

ENGEL familiarises children with plastics

Children's University 2021: Circular Plastics

Schwertberg, Austria – July 2021

Toy cars, game consoles, drinking cups – plastic has also become an indispensable part of our youngest's lives. But how do you get it into shape and how can you produce new goods from already used plastic products? These were the questions explored by 15 curious children aged 7-12 on their excursion to ENGEL in Schwertberg as part of the Upper Austrian Children's University. The plastics machine manufacturer has been supporting the programme as one of the main sponsors for several years.

"As a future-oriented company, it is particularly important for us to promote young talents and whet their appetite for technology, and as the father of two children, this is a personal concern of mine. We are supporting the Upper Austrian Children's University again this summer out of conviction," says CEO Dr. Stefan Engleder. The promotion of young talent is also of great importance outside the company's own walls - the apprenticeship training is state-awarded. The fact that strong partners are decisive is emphasised by Children's University Rector Andreas Kupfer, MBA, who accompanied the 15 children on their excursion to ENGEL: "In the broad network of cooperation partners, innovative leading Upper Austrian companies like ENGEL play a particularly important role. On the one hand, the young students gain extraordinary insights into a globally active company, and on the other, they learn about the importance of technology and digitalisation in a practical way. We are very pleased to see how creatively and appreciatively the excursion to Schwertberg is prepared and implemented."

Workshop at ENGEL in Schwertberg

Under the motto "From old to new: plastics in the material cycle", the workshop was all about sustainability. A topic that has particular relevance for ENGEL as a company in the plastics industry. "A modern, sustainable life is only possible with

plastics," Engleder makes clear. "To achieve this, however, we have to change the way we use it." With its research and development work, ENGEL is making an important contribution to making processed plastic waste usable for a wide range of applications and expanding global recycling capacities. Introducing children and young people to the subject at an early age is crucial, because smart minds are needed to master the challenges of the future. "Our youth must realise that they have it in their hands to shape a better future with their career choice," Engleder emphasises.

Learning to understand the injection moulding process

A special highlight was the miniature injection moulding machine that ENGEL apprentices had made especially for the workshop. The children crushed old plant pots and then fed them into the machine, where they were melted and pressed into a mould. In the end, a new plastic product was created. The machine was operated manually so that the children could observe the production process very closely. "Presenting complex processes in a simple yet correct way is crucial to arousing curiosity in children," explains Werner Wurm, head of the global apprentice training programme at ENGEL. "Not only the students at the Children's University had great fun today, but also our apprentices, who got to pass on the knowledge they had already learned."

The normal machines were not neglected either during the three-hour programme. The children worked on real ENGEL injection moulding machines and were then allowed to take home the stacking boxes they had produced themselves. The tour of the production hall where the green machines are built rounded off the programme. The courses of the Upper Austrian Children's University will continue until the beginning of September.

Note: All persons and children involved carried valid proof in terms of the 3-G rules on the day of the excursion and complied with the current Corona protection measures.



Start of the Hagenberg Children's University at ENGEL in Schwertberg. Werner Wurm, head of the global apprentice training programme at ENGEL (back, second from right) welcomed the 15 motivated children who were accompanied on their excursion by Children's University Rector Andreas Kupfer (back, first from right).



Using the miniature injection moulding machine that ENGEL apprentices had made, the children learned about the injection moulding process and processed old plant pots into a new product.



What material is needed for plastic production? One of many questions the children dealt with at the ENGEL workshop.



Working with a real injection moulding machine. The children were allowed to take the produced stacking boxes home.

Pictures: ENGEL

ENGEL AUSTRIA GmbH

ENGEL is one of the leading companies in the field of plastics machinery manufacturing. Injection moulding is the most widespread method of plastics processing. It is used, for example, to produce instrument panels and engine components for cars, smartphone housings and television frames, caps for beverage bottles, toothbrushes and hypodermic syringes, sports articles and household goods. ENGEL is at home in all these industries. With nine production plants in Europe, North America and Asia (China, Korea), as well as subsidiaries and representatives for over 85 countries, ENGEL offers its customers worldwide optimal support to be competitive and successful with new technologies and state-of-the-art production facilities. Around the globe, ENGEL employs around 6400 people, two thirds of whom work at the Austrian plants in Schwertberg, St. Valentin and Dietach.

Contact for journalists:

Ute Panzer, Vice President Marketing and Communications, ENGEL AUSTRIA GmbH,
Ludwig-Engel-Straße 1, A-4311 Schwertberg/Austria,
Tel.: +43 (0)50/620-3800, Fax: -3009, E-mail: ute.panzer@engel.at

Julia Krentl, Media Relations Expert, ENGEL AUSTRIA GmbH,
Ludwig-Engel-Straße 1, A-4311 Schwertberg/Austria
Tel.: +43 (0)50 620-3817, Fax: -3009, E-Mail: julia.krentl@engel.at

Contact for readers:

ENGEL AUSTRIA GmbH, Ludwig-Engel-Strasse 1, A-4311 Schwertberg, Austria,
Tel.: +43 (0)50 6200, fax: -3009, e-mail: sales@engel.at

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