

## A day at Buderus Edelstahl

# 60 Alfing Kessler trainees pay a visit

On 30 May 2008, 60 trainees from Maschinenfabrik Alfing Kessler in Aalen came to Wetzlar for a factory tour. Alfing Kessler is the world's largest independent crankshaft manufacturer for automobile and industrial engines, and has been a customer of Buderus Edelstahl for many years.

"The Alfing Kessler trainees' visit to Buderus Edelstahl was part of a trip extending over several days", reports Karl-Heinz Schäfer, Head of the Buderus Edelstahl Training Workshop. On the morning of 30 May he greeted his young guests, most of whom are undergoing commercial/technical training at Alfing Kessler. Karl-Heinz Schäfer gave an interesting report on aspects of the Buderus Edelstahl works and its products. Then there was a works tour through the various production workshops. The forging process and the subsequent machining steps are similar in both companies. But the steel mill was new to the visi-

tors, and a fascinating sight for anyone who has the opportunity to visit this part of the works.

In the afternoon the group went to the Mathematikum - the first hands-on mathematical museum - in Giessen. They spent a night in the youth hostel in Gießen, and the next morning the trainees made their way to the visitors' terrace at Frankfurt airport.

"We been working well together with Alfing Kessler for many years", says Karl-Heinz Schäfer. "Both companies place great emphasis on in-house, in-depth training of employees, and both promote development. So it is natural that we give our trainees the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the work of other companies."

### Forged bar steel for crankshafts and dies

Buderus Edelstahl supplies Alfing Kessler with input stock for producing crankshafts

for industrial engines such as marine diesel engines, large vehicles and power generation plant. Buderus Edelstahl also supplies the steel for the dies in which the crankshafts are forged.

Maschinenfabrik Alfing Kessler GmbH has established itself as a leading manufacturer and market leader in the development and production of high-performance crankshafts between 1.5-8 m in length, and hardening plant. The company processes more than 25,000 tonnes of forged steel bar a year, and recently invested 80 million euros in industrial crankshaft production facilities. Alfing Kessler supplies leading automobile, commercial vehicle and special-purpose vehicle manufacturers. The company's products are to be found in ships, aircraft engines and locomotives, and in high-performance Formula 1, German Touring Car Masters (DTM) and Nascar Series engines.

Next year the Buderus Edelstahl trainees will visit the Alfing Kessler works in Aalen, and find out something about the history of this company that has forged more than seven million Alfing crankshafts over almost a century since 1911.

Group photo of Alfing Kessler trainees

