

Press release

Rittal GmbH & Co. KG



Rittal is investing in education and training at Haiger

People and machines: fit for Industry 4.0

One common misconception is that digitization is a good thing – as long we are not talking about jobs. But what does digitization actually mean for the employees of a company that is changing, realigning itself, networking and digitising? For Rittal, one thing is clear: When it comes to machines, it's people who matter! That is why the company is investing in training and further education measures for its employees.

Haiger, 01 February 2019 – What will it look like, tomorrow's world of work? Will it be full of robots and machines that can produce, think and even learn independently? Well, almost. At Rittal's factory in Haiger, for example, more than 100 high-tech machines have been installed to produce enclosures. And yet here, of all places, is where people will now be the most important factors. Why? Because every machine in the process has to be guided and continuously improved. Each production process has to be monitored while jobs have to be completed on time. No interruptions should occur at all. And if they do, they have to be quickly remedied.

The fact that networked processes, digital workflows and software tools have not necessarily been part of every Rittal employee's daily work so far is well known to the staff at the group's own Loh Academy. That is why they have developed numerous seminars, workshops and further training courses that focus on digitisation: "The employees are learning how humans, machines and digital processes interact in a modern production environment, and that they themselves are a vital part of this cooperation," says Gero Düweke, Project Manager responsible for Qualification at the Haiger plant: "Here,

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the willingness to change and the joy of learning are the best prerequisites. In the domestic environment, many digital applications have long been known about and taken for granted. We can build on these experiences in our professional surroundings.”

Specific training modules are planned for every member of staff, ranging from short learning units to courses that last for several days. And after that? Then the Rittal employees will no longer have to take hold of every side of the enclosure by hand. Instead, they will control and steer not just the machines, but the entire digital production process.

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Caption(s)

fri182063000.jpg: At Rittal's factory in Haiger, for example, more than 100 high-tech machines have been installed to produce enclosures. And yet here, of all places, is where people will now be the most important factors. The employees are learning how humans, machines and digital processes interact in a modern production environment

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About Rittal

Rittal, headquartered in Herborn, Germany, is a leading global provider of solutions for industrial enclosures, power distribution, climate control and IT infrastructure, as well as software and services. Systems made by Rittal can be found in more than 90 percent of all global branches of industry, including mechanical and plant engineering, food and beverage production and in IT and telecommunications.

The wide range of products from the global market leader includes configurable enclosures, whose data is available throughout the entire

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production process. Intelligent Rittal cooling solutions with up to 75 percent lower energy and CO₂ consumption can communicate with the production environment and enable predictive maintenance and service concepts. Innovative IT solutions ranging from IT racks and modular data centres through to edge and hyperscale computing solutions all form part of the portfolio.

Leading software providers Eplan and Cideon complement the value chain, providing interdisciplinary engineering solutions, while Rittal Automation Systems offer automation systems for switchgear engineering. Rittal delivers within 24 hours in Germany – precisely as needed, flexibly and efficiently.

Founded in Herborn in 1961, Rittal is the largest member company in the owner-operated Friedhelm Loh Group. The Friedhelm Loh Group operates worldwide with 18 production sites and 80 international subsidiaries. The entire group employs 11,500 people and generated revenues of around €2.5 billion in 2017. In 2018, the family-run business was named one of Germany's leading employers by the Top Employers Institute, for the tenth year running. Within the scope of a Germany-wide survey, Focus Money magazine identified the Friedhelm Loh Group as one of the nation's best providers of vocational training for the third time in 2018.

For more information, visit www.rittal.com and www.friedhelm-loh-group.com.