Georg Schlegel GmbH & Co. KG

Pushbuttons and Switches for the World Market

*From a small company to an international supplier of control devices, switches and pushbuttons - a success story*

Dürmentingen — Could company founder Georg Schlegel have imagined how his company would develop when he founded it on April 1, 1945? Even during the war, the electrical engineer, who was almost 40 years old at the time, took the plunge into self-employment, laying the foundations for what is now a global company with around 250 employees. This year, Schlegel is celebrating its 80th anniversary.

The company's success story actually began two decades earlier. In 1924, Georg Schlegel established an electrical installation department in his parents' electricity company. On April 1, 1945, while the war was still raging, the electrical engineer spun off this department and founded his own company.

With ingenuity and adaptability, he guided his fledgling company through the challenging postwar period. He developed steam vulcanizers for repairing damaged tires, manufactured protective covers for overhead line connections, built electrical control systems for elevators, and designed a mimic diagram for the EVS at the time.

A new mainstay emerged through a patent dispute

As early as 1947, the company presented its first terminal block at the trade fair in Saulgau — an innovative product that quickly became popular. Due to a patent dispute over the terminal block, which Schlegel later won, the company created another mainstay in 1952 as a precaution: Control devices for machines and systems were designed — the company's core business today.

Based in Dürmentingen, the company develops and produces switches, pushbuttons, and complete operating units with bus connections. These products are supplied worldwide. These switches and pushbuttons are mainly used in mechanical engineering. Schlegel is particularly well known for its extensive range of emergency stop switches, which can stop machines immediately in an emergency.

Schlegel products are present in everyday life, even if they often remain hidden from the general public. They can be found in elevators, laboratories, airports, ships, and trains. Wherever a button is pressed to trigger a process, Schlegel is not far away.

The company has won numerous design and innovation awards

The company has grown over the years, as has its product range. The control device specialist now offers more than 8,000 products. Even as it has grown, the company has always remained flexible and innovative. In 2004, Schlegel became the first European manufacturer of AS-Interface control devices with integrated electronics. Since then, the electronics division has expanded to include RFID systems and solutions for control via industrial networks. Schlegel received the German Innovation Award in 2020 and 2021 for its in-house developed automation solutions.

The company also places great importance on the design of its products. More than 110 national and international awards attest to the high aesthetic and functional standards of Schlegel's solutions.

The company is still family-run today, now in its third generation. Eberhard Schlegel, the son of the founder, joined in 1962 and took over management in 1972. The next generation joined in 2005. Christoph Schlegel and Wolfgang Weber completed the management team in 2013.

Around 300 trainees

The company's headquarters are and will remain in Dürmentingen. Currently, around 250 people are employed here. Many of these employees have worked at Schlegel for many years, having completed their training at the Dürmentingen-based company. Schlegel places great importance on training qualified specialists. Over the past 80 years, approximately 300 young men and women have completed their training or dual studies at Schlegel. Schlegel currently offers seven vocational training courses and four dual study programs.

Schlegel exclusively produces "Made in Germany" products. At the same time, it has an international presence. In addition to its own sales offices in Austria, Singapore, the United States, and China, Schlegel has commercial agencies in over 80 countries. Products from Dürmentingen are shipped worldwide daily.

Photo



Caption: The management with the sign from the founding days in front of the 1st company headquarters (from left): Wolfgang Weber, Eberhard Schlegel and Christoph Schlegel.

Photo: Birk Productions / SCHLEGEL

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About Georg Schlegel GmbH & Co. KG

Schlegel stands for innovation, quality and design. Founded in 1945, Schlegel is today a globally operating company with headquarters in Germany, sales offices in Austria, China, USA and Singapore, and exports to more than 80 countries on all five continents. The core competences: Development and production of control units, pilot lights and terminal blocks. The product portfolio further includes bus systems, enclosures, control panels and functional components. When developing new products, Schlegel sets high standards as to the design. More than 100 national and international design awards confirm the company's high level of design expertise, among these prizes are the iF Design Award, the Red Dot Award, the Good Design Award and the German Design Award.