30th anniversary
Shareholder MD of AHP Merkle, Christian J. Merkle, recently celebrated his 30th anniversary at the company. Merkle, who turned 50 in March, joined the company at a time it was having financial difficulty. Since the turnaround several years later, AHP has been marking steady growth, manufacturing hydraulic cylinders for tool and mould-making, machine tools, special machine construction, aluminum die casting, hydroforming and deburring tools in Germany.

ehp.de

New territory manager for CNC Software
CNC Software, developers of Mastercam, recently announced that Mike Bebout has assumed the new role of Western U.S. Territory Manager to further develop the company’s distribution channel and identify areas for growth and improvement.
mastercam.com

Boeing and Haimer partnership
The partnership between Boeing and the Germany-based Haimer Group has been strategically expanded to include a joint membership at the OMIC R&D (Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center Research and Development) institute. Now totaling 17 manufacturing industry partners and three Oregon public universities, the Scappoose, Oregon, USA-based R&D institute continues to build a world-class operation to develop advanced metal manufacturing technologies with a strong membership base and through its collaborative research and development activities.
haimer.de

Attacks cost €43 billion damage
Germany – Sabotage, data theft and espionage have caused the German industry a loss of €43.4 billion in the past two years. Seven out of ten industrial companies (68%) were victims of such attacks during this period; one in five companies (19%) suspected this. This is based on a study by the digital association Bitkom, in which 503 managing directors and security managers from all branches of the industry were interviewed.

"With its global market leaders, the German industry is particularly interesting for criminals," says Bitkom President Achim Berg. "Anyone who does not invest in IT security is behaving negligently and is endangering his company." In the past two years, a third of the companies (32%) had IT or telecommunications equipment stolen, while almost a quarter (23%) lost sensitive data.

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Illegale knowledge and technology transfer, social engineering and economic sabotage are not rare individual cases but a mass phenomenon,” Thomas Haldenwang, Vice President of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), notes. And it is not only theft that causes problems for the industry: Every fifth industrial enterprise (19%) reported digital sabotage of company information and production systems or operational processes. In 11% of the cases, digital communication was spied on from channels such as emails or messenger services. Overall, digital IT attacks caused damage for almost half the respondents (47%). Classic analogue attacks are also an issue for the industry but are comparatively less significant. Some 21% of the respondents found that sensitive physical documents, samples or machines had been stolen. In 10% of the cases, analogue sabotage of company information and production systems or operational processes occurred, e.g., through the manipulation of devices on site.

Haldenwang adds: "In addition to classic industrial espionage, we are increasingly concerned about attacks on the assumption that malware is introduced into IT systems with the aim of preparing to sabotage files."

According to Bitkom, it is often the employees (61%) who ensure that criminal activities in affected companies are finally uncovered. Some 40% of those affected received indications of attacks by their own security systems, whereas almost a quarter (23%) was alerted purely by chance.

bitkom.org