

PRESS RELEASE

Honorary Doctorate of the Montanuniversität Leoben for Professor Georg Menges

Plastics technology studies in Leoben supported by Professor Menges since the 1960s

Aachen/Leoben, April 2016. The Montan University of Leoben in Austria has awarded an honorary doctorate to Professor Georg Menges, the former head of the Institute of Plastics Processing (IKV) in Industry and the Skilled Crafts at RWTH Aachen University. On account of his globally acknowledged scientific achievements and the good relations existing between the Montan University and IKV since the late sixties, Prof. em. Dr.-Ing. Georg Menges received the honorary doctorate during an academic ceremony on March 18, 2016 in Leoben. Because of its technical orientation, the Montanuniversität has traditionally always had close contacts with industry, extending to research and development partnerships over a period of many years. Alongside teaching and research, knowledge transfer has always been one of the three key drivers at Montan University. During his work at IKV, Prof. Menges made an important contribution to this.

Prof. Menges, who is regarded by experts in the field of plastics technology as one of the major European pioneers of plastics processing, forged his links to the Montanuniversität Leoben back in 1968. Alongside the Austrian expatriate Prof. Herman F. Mark – the founder of North American polymer sciences – Prof. Georg Menges was the second high-ranking international advisor to the professorial council of the then "Montanistic University of Leoben" on the preparation and setting-up of the plastics technology study course in 1968/69. Prof. Menges promoted the new plastics technology course in Leoben in a variety of ways, not only during the setting-up phase, but also by encouraging a lively exchange of know-how via guest speakers and conferences. In 1994, in the publication to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the plastics technology course, Prof. Menges wrote: *"The good work you have done is very visible in the students who have completed the course. Measured in these terms, the course of study is top class. I am proud to have been involved in the initial concepts to set up this field of study. May I combine my warm thanks for the many years of friendly cooperation with my very best wishes for the future of the plastics technology course."* The Plastics Technology department in Leoben has since grown to embrace six Chairs and, together with the closely linked Polymer Competence Center Leoben, now carries out plastics research with more than 200 staff.

Inspired by the know-how exchange initiated by Prof. Menges, the cooperation was expanded in the field of plastics injection moulding under the IKV leadership of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr.-Ing. E.h. Walter Michaeli to form a continuous research cooperation as part of several EU research projects. Over and above this, under the present head of IKV, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Hopmann, several applications have been filed jointly for EU projects on plastics processing, and a lively exchange of know-how has been encouraged in the field of elastomer injection moulding. Joint national and European projects are to be further developed from this. As part of this, IKV will join the Polymer Competence Center Leoben as a scientific partner.

Prof. Menges was born on December 19, 1923, studied mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Stuttgart, and, on completing his studies, accepted a position as a member of the scientific staff at that university in 1953. He was awarded his doctorate in

1955 with a project on brittle fracture research on metals. He then spent four years in the iron and steel industry and then six years in the plastics industry. In 1965, George Menges was appointed to the Chair of Plastics Processing at RWTH Aachen University, and, for 22 years up to December 1987, headed the Institute of Plastics Processing (IKV), which was founded in 1950. The assignment in Aachen was combined with his appointment as Director of the Institute of Plastics Processing in Industry and the Skilled Crafts at RWTH Aachen University, which he headed until his retirement in 1989. Prof. Menges succeeded within a short time in winning a large number of well-known companies from the plastics industry as members of the Sponsors' Association to support IKV.

In this way, he created a solid foundation for carrying out research over the entire breadth of plastics technology, starting with the methods of processing and extending through to the welding and designing of plastics. The focus of Prof. Menges' scientific research projects was on the structure and properties of plastics. He also made important contributions to the development of technologies for plastics processing such as injection moulding, extrusion, foaming, compression moulding, blow moulding, thermoforming, welding and automation. Georg Menges is regarded as one of the pioneers in the development of numerical simulation processes for calculating flow and heat transfer processes in plastics processing and the non-linear and anisotropic properties of plastic parts and their strength-related design.

IKV, thanks largely to its institutionalised link to industry as an industry-funded research centre, expanded quickly under Prof. Menges' leadership in line with the rapid development of the plastics segment to become one of the best-known, most renowned research institutes in the world. It currently employs up to 70 scientists and more than 200 people in total.

Prof. Menges was a member of several supervisory boards and committees in plastics companies in Germany and abroad, and has also held many positions as a consultant. Since 1999, the George Menges prize has been awarded every two years jointly by IKV, the VDMA (German Engineering Federation) and Plastics Europe Deutschland e.V. for outstanding accomplishments in the field of plastics processing.

For his scientific achievements, Prof. Menges has received numerous honours from major associations and institutions in Germany and abroad (Australia, China, UK, Japan, Austria, USA). He was one of the first non-US citizens to be accepted in 2006 into the Plastics Hall of Fame, founded in 1972, for his lifetime achievements. This is the highest award presented in the plastics industry. In 1985 in Vienna, Prof. Menges was presented with Austria's biggest award in polymer science, namely the "H.F. Mark Medal", for his scientific achievements in plastics processing.

The leading global role of the German plastics industry over many decades was shaped to a non-inconsiderable extent by him and his academic students. Over 1,000 graduate engineers, another 200 with doctorates and five with a post-doctoral degree studied under him. Apart from that, more than 20 of his graduates became university lecturers. Prof. Menges is the author of more than 300 publications in trade journals and conference proceedings, of which 113 were written in the period from 1988 to 2008, in the period after he headed the Institute.

Even during his active time at IKV, Prof. Menges dedicated himself intensively to writing textbooks for the study of plastics technology. After his retirement in February 1980, he continued to devote himself to his scientific publications. He spent much time updating his



and his staff's published teaching material. Authoring 14 textbooks that are regarded as standard reference works in all big university libraries, students of plastics technology have a wealth of valuable information at their disposal.

(Source: Press release from Montanuniversität Leoben of 15.4.2016)

www.ikv-aachen.de

www.unileoben.ac.at

Über das IKV

Das Institut für Kunststoffverarbeitung (IKV) in Industrie und Handwerk an der RWTH Aachen ist europaweit das führende Forschungs- und Ausbildungsinstitut auf dem Gebiet der Kunststofftechnik. Mehr als 300 Mitarbeiter beantworten hier Fragestellungen rund um die Verarbeitung, Werkstofftechnik und Bauteilauslegung von Kunststoffen und Kautschuken. Die enge Verbindung mit Industrie und Wissenschaft sowie die exzellente Ausstattung des IKV ermöglichen den Studierenden eine praxisnahe und umfassende Ausbildung. Die Aachener Kunststoffingenieure sind deshalb begehrte Spezialisten in der Industrie. Etwa 50 Prozent der deutschen Kunststoffingenieure mit Universitätsabschluss wurden am IKV ausgebildet. Das IKV gliedert sich organisatorisch in die Fachabteilungen Extrusion und Kautschuktechnologie, Faserverstärkte Kunststoffe und Polyurethane, Formteilauslegung und Werkstofftechnik sowie Spritzgießen. Ferner gehören zum Institut das Zentrum für Kunststoffanalyse und -prüfung und die Abteilung Aus- und Weiterbildung. Träger ist eine gemeinnützige Fördervereinigung, der heute rund 250 Unternehmen aus der Kunststoffbranche weltweit angehören. Leiter des Instituts und Geschäftsführer der Fördervereinigung ist Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Hopmann. Er ist gleichzeitig Inhaber des Lehrstuhls für Kunststoffverarbeitung der Fakultät für Maschinenwesen der RWTH Aachen.

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Prof. em. Dr.-Ing. Dr.h.c. Georg Menges at the celebrations to mark the presentation of his honorary doctorate together with Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Hopmann, head of IKV, Mag. Martin Payer, Managing Director PCCL, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Clemens Holzer, Franz Josef Wolf, WOCO Industrietechnik,



em. Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Günter Langecker, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Walter Friesenbichler, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Clara Schuecker, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gerald Pinter and Dr.-Ing. Herbert Müller, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the IKV Association of Sponsors (from l. to r.) (photo: D. Gruber)