

## Minister of Economic Affairs visits Buderus Edelstahl

### Dr Alois Rhiel finds out about the sandwich course system

When the Minister of Economic Affairs for the state of Hesse, Alois Rhiel, undertook his one-week tour of the State on 20. 8. 2007 on the subject of "sandwich courses in Hesse", his first visit was to Buderus Edelstahl GmbH. Alois Rhiel visited companies and schools to promote sandwich courses that combine training at the workplace and at university. "Studying in a sandwich course format is still not sufficiently well known to young people at grammar schools and technical high schools in Hesse, although this interweaving of theory and practice is an excellent form of vocational training", says Dr Rhiel.

Dr Rhiel took the opportunity at Buderus Edelstahl to gain practical information on this form of study that the company has been using successfully since 2001. Buderus Edelstahl is currently training seven students under the University sandwich programme StudyPlus in cooperation with the Gießen Friedberg University of Applied



*Sebastian Best, Minister of Economic Affairs Alois Rhiel, Stefan Luthardt (front, from left to right); Gerd Hackenberg (Wetzlar/Dillenburg CIC), Detlef Haaske (StudyPlus), Roland Lentz, Jörg E. Feuchthofen, Jens Paul Mohr, Karl-Peter Johann and Holger Kison (rear, from left to right)*

Sciences, making it a good example of the great success of sandwich courses.

Company Director Karl-Peter Johann described the company's growth to illustrate the importance of qualified managers in all fields. "We clearly benefit from the combination of theory and practice, and develop our own succession with company-specific knowledge gained on the job during the practical phases of the course, who produce usable projects and can start work as soon as they finish the course", adds Mr Johann. The Human Resource Manager Holger Kison also confirmed the great success of the sandwich training system, "The three-year course prepares promising employees for promotion, having gained immense specialist knowledge and also a great deal of social competence and company ethic."

Stefan Luthardt is in his fifth semester

studying industrial engineering, specialising in mechanical engineering, and gave the minister and the representatives of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Union of Company Associations in Hesse a convincing account of the value of the information tour with an insight into the syllabus and practical phases. Sebastian Best is already a StudyPlus graduate, and used his own career with the company to illustrate the vocational opportunities that open up with the course. "You can see there are always opportunities for further development", comments Rhiel.

For Buderus Edelstahl, the sandwich course training format is a progressive instrument to cover the company's requirement for highly qualified succession. Graduates are already taking on key functions in the company, and have excellent career opportunities.