

FRIEDRICH²

The customer magazine of the F. Zimmermann GmbH

MAG



**SERVICE
AND YOU!**

FACTS.

➤ 300

machines

are designed, manufactured
and delivered each year

➤ 190+

employees

worldwide

➤ 34+

countries

in which Zimmerman
machines are deployed



**SCAN AND FLY
THROUGH THE
COMPANY!**

BUILDING TRUST.

The economic conditions in Germany continue to be characterized by uncertainty and caution. The global trade is experiencing severe pressure due to the increasingly protectionist policies of the major powers. In these circumstances, reliability is gaining new importance. Now more than ever, it becomes evident how crucial genuine service is; as the connecting element to build trust.

In machine tool manufacturing, service is far more than a simple service: It is an expression of responsibility. Responsibility for making our customers' problems our own. Responsibility for taking charge, not only when everything is running smoothly, but especially when challenges arise.

We are committed to our strategic goal of providing efficient, fast, and high-quality service worldwide. Because we know: In a globally connected industry, availability and support are non-negotiable. Our aim is to be present wherever our customers need us: quick, competent, and reliable. And where necessary, also pragmatically and with simplicity.

At the same time, we want to be honest: We are not perfect. We are still far from where we want to be. Service is not a state, but a process. One that challenges us to improve, to listen, to learn, and to act, each and every day. This critical self-reflection is not a flaw for us, but a driving force. Because only those who recognize what is still missing, can lead the way forward.

The increasing complexity of our machines, coupled with the shortage of qualified and flexible specialists, presents significant challenges for our service organization. In this issue of **Friedrich.MAG**, we want to show you how we are meeting these challenges, with the goal of providing you with the service you rightfully expect from us going forward.

We would like to thank you, our customers, for your trust and openness. Due to the high demand for state-of-the-art machines and the growth it has generated, we now have a solid foundation to continue improving and investing in our service organization. Your expectations are our benchmark. Together with you, we will continue working to ensure that our service is not just a promise, but turns into a lived reality, today and going forward.

03



Frieder Gänzle
CEO

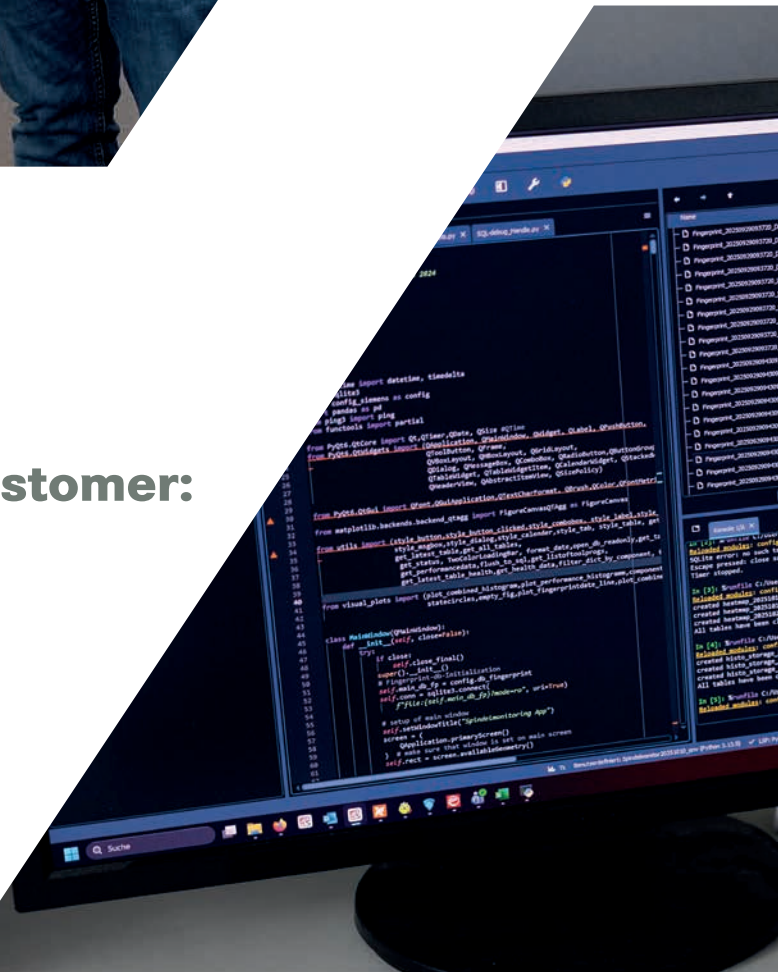
Eva Gänzle
Commercial Director
Shareholder

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➤ Always close to the customer: Service that connects.

Interview with Managing Director and Partner,
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➤ On the Road to Success in America

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CNC programmer at Sawyer, Texas
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➤ Secure. Smart. Future-Oriented.

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Head of software department



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➤ Always close to our customer: Service that connects.

When it comes to precision, quality, and innovation, the focus is usually on machines, technologies, or manufacturing processes. But precision is more than machinery, it comes from the people who develop, support, and understand them with passion.

At Zimmermann, service therefore means far more than maintenance and spare parts, it is an expression of responsibility and partnership. Only through personal contact, expert guidance, and quick support, cutting-edge milling technology can evolve into a long-term success story. With an established global service network, Zimmermann consistently focuses on being close to its customers. The goal: to respond faster, understand better, and provide sustainable support.



06

IN DISCUSSION WITH
CEO **FRIEDER GÄNZLE**
AND HEAD OF GLOBAL
SERVICES **CHRISTIAN
GLEICHAUF** ABOUT
RESPONSIBILITY,
PROXIMITY, AND THE
DRIVE TO SUPPORT
CUSTOMERS AT THE
HIGHEST LEVEL
WORLDWIDE.



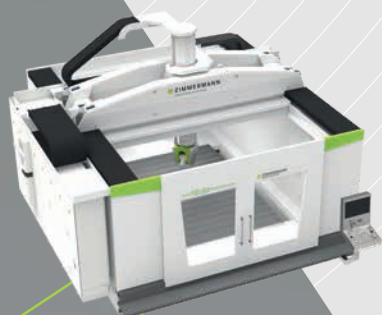
➤ **In recent years, Zimmermann increasingly invested in expanding a global service network. Why is service so essential for the company's future?**

Frieder: Our customers manufacture at the highest performance standards, where downtime or delays are simply not an option. That's why we aim to be on site quickly and resolve issues – ideally before they occur. Service is no longer a 'secondary function,' but a strategic driver of success.

➤ **Christian, you've overseen global service for the past two years. How are you and your team putting this into practice in your daily operations?**

Christian: Clearly, proximity is key. Our machines are in operation all over the world, Japan, India, the USA, and Scandinavia, and we aim to provide competent points of contact in all these places. Neuhausen is the heart of our service operations, where everything is managed and coordinated. We are building a service network that responds quickly, but also acts proactively. In addition to repair and maintenance, today's service includes retrofits, modernization, digital support, process consulting, and training.

Service has long since become a core element of our customer relationships.



**TECH-TALK
CHRISTIAN**

➤ **What do you think makes Zimmermann's service stand out?**

Christian: All our service staff are experts in their field. They know the machines inside and out and face new challenges every day. This applies to both our call-center staff and the technicians on site. We do not just act as a "service provider," but as a technical partner who develops solutions and optimizes processes. It is important to us that the customer feels understood, not just supported. And when all else fails, I personally get on a plane and work together with the customer to find a pragmatic solution on site.

➤ **How important is local proximity for a globally operating company?**

Frieder: Extremely important. Mechanical engineering is a global business, but service is always local. Every market operates differently, and every customer has unique requirements. By understanding these and responding accordingly, trust can be built. And trust is the foundation for every successful partnership. That is precisely why we invest in local service partners, training, and knowledge transfer.

➤ **What's next? How will service develop in the coming years?**

Christian: The reactive service business will remain our core task in the future. Topics such as condition-based maintenance, remote support, and data analysis will become increasingly important. At the same time, experience, intuition, and strong communication skills are required. Our challenge is to combine both: a high-tech and a hands-on mentality.

Frieder: Service business our opportunity to further differentiate ourselves in the global competitive environment. We don't just deliver machines; we provide solutions across their entire lifecycle. This is our understanding of responsibility toward the customer.

"WE GET IMMEDIATE RESPONSES, NOT IN ITALIAN OR CHINESE, BUT IN CASE OF DOUBT, EVEN IN SWABIAN."

Maximilian Lörzel
Managing Director, SCHRÖTER
Modell- und Formenbau GmbH

"I HAVE ALWAYS HAD EXCELLENT EXPERIENCES WITH THE SERVICE. RESPONSE TIMES ARE QUICK, AND THE STAFF ARE FRIENDLY, KNOWLEDGEABLE, AND FOCUSED ON FINDING SOLUTIONS."

Michael Hilpert
Managing Director, Formbar AG

➤ **To wrap up: What do you wish for in the future?**

Christian: That we continue on our path consistently: With passion, competence, and a team spirit. Every service operation is a promise, and we want our customers to feel that they can rely on Zimmermann.

Frieder: I couldn't agree more. Our goal is to be the one partner worldwide that people trust, because they know: Zimmermann is present whenever it matters.

MORE THAN JUST PROBLEM SOLVERS.



35

**EMPLOYEES
DEPLOYED WORLDWIDE
INCLUDING SERVICE
TECHNICIANS AND
INTERNAL STAFF**

➤ Our service team.

Our machines are built for highest precision and reliability. To ensure these qualities are upheld in daily operation, our service team is always available to support our customers. With years of experience, technical know-how, and great dedication, the team ensures that every portal milling machine runs reliably.

Our service staff are deployed worldwide and understand themselves not just as problem-solvers, but as partners with a clear goal: to prevent downtime, to optimize and maintain processes, and to ensure our customers' productivity in the long term.

Whether on site or via remote support service, our service team goes all out to keep your production running smoothly!

OUR SER- VICES



➤ Installation & Commissioning:

Smooth, precise, and tailored to your needs.



➤ Maintenance & Inspection:

Regular checks for maximum availability and predictable costs.



➤ Repairs & Spare Parts:

Fast, reliable, and with OEM parts.



➤ Milling Head Replacement & Repair:

Expert, precise, and on time.



➤ Retrofit & Upgrades:

For increased performance and an extended machine lifespan.



➤ Remote Support:

Quick assistance via remote diagnostics, regardless of your location.



➤ Training & Courses:

Hands-on expertise directly from our specialists.

➤ Full speed ahead.

Steffen was born in Köngen, is a handball player through and through, married and father of two. After completing his training as an industrial mechanic at Heller and almost 20 years at Matec, where he started in fluid design and later on became the Technical Director, he turned the page in 2023 and started a new chapter: joining Zimmermann.

After almost two decades at Matec, Steffen knew one thing for sure: That he wanted to remain faithful to his passion for mechanical engineering. Zimmermann offered exactly what he was looking for: modern facilities, a contemporary workplace and machines built exclusively with high-end premium components. „That’s not the standard everywhere and it reflects the durability and precision of the machines. That’s exactly what makes technology fun,“ he notes.

“STRONG TEAMWORK IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS.”

At Zimmermann, he has taken on a new role: Project Manager in Service with a focus on retrofits. He oversees head replacements, control system updates, and retrofit projects such as adding probing systems. He supports these projects from start to finish, including continuous customer communication, initial offers all the way to final acceptance. “This has been an entirely new world for me, but I’m learning something new every day.” His first major project was a challenging start: a retrofit at Kia in Slovakia, just two weeks after he started. The biggest challenge? English. “It takes some effort at times, but I’m facing it head-on and improving every day. The technology isn’t an issue – I’ve been doing that for years.”

He particularly appreciates that working in Service allows him to stay close to the technology and to see the results immediately: “When a machine has been modified and everything works

perfectly afterward, it fills you with pride.” There’s also a strong sense of teamwork: “The colleagues are great, the environment is a good fit and I have a lot of freedom.” He already knows some of the team members from his past. “The industry is small – people know each other, and it’s nice to meet some familiar faces again who are now my colleagues.”

In his private life, Steffen finds balance through sports. The former handball player volunteers by managing the TSV Köngen, he also cycles, skis, or spends time on the water. His passion for the water comes from his father, who prefers spending his free time on a motorboat. “Even as children, we were always at the sea – in Croatia or Spain.” This summer, he earned his sailing license and is planning his first sailing trip in Croatia with his family. “When sailing, you have to be able to rely on your team – especially in rough seas. It’s just like at work: strong teamwork is the key to success.”

09

SERVICE PROJECT MANAGER

STEFFEN ROMMEL



➤ Our global service network.

Zimmermann operates worldwide – and strong partnerships are central to its success



**IAN
HOWLETT**
HOWLETT MACHINE
TOOLS SERVICES, UK



FZ GmbH
Neuhausen

10

Ian Howlett is 56 years old and has been involved in the machine tool industry for almost three decades. After roles as a service technician, service manager, and engineering director at well-known companies, he founded his own business in 2018, specializing in maintenance, repairs, and extraction technology. With his experience and solution-oriented mindset, he has been supporting Zimmermann's customers in the UK as a service partner since summer 2025.

➤ How did the collaboration with Zimmermann start, and how has it been so far?

The collaboration started together with Christian Gleichauf, whom I knew from my time at Chiron. Together with Frank Schneider and Christian, we visited several customers in the UK and were welcomed warmly everywhere. I went to Neuhausen for training courses, where I got to know the colleagues from the service team. We have already successfully handled our first assignments together.

➤ What topics are currently in focus?

As with any new collaboration, in the beginning there are many organizational questions and new processes that need to be established. It's important to visit customers regularly and to

build trust. The initial feedbacks have been consistently positive, and there is strong interest in the machines. We have already received exciting inquiries, including automotive and F1 sectors.

➤ How do customers perceive the collaboration with Zimmermann?

Customers immediately notice that Zimmermann delivers machines with state-of-the-art quality. Many were surprised about how smoothly the transition to the new structure went. What is appreciated above all, are the precision, reliability, and on-site technical support. I always try to go the famous "extra mile" for my customers, and that is exactly what builds trust for a long-term partnership.

UNITED KINGDOM

12+

SERVICE PARTNER WORLDWIDE

including Brazil, Japan,
Canada, Malaysia,
the Netherlands, Sweden,
South Korea, Turkey,
Great Britain



TOBIAS DRECKMEIER

SERVICE HUB
NORTH

Since September 2024, our Service Hub North has been in operation, supporting customers across northern Germany. With this location, we have expanded our service structure to be even closer to our customers, respond more quickly, and provide the best possible support. Tobias Dreckmeier, 36, has been part of the Zimmermann team since June 1, 2024, and manages the new northern location. With 16 years of field service experience, he brings extensive expertise in technical service: mechanical, electrical, and automation-related. We spoke with Tobias about how the launch went and which priorities will be set in the North going forward.

➤ How does the Service Hub North team operate, and how does the collaboration with the service colleagues in Neuhausen work?

The launch was very successful. We were able to work on several service assignments right from the start and received positive feedback from our customers. Our team consists of experienced service technicians who are highly trained in both mechanical and electronic areas. We work in close cooperation with our colleagues in Neuhausen, whether for complex assignments or spare parts support, and we maintain an active, ongoing information exchange.

➤ What advantages does the new location offer to our customers in northern Germany?

Quite simply: proximity and speed. With the new hub, we can now respond to service requests much faster and we are able to be on-site quickly in the event of a machine downtime. That gives our customers peace of mind and far more room to plan. Another plus: spare parts and key equipment are now stocked directly in the North – no long

shipping routes, no delays. This makes our service more efficient and more flexible, builds customer trust, and strengthens collaboration.

➤ Which goals does the Service Hub North have for the coming months and are there any plans to further optimize the service?

Our goal is to continue expanding the location: in terms of staffing, organization, and technology. We want to shorten our response times even further, offer additional training programs, and strengthen our communication with customers. We see strong demand for retrofit solutions and preventive maintenance. Furthermore, the digital connectivity is becoming increasingly important, for example, when it comes to remote diagnostics or software updates. Our aim is to support customers in northern Germany, not only on the technical side, but also strategically. Our priority is that the Service Hub North continues to be a dependable partner for our customers in the long run, close to where they operate.

TECH-TALK
CHRISTIAN



CHRISTIAN GAARZ

HEAD OF SOFTWARE
DEVELOPMENT

**ZIMMERMANN
CONNECTS PEOPLE,
MACHINES AND DIGITAL
SOLUTIONS FOR A SAFE FUTURE.**

**SECURE.
SMART.
FUTURE-
ORIENTED.**

Christian Gaarz has been leading the software department at Zimmermann for four years. Together with his team, he is responsible for everything that brings our machines to life, digitally: from drive systems and sensor technology to software solutions. In this interview, he explains how cybersecurity, machine connectivity, and artificial intelligence (AI) are shaping the future.

➤ **Christian, you mentioned two levels of security: machine safety and cybersecurity. Can you briefly explain the difference?**

Machine safety refers to classic “safety”: the operator must not be put at risk by the machine itself. Cybersecurity, on the other hand, concerns the entire digital network of the machine. Everything that has an IP address must be secured in such a way that no given entity from the outside can access or manipulate processes. A hacker attack could otherwise go unnoticed and lead to serious consequences, for example, when it concerns components for aircraft.

➤ **What role do new EU regulations such as the Cyber Resilience Act play in this?**

A very big one. The Cyber Resilience Act sets out clear requirements for how digital systems must be secured. Together with the new Machinery Regulation and the NIS2 directive, it creates a binding framework that we will have to comply with starting in 2027. For us, this means we need to

invest today, build up the necessary know-how, and continue developing our machines accordingly.

➤ **How is Zimmermann preparing for this?**

We are members of the VDW (German Machine Tool Builders' Association) task-force group on “Product Security” and work closely with control system manufacturers and external consultants. Especially as a medium-sized company, it is important to combine resources. At the same time, we are training our employees and building structures to ensure we meet the legal requirements on time.

➤ **What does this mean for customers?**

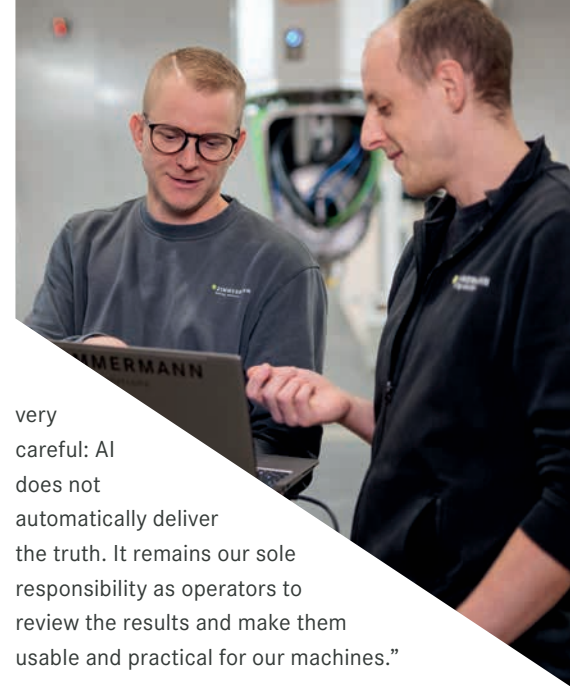
They benefit from a higher level of security. Cybersecurity is often invisible, but it is crucial: production downtime caused by hacker attacks could have severe existential consequences. Our job is to ensure that their data and processes remain protected through firewalls, secure network topologies, and proper configurations.

➤ **The term “Security by Design” is often used. What does this mean for Zimmermann?**

It means that security aspects are not just added at the end, but are integrated into machine development from the very beginning. Even in the design and software architecture, we ensure that potential vulnerabilities are minimized. For our customers, this means that security is not an add-on, it is an integral part of every machine.

➤ **Another emerging topic is artificial intelligence. What role does AI play at Zimmermann?**

We are dealing with it intensively. Internally, we are building a knowledge database, supported by AI. We are also collaborating with control system manufacturers on pilot projects, for example in programming. In a long-term perspective, AI could help us identify errors or malfunctions more quickly or even suggest solutions. But one must be



very careful: AI does not automatically deliver the truth. It remains our sole responsibility as operators to review the results and make them usable and practical for our machines.”

➤ **Do customers see tangible benefits here as well?**

Yes. One example is the digital twin: it allows advance testing of machine functions and programs virtually. This saves time during start-up, reduces costs, and enables training even before the real machine is on-site at the customer's facility. From a future perspective, AI has the potential to make this process faster by automatically creating models or adding programming logic. For customers, this means faster production start-ups and less risk.

➤ **People nowadays associate AI with opportunities, but also with risks. How do you see it?**

AI should not be seen as a system that runs itself. It is a tool that must be used wisely. For us, transparency comes first: we want systems that produce results that are understandable. Black-box algorithms are of no use to anyone. At the same time, we always have to check: what tangible benefit does it bring to the customer? Only in this way does AI provide real added value.”

➤ **What drives you personally?**

I've been fascinated by technology for as long as I can remember. At Zimmermann, I have the opportunity to bring machines to life that manufacture components for aircraft and other high tech products. When I sit in a plane and know that parts of it were made on our machines, it's pure motivation for me.



FACTBOX CYBERSECURITY & AI

➤ **Cyber-resilient by 2027:**

Zimmermann is actively preparing to meet new EU regulations such as the Cyber Resilience Act and the NIS2 Directive.

➤ **Secure systems:**

Firewalls, network topologies, and proper configurations reliably protect machines and customer data from attacks.

➤ **AI with added value:**

Digital twins and smart assistance systems speed up start-ups, increase transparency, and reduce risks for customers.

➤ **Tobi, you've been our IT expert for 19 years. Why is IT security so important for Zimmermann?**

Because all of our work depends on it. We process sensitive design data and control complex processes. A failure or, even worse, unauthorized access, whether digitally or physically, would have serious consequences for our customers and for us. This is why we make ongoing investments in our IT security.

➤ **What have you implemented most recently?**

We modernized both of our data centers, replaced legacy components, and expanded our storage capacities. At the same time, we updated and modernized our servers, and optimized our backup strategy. As a result, we're not only more efficient, but also far better protected against potential cyberattacks.

➤ **How secure is our data today?**

We must remain realistic: 100 percent security doesn't exist, claiming anything else would be irresponsible. But we are very well prepared. Our data backup operates on multiple layers, across different time frames, server locations, storage media, and versions. This ensures that in an emergency, we are able to recover and access our data quickly and reliably and continue working without major interruption. We regularly test our systems to ensure they perform as expected in practice.

➤ **What are the next steps regarding IT security?**

Currently, we are evaluating whether certification under the NIS2 Directive would be beneficial for us. This involves systematic analysis of vulnerabilities and recommendations for further improvement. The topic is also becoming increasingly important to our customers, more and more often, evidence of IT security is required or requested. Rather than just reacting, we take proactive measures to guarantee that your data is fully protected at Zimmermann.

➤ **Your conclusion?**

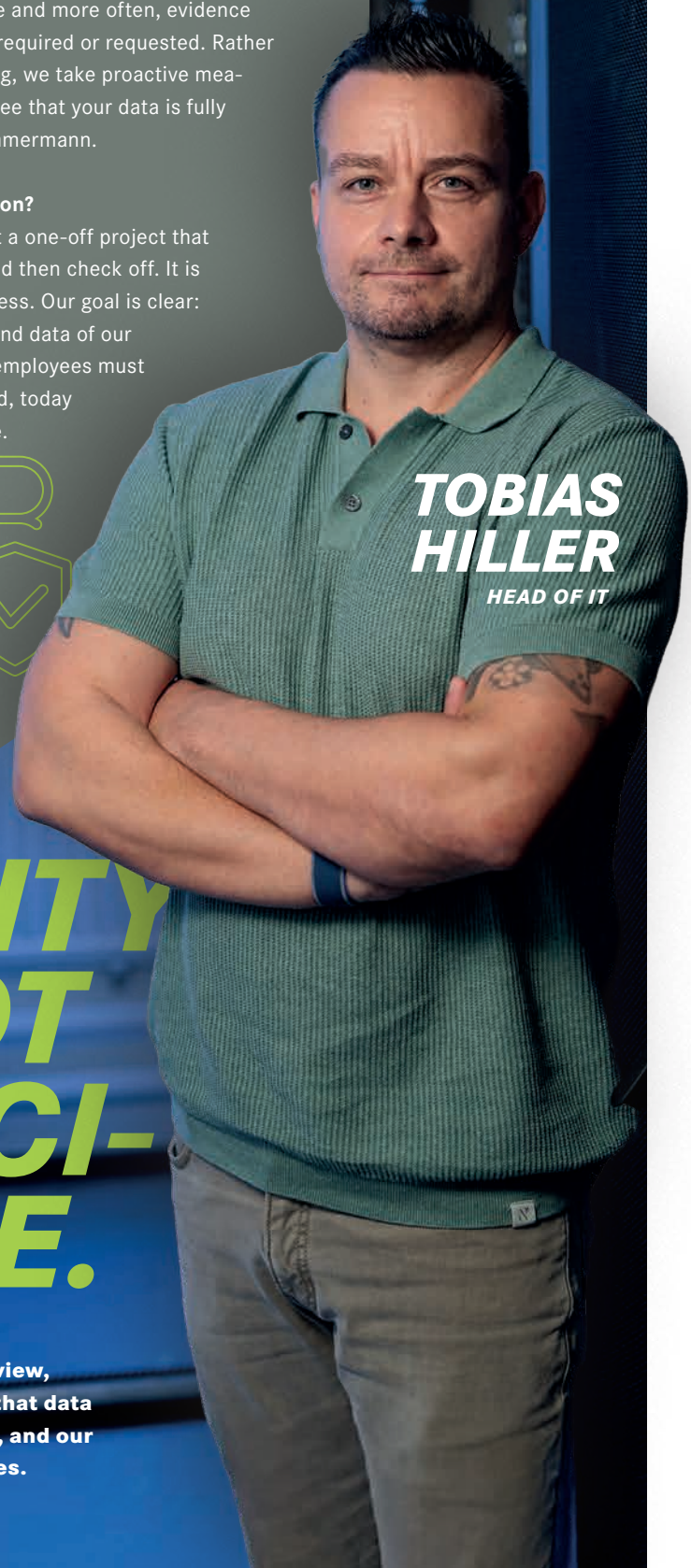
IT security is not a one-off project that you complete and then check off. It is an ongoing process. Our goal is clear: the knowledge and data of our customers and employees must remain protected, today and in the future.



SECURITY IS NOT A COINCIDENCE.

At Zimmermann, IT security is a top priority. In this interview, **Tobias Hiller, Head of IT**, explains how the team ensures that data remains protected, knowledge stays within the company, and our systems run reliably — for our customers and for ourselves.

**TOBIAS
HILLER**
HEAD OF IT



➤ Digital intelligence for increased machine availability.

Even though **Johannes Lippert** studied aerospace engineering, he quickly found his home in mechanical engineering. At Zimmermann, he has specialized in digital applications and is successfully driving the topic forward. His goal: to make machines smarter, prevent downtimes, and provide customers with real added value through data-driven services. In this interview, he explains how this works in practice.

➤ **Johannes, you focus on digital application development at Zimmermann. What does that involve exactly?**

Our machines are equipped with multiple sensors. They collect data, which we evaluate, consolidate, and translate into clear answers. In the end, it's about turning complex information into understandable guidance, for example: 'The spindle is running optimally' or 'A potential issue is emerging here'.

➤ **So, it is all about classic condition monitoring?**

Exactly. Condition monitoring can be understood as continuously monitoring the state of the machine. We aim to anticipate when a component is wearing out or needs replacement. This allows for better planning of maintenance operations by both the customer and the service team, for example in production breaks, helping to prevent unplanned downtime.

➤ **What advantages does this offer our customers?**

It's simple: more availability. A machine that's not running doesn't generate revenue. By detecting damage early, unplanned downtime can be reduced. At the same time, the data helps to investigate the actual root causes, in other words: why components wear out in the first place. We can also plan more effectively which tasks actually need to be performed during a service visit. This results in improvements for the customer and for us as the manufacturer.

➤ **Sounds like a lot of computing power and AI – how does this work in practice?**

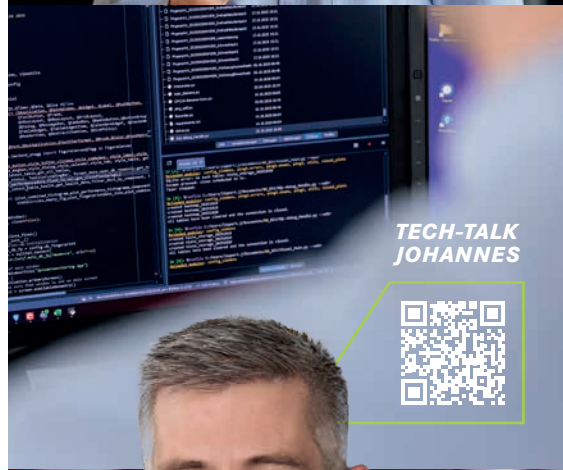
We deliberately rely on local systems. Our solutions run directly on the machine, without a cloud connection. AI helps us with pattern recognition, but it works even better when we carefully select the right data beforehand. Statistics and logic are more valuable than a 'black-box algorithm'.

➤ **Where are we headed in the next few years?**

In the short term, we want to be able to monitor the most critical components, especially the spindle, transparently and provide clear percentage indicators of their current condition. In the long term, this should evolve into an intelligent assistance system that even provides suggestions to the operator: Should I prioritize maximum uptime or highest precision? Our ultimate goal on the horizon is for the machine to notify the service team which parts need replacing before the technician even packs their things.

➤ **And what motivates you personally?**

I enjoy the challenge. Every day brings new tasks and the chance to develop creative solutions. In the end, it's simply rewarding when our customers can work even more productively thanks to digital intelligence."

TECH-TALK
JOHANNES

**JOHANNES
LIPPERT**
DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER



**PORTAL
MILLING
MACHINES**

FZ42

FZ37

Performance

P



Unibody

16

U



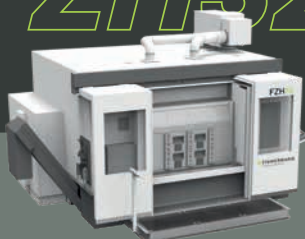
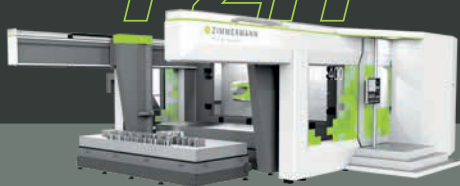
PRECISION

HORIZONTAL MACHINING CENTERS

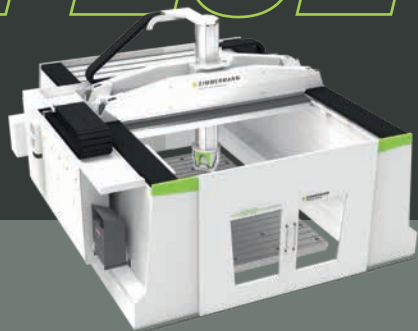
FZH

FZH32

FZH27



FZ32



FZ27



FZ22



AND



Explore our complete
range of machines

YOU

30%

INCREASE IN
PRODUCTIVITYCENTURY
A TOOLING TECH GROUP COMPANY

ZIMMERMANN



18 **➤ Made in Neuhausen, in operation worldwide.**

The FZU37 significantly increases
productivity at Century Tool in Michigan.

At Century Tool in Fenton, Michigan, a new Zimmermann **FZU37 portal milling machine** significantly increased productivity. The machine is specifically designed for the requirements of tool and mold making for large die-cast components and increases manufacturing efficiency by up to 30 percent.

Century Tool, part of the Tooling Tech Group (TTG), was looking for a solution to reduce the high number of hours spent on finishing and roughing large workpieces. The existing smaller machine was replaced by the FZU37, which efficiently expanded the machine fleet. Cornelius Kiesel, Managing Director of Zimmermann Inc., emphasizes: "We tailored the specifications precisely to the customer's needs."

**"WE MAINLY WORK
WITH P20 STEEL AND
VARIOUS ALUMINUM
ALLOYS FOR LARGE
CASTING MOLDS."**

Production Manager, Tom Bradford

The FZU37 provides a working area of 5,000 x 4,000 x 1,500 mm - a 79% increase in motion range compared to the predecessor model, while requiring the same floor space. It is capable of machining aluminum and composite materials, does not require a fixed foundation, and can be placed flexibly on the production floor. Because the machine table is rigidly integrated into the base, large components can be processed without the need for repositioning.

FACTS

■ **Efficient use of floor space:**

The closed unibody system requires no fixed foundation and can be placed flexibly on the production floor.

■ **Process reliability through modern software:**

3D simulation, smart programming, and component monitoring ensure greater process stability.

■ **Extensive (special) equipment options:**

Tool changer, enclosure, mist extraction, high-pressure coolant supply, tool laser, touch probe, HSK 63 and HSK 80 tool holders, extended spindle housing for deep cavities, reinforced machine table.



The system is equipped with a tool changer, enclosure, mist extraction, high-pressure coolant supply, tool laser, touch probe, and HSK 63 and HSK 80 tool holders. An extended spindle housing and reinforced side panels allow reliable machining of deep cavities even when handling complex shapes.

The FZU37 operates using HEIDENHAIN's TNC7 control platform, providing 3D visualization, graphical probing for complex freeform surfaces, and advanced smart programming functions. Operator David Hawes praises the intuitive touchscreen interface and the seamless integration of existing programs. The control system also monitors key machine components, including spindle bearings and the drivetrain, to support predictive maintenance and ensure stable processes. This is particularly crucial for Century Tool, where large molds are produced and more than 90% of material may be removed over multi-day operations. HEIDENHAIN provided direct training, and the FZU37 is among the first U.S. installations featuring the TNC7.

Production Manager Tom Bradford reports on the wide range of applications: "We primarily work with P20 steel and various aluminum alloys for large die-cast molds. We also produce tooling for composite materials, for industries from automotive and motorsport to off-highway, agriculture, and infrastructure." Especially, for Class-A body panels, tight tolerances and top-tier surface quality are essential. The FZU37 consistently delivers high-quality results, even on large mold structures. The machine is operated in two-shift or lights-out mode, fully automated or remotely controlled.

Thanks to its generous table size, high machining speeds, and precise control system, Century Tool was able to increase productivity by up to 30 percent. With this technology, the company plans to expand its core expertise in mold making into additional industries such as aerospace and consumer goods, benefiting from consistently excellent surface finishes and high process reliability.



Learn
more

TECHNICAL DATA

FZU37



➤ X = 5,000 mm ➤ Y = 4,000 mm ➤ Z = 1,500 mm ➤ Milling Head VH30: 50 kW, 20,000 U/min, 119 Nm ➤ Heidenhain TNC7

➤ Precision, Doubled: Schütz GmbH & Co. KGaA relies on the FZP37 & FZP42 machine duo.

The Schütz GmbH & Co. KGaA in Selters is one of the leading manufacturers of high-quality transport packaging such as IBCs, drums, and canisters. To ensure maximum precision in its molds and tools, the company operates two high-performance portal milling machines from F. Zimmermann GmbH, including the **FZP42** for rough machining.

“Almost everyone knows it, the Intermediate Bulk Container (IBC),” explains **Eduard Tom**, machining specialist at Schütz. “With the invention of the IBC, our company founder

revolutionized liquid packaging and transport sector. Today there are many variants, and we are the world leader in their production.” A typical Schütz IBC consists of a multi-layer inner container and a robust steel cage with a pallet base, and is now used worldwide in chemical and food industries. The inner container is made from HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene). “The container is produced by blow molding,” says Tom. “For that process, we manufacture all molds and tools in-house. Even the smallest deviations can lead to material defects later on,” Tom adds. “We’re working in the thousandth part range.”

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HIGHLIGHTS

■ High-performance pairing:

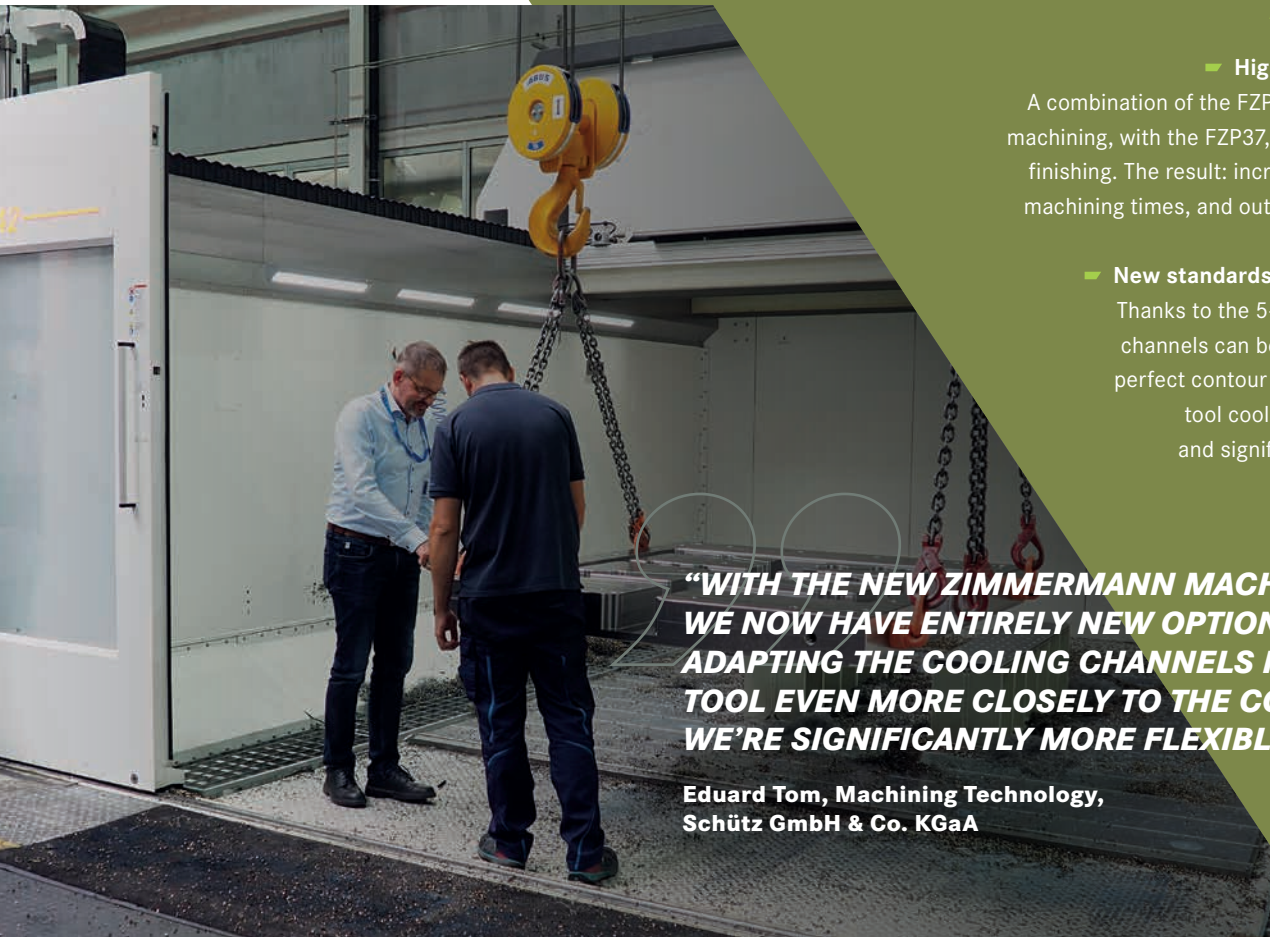
A combination of the FZP42, which handles rough machining, with the FZP37, which delivers precision finishing. The result: increased dynamics, shorter machining times, and outstanding surface quality.

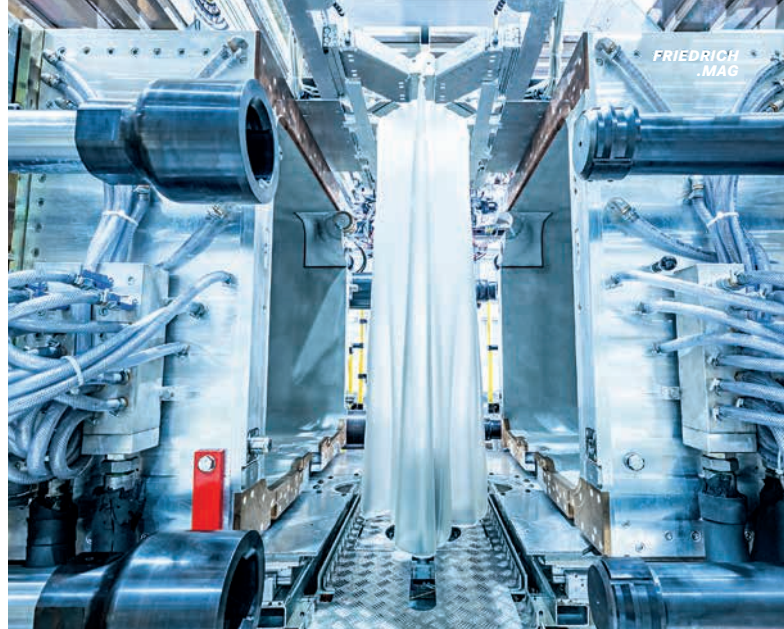
■ New standards in tool manufacturing:

Thanks to the 5-axis technology, cooling channels can be drilled flexibly and with perfect contour accuracy. This enhances tool cooling, reduces cycle times, and significantly boosts long-term process reliability.

**“WITH THE NEW ZIMMERMANN MACHINES,
WE NOW HAVE ENTIRELY NEW OPTIONS FOR
ADAPTING THE COOLING CHANNELS IN THE
TOOL EVEN MORE CLOSELY TO THE CONTOUR,
WE’RE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE FLEXIBLE NOW.”**

**Eduard Tom, Machining Technology,
Schütz GmbH & Co. KGaA**





The previously used machines were increasingly reaching their limits: failures, quality deviations, and extensive reworking processes led to significant delays. At the EMO Hannover, Schütz made the first contact with Zimmermann. After extensive testing, the company finally selected two machines: an **FZP42** for rough machining and an **FZP37** for finishing. Both offer motion ranges of 4,000 x 3,500 x 1,500 mm. The FZP42 is equipped with the powerful dual-axis fork head VH60 and a 63-kW spindle, while the FZP37 features the slim VH30 head and a 70-kW spindle, ensuring optimum accessibility when machining fine structures.

The special construction concept, a thermo-symmetrical box-in-box design, ensures maximum stability. "This construction minimizes thermal influences, and the machine geometry remains constant," explains Rüdiger Hellwig, Sales Manager at Zimmermann. "This keeps the tool precisely positioned at all times, which is reflected in long-term accuracy and stability." In addition to the construction, the machine's dynamics were also compelling: due to a lower moving mass, it can operate faster and with greater precision.

In practice, Schütz first uses the FZP42 to rough one half of the mold from a 2.2-ton aluminum block; the FZP37 then performs the finishing and drilling operations. This opens up new possibilities in tool manufacturing: cooling channels can

now be positioned more flexibly and closer to the contour, instead of being limited to fixed angles it allows bores with an inclination of just 0.6 degrees over a length of 1.4 meters. The result is improved part quality and noticeably reduced cycle times.

The configuration features a combined cooling and lubrication system, high-pressure pumps for deep-hole drilling, minimum-quantity lubrication, a shavings conveyor, air cooling, as well as a 121-position tool changer. The machines operate almost around the clock; thanks to significantly reduced rework, processing times and overall effort in tool manufacturing have dropped substantially.

To simplify service, Zimmermann has integrated a practical solution: each machine is equipped with a QR code. Scanning it automatically generates a service email with all relevant machine data, enabling the support hotline to respond quickly and efficiently.



*Learn
more*

TECHNICAL DATA

FZP37/42

➤ X = 4,000 mm ➤ Y = 3,500 mm ➤ Z = 1,500 mm

➤ FZP42: Milling Head VH60, 63 kW, 15,000 U/min, 300 Nm ➤ FZP37: Milling Head VH30, 70 kW, 20,000 U/min, 167 Nm



➤ On the Road to Success in America.

Sawyer Composite relies on the FZU22 by Zimmermann.



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Since 1992, **Sawyer Composite** has specialized in composite materials, producing tooling and also finished components. Based in **Fort Worth, Texas**, the company is ISO 9001 and AS9100 certified and offers turnkey solutions in design, engineering, manufacturing, and qualification. In 2024, the FZU22 was launched on the U.S. market, and Sawyer was among the first customers. After one year in operation, **J.R. Tubb, CNC programmer** at Sawyer, shares an initial assessment.

➤ **What challenges were you looking to solve when investing in a new portal milling machine?**

J.R. Tubb: Our older machines increasingly struggled with accuracy, throughput, and downtimes. The FZU22 provided immediate improvement. It runs reliably, delivers impressive precision, and its rigid monoblock design allows for significantly faster machining. As a result, our throughput has increased and the amount of required rework has dropped considerably.

➤ **What impressed you most about the FZU22?**

J.R. Tubb: Especially the enclosed

workspace is a major advantage. When milling composite materials, the carbon dust stays within the machine and doesn't reach sensitive components. We're also very pleased with the minimum-quantity lubrication (MQL) system. It has reduced our lubricant consumption, leading to lower costs, less waste, and a much cleaner working environment. On top of that, the Siemens Sinumerik One control system can be operated fast and intuitive, just perfect for 5-axis machining.

➤ **What impact does the new machine have in daily production?**

J.R. Tubb: The difference is very noticeable. We have a program for a

component that runs on every machine. When we machined this part on the FZU22, we finished almost 30 minutes faster, and with much better surface quality. The finishing work now takes only half as long. An outstanding result and perfect interaction between operator and machine. Another example: also with aluminum parts, we now achieve the required tolerance on the first run, without necessary adjustments or rework. That saves a tremendous amount of time and resources. Choosing the FZU22 was absolutely the right decision for our company.

“THE EXAMPLE OF SAWYER SHOWS THAT, DESPITE THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE IS SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL IN THE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET, AND CUSTOMERS ARE WILLING TO INVEST WHEN QUALITY AND SERVICE MEET EXPECTATIONS.”

The FZU22 stands for productivity without compromise: **compact, precise, and equipped with state-of-the-art control technology.** Sawyer’s consistent use of these advantages demonstrates how well the FZU22 performs in practical operation, and this across multiple industries. These results confirm our goal: maximum precision with minimal effort. By implementing the FZU22, our customers can make their manufacturing more flexible, accelerate processes, and improve quality at the same time. The strong performance in the U.S. market reinforces our promise of going **“beyond precision”**.

Cornelius Kiesel has been the CEO of Zimmermann Inc. in Wixom, Michigan, near Detroit, for more than nine years. Together with his team he manages operations in the North American market. The site continues to grow: in addition to the office, spare parts warehouse, and showroom, a dedicated headstand will be added by the end of the year to further enhance customer proximity and service quality.

The US market is currently navigating a challenging political and economic environment. Despite these conditions, the US market remains strategically important for Zimmermann: “The potential is there,



**CORNELIUS
KIESEL**
PRESIDENT & CEO
ZIMMERMANN INC.

the demand is there, and we’re confident that North America will continue to be a key market for us.” The introduction of new tariffs continues to create uncertainty. “Large corporations may be able to absorb these, but for small and mid-sized businesses, it poses a real challenge,” says Kiesel. As a result, Zimmermann Inc. is increasingly focusing on major industrial customers, particularly in the aerospace sector. Despite the tense situation, incoming orders are still stable. “We’re aware of the circumstances and are taking action to stay successful. We’re not standing still, we’re doing our homework,” Kiesel emphasizes.

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NUMBERS, DATA, FACTS

➤ 13 EMPLOYEES

in sales, service, and administration, build the team based in Michigan, Kansas, and on the West Coast.

➤ \$14.5M REVENUE

were generated on average by the Zimmermann Inc. team over the past five years.

➤ 190+ MACHINES

are currently in operation at customers across the USA, Canada, and Mexico.



ZIMMERMANN

ZIMMERMANN
machining solutions

➤ Together across generations. 500 years of Zimmermann expertise.

In 2025, 21 employees celebrated their work anniversaries at Zimmermann. Together, they represent an impressive 500 years of employment with the company, half a millennium of knowledge, passion, and dedication to Zimmermann.

500 years of experience are not just a look back, but also a vision for the future: our success is built on the commitment and loyalty of our employees. We are proud that so many of them have been part of the Zimmermann family for decades, and hope that many more will join in sharing the journey with us.



**MARCUS
BIRNBAUM**



40 YEARS

WHEN WORK BECOMES A PASSION:

Marcus is not only our Head of Purchasing, but also the go-to person for quality management and ISO certifications. He completed his apprenticeship at Zimmermann and knows the company inside out. While starting out as a mechanic, he continued his development through commercial training, and took over the purchasing department nearly 25 years ago.

Rudolf Gänzle particularly had a lasting impact on him. "Only expect from others what you lead by example." Marcus not only took this principle to heart, he lives it and passes it on to his team, which has long since become a second family to him. What motivates him? The trust he has been given over the years and the freedoms that come with it.

"In my 40 years here, I've seen how Zimmermann evolved into an industrial company. We have amazing products, we've grown tremendously, and yet we're still like a family. That makes me proud, and I look forward to coming to work every single day."



**ESTHER
GODINA**



30 YEARS

COMMITTED TO CUSTOMER SATISFACTION:

Commercial Order Processing, she and her women-led team make sure our machines reach customers around the world reliably and on schedule.

Already in 1995, she took a pioneering role: She has always been open to embrace new ideas and helped driving forward digitalization at Zimmermann. Today, as a member of the AI taskforce, she helps shape the company's future with experience, curiosity, and a passion for innovation.

What values most about Zimmermann? The family-like culture. "Rudolf Gänzle was my mentor. I learned so much from him, things I still continue to pass on to my team today." For Esther, leadership means empowering others. Looking back on her many years with the company, choosing a single highlight isn't easy for her: "There were so many great moments. But above all, it's the people I've been able to meet that mean the most to me. Some have become my closest friends, and that's the greatest gift of all."



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Marcus Birnbaum



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Arno Federschmid | Esther Godina | Jürgen Maier
Thomas Pfänder | Holger Rebmann | Peter WelchnerFRIEDRICH
.MAG

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Uwe Bauer | Andreas Broser | Ilias Iliadis
Reiner Kneer | Dirk Schwind | Mario Wutzke

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Markus Kuhn | Sven Schäd
Heinz Schobner | Tanja Seyerle | Osman Silay

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Alfio Campagna | Daniel Demlang
Jessica Don

ZIMMERMANN FOREVER!

MARIO
WUTZKE

25 YEARS

HERE TO STAY:

In 2000, Mario moved from Brandenburg to Baden-Württemberg in search of a new job. After only five applications and three offers, he chose to start at EiMa, now Zimmermann, and has been with the company ever since.

As a trained mechanic and certified welding supervisor, he works as an installation and service technician and primarily supports our lighter machines, the FZP/U 22 and 27. Now 56 years old, Mario looks back on a remarkable journey, from serving in the National People's Army, to working in construction, up to his athletic successes as a two-time East German boxing champion.

His passion for sports is still very much alive. As a coach at TG Nürtingen, Mario passes on his experience and discipline to young athletes. "Even though the Swabians are a little different, I've found my place here, and I'll stay until I retire."

JESSICA
DON

10 YEARS

MORE THAN JUST NUMBERS:

Jessica loves working with numbers and would choose a math exam over an English conversation any day. She started her career with an apprenticeship as an industrial clerk at EiMa, where she discovered her passion for purchasing. Today, she brings that know-how to Zimmermann by handling daily inquiries and checking quotes. She mastered the transition to the Zimmermann system with confidence and successfully transferred existing structures.

Additionally, she attended evening classes, where she went on to earn her Industrial Business Administrator (Industriefachwirt (IHK)) qualification and trainer certification. At Zimmermann, she finally feels accomplished: "I was excited about the merger. Everything is much bigger now, I'm working in a team again, and my tasks are more varied."

What she values most is the sense of togetherness: "There's no top or bottom. We're all equal, one team, pulling in the same direction."

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E **ENGINEERING** ↗ "Mechanical engineering is rooted in basic engineering. Our design engineers are the creative minds behind the machines that keep everything running."

Daniel Salkowski, Mechanical Assembly

L **LEARNING** ↗ "At Zimmermann, you never stop gaining new knowledge. Every machine, every control system, and every customer brings new challenges, and that's exactly what makes the work exciting. Ongoing learning is an integral part of what we do."

Chris Bedemann, Technical Service

P **PRECISION** ↗ "Here, precision isn't just something that's part of our machines, it's a standard we bring to our daily work."

Katja Höß, Sales Order Processing

F **FLEXIBILITY** ↗ "Simply is a part of how we operate, no matter if we're on-site with customers, managing projects, or internally as a team."

Carsten Böttinger, Warehouse

SHORT BREAK FOR A QUICK **A-Z** CHALLENGE

We spontaneously asked colleagues from different departments to share insights related to their work at Zimmermann, just like the game Scattergories.

Here we go, A ...

H **HELPFUL** ↗ "Togetherness and teamwork are at the core of who we are. When someone needs support, we roll up our sleeves and tackle it together."

Jonathan Bonnet, Milling Head Assembly

A **ANNIVERSARIES** ↗ "This year, we're celebrating several long-standing team members at Zimmermann, some of whom have been with the company for 40 years."

Raphaela Götz, Reception

T **TEAMWORK** ↗ "We tackle things together and learn from one another, because we can achieve so much more as a team."

Michael Erhardt, Process Planning

**“IT’S UP TO US
WHETHER WE GET
STUCK IN PROBLEMS
OR FIND SOLUTIONS.”**

**LUKAS
EISOLD**

**TECHNICAL PROJECT
MANAGEMENT
SALES**



➤ Mechanical engineering is in his DNA.

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Lukas basically grew up around CNC milling machines and learned early on what kind of technology these machines are based on and the role precision plays in their performance. It's no surprise that tool machines have always fascinated him. His grandfather founded the 'EiMa Maschinenbau GmbH' in 1984, which eventually became Zimmermann. As a child, Lukas and his brother would run through the production hall in Frickenhausen, and as a teenager he earned some extra money helping out in assembly. It's not just family that connects them, but also the technology: his father and brother are also engineers, and all of them studied in Reutlingen.

Lukas is deeply connected with the region. During his 'study abroad' in Pforzheim, he upheld the Swabian traditions among his fellow mechanical-engineering students at the university, before returning to Reutlingen to complete his master's degree. Internships with leading machine builders gave him additional insights, but his true home was always the family business.

Today, Lukas is responsible for technical project engineering at Zimmermann, overseeing the lightweight 22 and 27 series. "International customer projects, from India and the Netherlands to the USA, have shown just how well the former EiMa portfolio fits into the Zimmermann product range." A major milestone: the presentation of the FZU22 at IMTS in Chicago, where the live demonstration of the machine impressed the audience and it quickly evolved into a bestseller. "Many customers saw the machine in action at the show and made their decision on the spot," he says. It is the customers that make his work so exciting: "Behind every

project is a new and exciting application, from bathroom ceramics to carbon-fiber components for motorsports to automotive design models." What makes him especially proud: "Zimmermann has an outstanding reputation in the industry. The name carries weight, and our quality is truly 'beyond precision.'"

Privately, Lukas is just as deeply connected to technology: whether it's agricultural machinery, classic cars, or model airplanes. He likes to spend his free time outdoors, with his wife and their dog, Luna. The mountains are a special refuge for him: rugged, constant, and full of energy. It's no surprise that he vacations in Austria several times a year and has a close circle of friends there. Lukas looks ahead optimistically: "Success stories don't write themselves, they need involvement. It's up to us whether we get stuck in problems or find solutions." Where his path will take him next remains open, but one thing is certain: his passion for machines, customers, and technology will always accompany him.

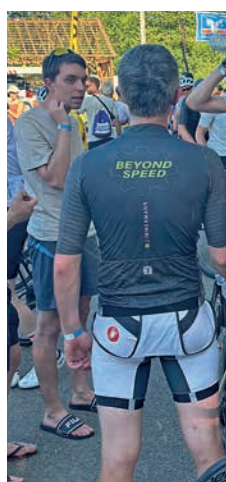


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SEE YOU IN 2026 ↗ EXCERPT

➤ JEC World / March 10-12
Paris / France

➤ TechniShow / March 10-13
Utrecht / Netherlands





➤ **SIMTOS** / April 13-17
Seoul / South Korea

➤ **ELMIA** / May 19-22
Jönköping / Sweden

➤ **IMTS** / Sep. 14-19
Chicago / USA

➤ **AMB** / Sep. 15-19
Stuttgart / Germany

➤ **JIMTOF** / Oct. 26-31
Tokyo / Japan

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A QUICK
WORD➤ **Maintaining success
in challenging times.**

It is hard to overlook that our national economy is under immense pressure due to internal and external developments, especially geopolitical ones. Trade conflicts, tariffs, supply chain problems, protectionist trade-policies in various countries, and significant cost pressures resulting from bureaucracy and increasing taxes and fees are leaving a noticeable mark on our industrial landscape.

What does this mean for us as a medium-sized company? For us it is clear that unlike large, globally operating corporations, we will continue to develop and manufacture our machines and systems here in our newly modernized

site in Neuhausen. At the same time, our service operations and external support, however, must be internationally qualified, organized, and continuously developed.

Let's be honest: we, too, as a medium-sized company, are facing major challenges. Under the conditions mentioned, we can only remain successful through cutting-edge technology and highest standards of quality in both our products and services. Think of it like a world-class athlete. Elite athletes must train with discipline and work hard every single day to stay on track for success. In our business, extremely short innovation cycles, highest standards for quality and productivity, flexible organization, minimal response times, and ultimately the reliability of our actions are the key factors for success. If we let these principles guide us and commit to delivering top performance for our customers every day, we will remain successful in the long run. Even in demanding and challenging times.

Staying successful in an uncertain world, now more than ever, also means staying open to the inevitable change and being willing to explore new paths. Despite all challenges, we have managed to stay on course for success. But it is equally true that with critical self-reflection, we can still improve in many areas. Let's continue to work together, responsibly, with commitment and discipline, for our customers around the globe and for a strong and successful future for our medium-sized company.

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**YOURS,
RUDOLF
GÄNZLE**



IM PRINT

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