

Interview with Carsten Krenz, Stauff

“We are creating our own growth!”

Carsten Krenz looks forward optimistically to 2025. In our interview, the Stauff Germany Technical Director touches on a wide range of topics, including the invention of the “green” clamp 60 years ago, the company’s own product range for all hydraulic line components, to one of the most recent developments: the first generation of clamps to be made from recycled materials.

Mr Krenz, 60 years ago the green clamp solved a very obvious problem in all sectors in which hydraulics are used: it was literally impossible to ignore the vibrations of metal clamps in hydraulic systems. How do you manage to find solutions to your customers’ less obvious problems in a wide range of different applications today?

Hydraulic requirements are much more differentiated than they were 60 years ago, as mobile and stationary hydraulic systems are increasingly designed in more detail for specific applications. Our customers’ challenges are equally diverse. As a global company, we know and understand the problems faced by machine and plant manufacturers in different regions, industries and applications. Our colleagues in Germany and the international branches of the Stauff Group, as well as our system partners and distributors, always have their „ears to the ground“, and feed back market requirements to Stauff Engineering. This is where we develop products specific to particular applications in constant dialogue with our customers, taking into account the technical parameters, as well as the respective local circumstances and legal requirements. Our Development and Technology Centre in Werdohl undertakes global work for the Stauff Group and has established itself internationally to such



Carsten Krenz, Technical General Manager
STAUFF Germany *Image: Stauff*

an extent that OEMs and service providers from all sectors actively come to us. Every day, we are simultaneously working on up to 60 new clamps, which we develop in-house to meet customer requirements or calculate to comply with specific customer specifications. This ranges from simple drawing parts made of standard materials to complex

non-standard solutions made of special materials, and complex assemblies consisting of several individual parts. Many products that were once special solutions are now incorporated in our standard range, which is correspondingly broad-based and differentiated. Each of these enquiries shows the trust and confidence that customers have in our advice and our practice-based engineering. This confidence has formed the basis for our innovation and market leadership since the 1960s. For some time, this has applied to our tube fastenings, as well as to our range of all hydraulic line system components, which are also developed and produced in-house.

Another Stauff product celebrates an anniversary in 2025: 10 years ago, you presented your own tube connector range at the HMI Stauff Connect.

With the launch of Stauff Connect in 2015, we became a complete supplier of all in-house developed and produced hydraulic line components for the international hydraulic market. Apart from our tube connectors, which rapidly made us one of the Top 3 suppliers in the international hydraulic market, our range includes hose ends, screw-to-connect couplings, flanges, valves and the Stauff Filtration, Stauff Test and Stauff Diagnostics business units. However, becoming

It’s becoming even quieter!

When Arnold Menshen launched the green plastic clamp in 1965, the noise in industrial buildings and on construction sites is hard to imagine today. The metal clamps used up until then to secure hydraulic tubes played a large part in this. Stauff plastic clamps dampened the vibrations in the system instead of amplifying them, and fixed the pipes to the machine construction in a much more stable and low-maintenance manner. The “clamp brigades” which passed through the production buildings several times a day to tight-

en the screws were soon to become a thing of the past. However, the issue of vibration damping still continues to occupy Stauff engineers: since the 1960s, tolerance of noise has continued to decline, while the requirements governing the secure fastening of hydraulic lines have increased. Thanks to a specially developed elastomer insert, the Stauff NRC clamp (Noise Reduction Clamp) minimises vibrations and reduces noise levels, whether from excavators or stationary systems. Particularly in the modern working world,

where people are increasingly sensitive to noise, NRC clamps make an important contribution to occupational safety and quality of life: they are also used in electrically powered municipal vehicles, which therefore work all the more silently in residential areas and city centres. The path from the first plastic fastening for hydraulic tubes to the NRC clamp is one of many examples of Stauff’s innovative prowess: the combination of technological progress and practical benefits for people and machines.

an in-house developed and produced full-liner was only part of our strategy. Stauff understood that OEMs need more than just components. They increasingly want to focus on their core expertise and wish to hand over full responsibility for certain functional units of machines and systems, such as the hydraulic line system, as much as possible. This is precisely why our Stauff Line offers OEMs products as well as collaboration, from the design of hydraulic lines to the delivery of complete assemblies. This service ensures that we are extremely successful worldwide. Now, the majority of our 19 international sites have their own tube bending plants and hose assembly options.

What are your current projects?

What about sustainability in your global organisation?

We encapsulate the Stauff Group's activities and measures under the label "Stauff Green". As a result of a detailed inventory by independent auditors, Stauff has been implementing extensive measures since 2024.

These will enable us to operate carbon-neutrally by 2035 and be 60% independent of external energy suppliers. The body of shareholders is investing double-digit millions in Stauff Germany plants and sites, which play a pioneering role within the international Stauff Group. Alongside the energy-efficient modernisation of our buildings, we have also installed photovoltaic systems and combined heat and power plants. Absorption cooling systems are also used for heat recovery. We are also investing in economical and sustainable production technologies and processes to ensure our long-term competitiveness.

Together with a leading recycling company, the Plastics Institute in Lüdenscheid, and in collaboration with our sister company, Georg Menshen GmbH, the global market leader for packaging and closure solutions, we have succeeded in developing a recycling product that fully meets our high quality requirements in terms of durability and load-bearing capacity. This makes us the first manufacturer worldwide to offer clamps

made from polypropylene recycle. The pouches in which tube and hose clamps are packaged at our logistics centre in Plettenberg were converted to recycled material at the start of 2024.

What are your economic expectations for 2025?

Stauff expects slight growth in 2025 in spite of the bad feeling in the German economy and the general uncertainty in the global economy. Among other things, we are creating our own growth, by reinforcing our sales activities in the Middle East, Spain and some African countries. We are very successful there with our full range. However, for some years we have been constantly developing new sectors, most recently wind power, and currently shipping and marine. Once again here, apart from the quality of our products, our success is based on proximity to our customers at each of our international sites, and communication with our Engineering department.

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