KLEMM Bohrtechnik Celebrates 50th Anniversary

As we head deeper into the 21st century, more and more ADSC Member companies will be celebrating long and successful years of operation. This applies equally to Contractor (Constructors), Associate (Manufacturers and Suppliers), and Technical Affiliate (Design and related engineering professionals), Member firms. Throughout this and next year we will be sharing “their stories” with readers of Foundation Drilling magazine. (Editor)

ADSC Associate Member KLEMM Bohrtechnik GmbH of Drolshagen in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. A brief glance into the company’s history reveals the force and dynamism with which KLEMM has evolved from a simple drilling company into a company with global operations specializing in the research and development of exceptionally robust, high-performance drilling equipment.

Always Where The Action Is
What characterizes KLEMM today is its focus on the customer and on specific drilling operations. That focus ultimately comes as no surprise given the traditional orientation of the company. Günter Klemm the founding father of KLEMM moved from Berlin to the Ruhr region and then to southern Westphalia where he led drilling operations in connection with the construction of the Bigge Dam, and where in 1963 he founded his own drilling company. Because he was able to find solutions for drilling operations which were especially tricky or complicated Günter quickly established a name for himself throughout Europe. Soon existing conventional drilling tools no longer met the project requirements, and he began manufacturing his own tools.

Always An Innovation Ahead
The company transformed itself from a drilling company to a manu-
facturer of drill rigs, rotary heads and accessories. The transition was completed by the early 1970s when the first drill rig (model KB 2), new drilling methods (overburden drilling) and the first hydraulic hammers with rotary drive were developed. In 1974, they filed major patents for frequency control of the impact piston and for a protection of the accumulators’ circuit, thereby staking its claim as a technology leader in the market. Because of their process and technologies that were used at the time, KLEMM laid the foundation for much of what is considered the standard today. The driving force was then, and remains today, to find solutions for customers. The company continues to work closely with customers on their drilling operations, providing advice, visiting job sites all around the world, and identifying and developing the best ways for them to approach customer drilling operations in terms of efficiency and performance. KLEMM drill rigs were used at Ground Zero in New York, and on the expansion of the Panama Canal, for motorway construction in Thailand, and to extinguish coal fires in China. What Günter Klemm once so casually formulated still applies for the company today... his motto: “I’ve always said I’ll do it!”

1971 KLEMM drill rig KB 2 on jobsite in Switzerland.
KLEMM drill rig KR 807-7 on jobsite in Toronto, Canada.

KLEMM’s Managing Directors, left Rudolf Grueneberg, right Dr. Carl Hagemeyer.

1971 KLEMM drill rig KB 2 on jobsite in Switzerland.

50 Years Later
In 2013, the year of the company’s jubilee, they decided not only to celebrate but also to take stock. This was undertaken in the context of preparing for the Anniversary celebration that was held on the company grounds last September. Guests from Germany and abroad were in attendance to celebrate along with the entire workforce. The company took advantage of this review to create a branding process in order to define its market positioning and their brand more narrowly and more precisely. Such a process demonstrates where a company stands and reveals existing potentials which can be used to achieve further milestones along the ongoing path to success. In so doing, the company is actively facing the challenges of global competition and setting the course for its successful activity in the future.

Today KLEMM is a company with worldwide operations which in 1998 was integrated into the global structure of ADSC Contractor and Associate Member, the BAUER Group.

Facts and Figures About KLEMM
KLEMM was founded in 1963 and today employs more than 230 people, including 18 trainees. Their production capacity is 200 drill rigs per year and 75% of that production is exported outside of Germany. They hold 101 patents and 25 trademarks.

The ADSC congratulates KLEMM Bohrtechnik on its 50th Anniversary and looks forward to many more years of working with the company as a valued Associate Member and generous sponsor of ADSC events. (Editor).

Foundation Drilling magazine encourages its member firms to submit “Anniversary” articles for publication. Send to: scotlike@att.net.

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