunnels, technologies for pipeline installation as well as additional equipment and service packages. Herrenknecht also manufactures drilling equipment for vertical and inclined shafts as well as deep drilling rigs.

In 2023 the Herrenknecht Group achieved total output of 1,296 million euros. The independent family business employs about 5,000 people worldwide, including approximately 200 apprentices and trainees. With more than 60 domestic and overseas subsidiaries and associated companies working in related fields, Herrenknecht provides comprehensive, fast and targeted services close to each project and contractor.

› <http://www.herrenknecht.com/en/references>

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