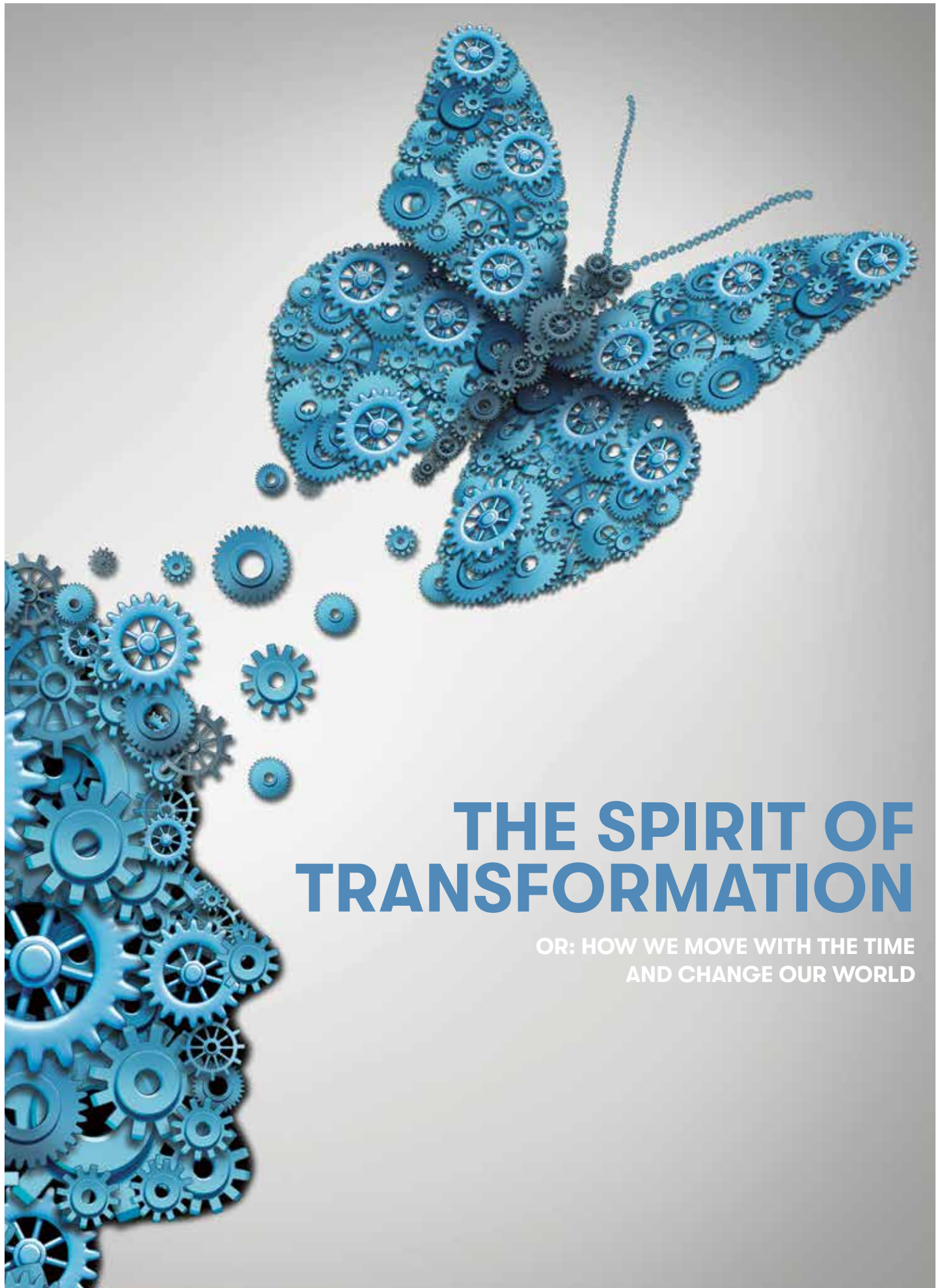


NEXT LEVEL

In Dialogue with RS COMPONENTS DACH

ISSUE 2021/22



THE SPIRIT OF TRANSFORMATION

OR: HOW WE MOVE WITH THE TIME
AND CHANGE OUR WORLD

30 Years

From a 10-man
warehouse to a
distribution centre
holding 500,000
products

Expansion

Bad Hersfeld

More service
More technology
More performance

DEMATIC

The strong company
behind the transfor-
mation team

Ahoy – Ohé

Globalised
procurement for
ship MRO



RS COMPONENTS – NOTHING IS AS CONSISTENT AS CHANGE!



Dear readers,

Every change brings something positive and 2021 has proven that once again. Many companies, including RS business partners and friends, demonstrate how courage and creativity can create something new. And so, the latest issue of our magazine stands in the spirit of transformation. Transformation is by no means a new topic for RS. Since our founding in 1991, RS Germany has shown its adaptability – a quality that we owe first and foremost to our employees. Our strong growth over the past 30 years is the result of hard work and a constant pursuit of improvement. One who supported, shaped, and expanded RS Germany from the beginning was our former managing director Darko Blažeković († 04.10.2021). He established RS Components in Germany and managed the company from 1991 until his retirement in 2004. Mr Blažeković has shaped RS Germany with his enthusiasm and unfailingly positive and personal manner.

Today, we celebrate 30 Years of RS Germany. This anniversary would not have been possible without Darko Blažeković. But thanks also goes to the strong team behind the transformation project in Bad Hersfeld. With the opening of the new distribution centre in early November, we are now able to offer our customers in Europe a product range that has grown to over 500,000 products. The fact that we can easily supply our neighbours from Germany today also originates from a transformation: the transition to the European Single Market. And so, in this issue you will find – among many other informative articles – an interview with a French captain and engineer, who tells us how procurement and maintenance works on a ship today. I wish you a successful year 2022 and much joy with this issue!

Your

✓ Ralf Hellwig, Managing Director RS DACH



30 YEARS OF RS COMPONENTS GERMANY, 30 YEARS OF TEAM SPIRIT: HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

In Walldorf, in the lively Rhein-Main-Area, not far from Frankfurt International Airport, 35 employees take up their work on the morning of April 2, 1991. It is the beginning of RS Germany. 11 orders leave the warehouse on that day and each one is sent off with enthusiasm. 30 years later, the daily average will be about 7,500... The first year is characterised by new records

in volume and revenue. Even then, all orders – provided the goods are available – leave the warehouse on that same day. Whether manager or apprentice, when orders increased over the course of the afternoon, which happened almost daily, one would go straight to the warehouse for picking & packing. “Darko Blažeković, our Managing Director at the time, would personally pick people up from their

offices. Everyone joined in, because everyone wanted to fulfil our customer pledge. Our special commitment to teamwork started right here.”

HOW WE MOVED OUR WAREHOUSE TO MÖRFELDEN

After four successful years, the portfolio had already grown to 33,000



RS BY YOUR SIDE – EVERY DAY SINCE 1991

products and the old warehouse was bursting at the seams. A new location was found at CIRCOM Park East in Mörfelden. The move was planned for mid-June 1995. In order to avoid closing even for a day and to remain available for our customers, we scheduled the move for a long weekend – and we all helped. In alternating shifts, we cleared out shelf after shelf and placed them in the new building in the same order. On Monday morning we arrived at the new location – and everything was ready for picking.

OUR DIRECTION: ALWAYS FORWARD

Over the next few years, we made significant steps forward: we improved our processes – digitalisation and automation becoming ever more important companions. Since, we moved two more times and expanded within Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Ever present: the team spirit of the first hour.



✓ Holger Schmitt, Financial Accounting Manager, part of RS Germany for 30 years

THREE TIMES AS MANY PRODUCTS AND EVEN FASTER, ERROR-FREE LOGISTIC PROCESSES –

OUR NEW DISTRIBUTION CENTRE IN BAD HERSFELD IS IN OPERATION!

Fully automated processes and a product line-up that is second to none: after thorough testing and training, we opened our new and extended distribution centre in Bad Hersfeld on November 9, 2021. It is one of the largest RS Components distribution centres worldwide. For the expansion, we invested in the building, automation and new logistics management software. The new warehouse will house a line-up of around 500,000 products, three times as many on site products as before. With the expansion the number of orders leaving the centre every day will gradually increase up to 20,000.




EVEN FASTER DELIVERY

This is good news for our customers: Significantly more products are available on a daily basis and can be distributed with improved and faster service and delivery. From our site in Bad Hersfeld we reach our customers in Germany and all over continental Europe.

90% of organisations rate employee training as important or very important. Keeping transformation processes in mind, that is only reasonable. A view shared by our Project Director Ian Bell, Automation is a true game-changer for our operative business and provides great development opportunities for our employees. That is why we will provide intensive training for our team in Bad Hersfeld. Only those who master the new processes and technologies can amaze our customers with strong performances – something we will all profit from."

"We deliberately implemented the best automation solutions. That way we can guarantee a first-class service for our customers – with accelerated processing time and minimised error rates. All these activities are fully automated, which means that once the items have been compiled, we don't have to touch them again."

 Ian Bell, Vice President of Engineering and Facilities und Project Director

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

Automation is spreading throughout all sectors – to be prepared for this new world, companies place great importance on employee training and development.

67% very important
23% rather important
10% rather not / not important

(Source: BITKOM- survey 2021)

AUTOMATION

HOW DOES IT WORK?



Fully automated processes – from storage to commission up to packaging and shipment – what does that even mean? The Shuttle-System is able to manage up to 300,000 containers which can then be stored and retrieved with a rate of 9,000 containers per hour. As soon as a container reaches the picking station, a touch screen tells the picker how many articles to pack. A light beam points to the exact product the picker needs to choose. Simultaneously, the system chooses the packaging that best fits the shipment and sends it off directly. The automated packaging process includes a note for the customer, sealing the package and fixing the shipping label. The final product is then transported to the shipment area and on to the delivery vehicle, where it starts a journey to hopefully satisfied customers.

CHANGE



STRATEGY



LEADER



IDEAS



PRIORITISE



TEST



TRAIN



PROVIDE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLD AND NEW RS EMPLOYEES

The expansion of the DC Bad Hersfeld also brings development opportunities for our employees. RS values employee qualification and offers intensive trainings. “The new workplaces will not be comparable with before,” Shiftmanager Dirk Theysohn explains, “We will work much more efficiently and increase productivity. Our suppliers and customers will greatly benefit from that.” Overall, we plan to increase the workforce up to 350 dedicated logisticians. Customised trainings for the new, leading automation processes enable our employees to understand the transition from the old “person-to-goods” to the new “goods-to-person” model and the resulting changes to their tasks. Ian Bell, Vice President of Engineering and Facilities and Project Director explains the benefits of our

Dirk Theysohn
Shiftmanager
Export & Carrier
in Bad Hersfeld



training, “This program has opened up great prospects for our employees and offers improved qualification and development opportunities. It ensures that people like employee Rainer Torka are ready to competently handle the new systems, automation and advanced technologies that have been installed.”

RS COMPONENTS IS COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOURCING

Almost the entire rooftop surface of about 9,000 square metres is covered with solar cells providing a production capacity of 750 kWh. Pure photovoltaics directly convert solar radiation into electric power for the building and simultaneously improve our carbon footprint.





THE BEAUTY OF TRANSFORMATION

An insatiable caterpillar turning into a magnificent work of art – ready to take flight. The metamorphosis of the butterfly is nature's most beautiful example of transformation.

WHAT MAKES HERSFELD 2 REVOLUTIONARY

IT'S DONE: THE DISTRIBUTION CENTRE IN BAD HERSELD IS NOW AUTOMATED. WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION? EVERYTHING!

A regular workday at Hersfeld 2 (the internal name for the expanded distribution centre in Bad Hersfeld): small robots, also called shuttles, are dashing from shelf to shelf collecting products that are then picked and parcelled under the watchful eyes of an employee. "We have shifted from a "person-to-goods" to a "goods-to-person" model. Before the extension I had to go through the whole warehouse to collect the different goods and put them into the correct containers, all of which is now handled by the new technology. The new model means that I am staying at my workstation while the goods are coming straight to me," Rainer Torka, long-time warehouse worker in Bad Hersfeld explains. "I might have to start watching my weight now," he adds with a grin.

net between 1960 and 1990, launched the Third Industrial Revolution, one that resulted in extensive automation and the digital availability of information. We currently find ourselves in the middle of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the age of digitalisation, complex connectivity and the Internet of Things. Examples range from autonomous driving and 3D-printing for medical implants to wind turbines, or advances in robotics.

SMART FACTORY

THE ADVANTAGES OF A SMART FACTORY



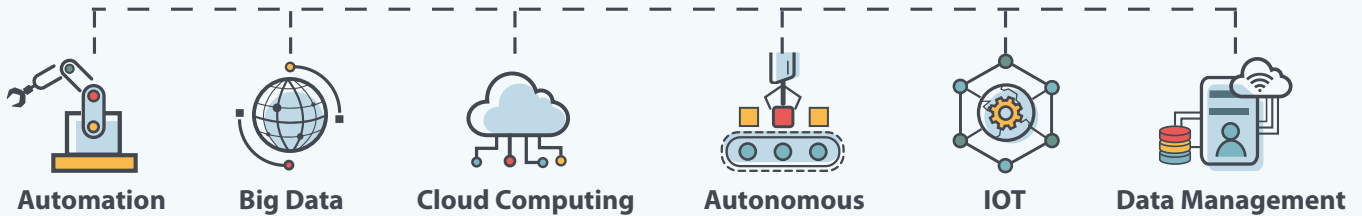
- Lean, optimised processes
- More efficient work
- Shorter production times
- Improved quality
- Reduced production costs

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

The changes described by Rainer constitute a revolution. More specifically, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which is the interconnection of all participating entities – people, machines and production processes – in smart factories. During the First Industrial Revolution, the steam engine propelled us into the age of industry. Thanks to electricity and the conveyor belt invented by Henry Ford in 1913, the Second Industrial Revolution introduced us to industrial mass production. The development of semi-conductors, mainframes, PCs and the birth of the inter-



INDUSTRIE 4.0



INTELLIGENT CONNECETION IN PRODUCTION AND LOGISTICS

is irrevocably linked to Industry 4.0. The term describes the vision of a product environment in which manufacturing and logistics are widely self-organised and production processes are possible without human interference. In such a “smart factory” humans, machines and things are interconnected and AI Systems (artificial intelligence) support planning, production, manufacturing, and maintenance.

INTELLIGENT DATA THANKS TO SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY

Some of this sounds like Science Fiction? Maybe, but upon closer inspection it becomes clear that it is simply about enabling things that are supposed to work together to actually “talk” with each other. Communication is the central element of a smart factory. Not only among employees, but between the product or rather the workpiece and the production plant itself. This kind of interaction stand behind the term “Internet of Things”. The basis of this interaction are communication, positioning and identification technologies such as WLAN, RFID and GPS, as well as the corresponding sensor technology. AI-based production lines are equipped to plan their production capacities, calculate the material requirements or order more raw materials in time before they are needed. AI also learns from mistakes — and anticipates (keyword: predictive maintenance) when a component is in danger of failing. In such a “smart factory”, downtimes are low and efficiency is high. But if AI takes over control, will employees become expendable?

HOW DOES AI AFFECT THE WORKPLACE?

A study conducted by the Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation shows that AI in no way means the end of human work. Rather, it can support the cooperation of humans and machines and increase the employees’ scope for action and creativity. The acceptance of AI among employees plays an important role here. This is the approach taken with Hersfeld 2. On site in Bad Hersfeld, RS Components is committed to the continuous development and qualification of its workforce, offering many opportunities for employee qualification and career advancement.

COLUMN

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at the office, Thursday and Friday at home ... The weekend with the kids, on a business trip during the week ... the winter, preferably spent in the southern hemisphere, the summer maybe in sunny Berlin? An extensive shopping spree? Of course, but only with the eco-friendly hybrid car.

THE FUTURE IS HYBRID.

Hybrid: of two origins or made from different components.

„Hybrid” is the word of the moment. Technologies are hybrid, cars run on hybrid engines and families adapt to hybrid life models. Now the workplace is going hybrid – New Work. Transformation is happening, accelerated by Covid-19. Many organisations had to switch to “New Work mode” from one day to the next. The time of attendance culture is over. Yet, few people seem to want to leave the office behind completely. Instead, many employees want a hybrid solution for their everyday work lives. The focus seems to be on an increased self-determination and management. With that, New Work is the working world's answer to digitalisation: It has become apparent, that labour does not need to be “visible” and that output is generated even when the team is not in the office all day. With the right infrastructure, mobile work means remote performance from basically any place in the world. Some take this literally and with “workaction” the appropriate term has already been coined. For a year, a friend of mine has been working from a different holiday location every third week of the month. I am jealous. Aren't you?

✍ Francette KURT – Editorial Manager

GOOD NEWS FROM RS AUSTRIA & SWITZERLAND



Mr Koch, your LinkedIn profile features the quote “When the wind of change blows, some build walls, others windmills”. What does transformation mean to you?

Rudolf Koch
Country Manager Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia
at the SMART Automation in Linz

Change is the only constant in life. That things keep changing is nothing new, and yet there are several well-known companies (e.g. Kodak, Grundig, ...) that did not realise that in time and had to give up. There is an appropriate saying: "If you don't move with the times, time will move you", meaning that those who don't adapt, will

be left behind. It also means that we need to learn how to handle change. To do so, we have to leave our comfort zones and reject habit, predictability and comfort. This may be uncomfortable, but it also presents great opportunities: those who take on new challenges will grow with them — and use the changes to their own benefit.

RS COMPONENTS
ONCE AGAIN
CERTIFIED AS
LEITBETRIEB IN
AUSTRIA

Leitbetriebe Austria (leading organisations) is a certification given to companies that meet the urgent challenges of our time with innovative concepts, consistent commitment to sustainable corporate success and social responsibility. The Austrian RS Components site in Gmünd has now received this certification once again. The certificate was presented to the management during a company visit. "RS Components supports electronics developers in steadily reducing the "time-to-market" for their projects," says Monica Rintersbacher, Managing Director of Leitbetriebe Austria, during the ceremony, "Hereby, the company plays an important role for the potential and innovative strength of Austria as a business location."

WHAT DOES TRANSFORMATION MEAN, MR BOCK?

THREE QUESTIONS FOR REINHOLD BOCK,
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICES, DACH



Can we live without transformation?

No. The whole world is changing, and this transformation cannot be stopped. On the contrary: it is important to accept new constellations. In the last issue we already talked about adaptability and agility. In the fast-paced nature of our industry things quickly become the new standard. The demands are high. At the same time, it is not about change for the sake of change. It is about being engaged and getting better day-by-

day. We consider transformation as continuous development.

Weren't things better back in the day?

No. Although we are currently living in turbulent times and many people are craving stability. But who really wants to go back 30 years? Take a look at banking: almost everything is done online now. And even if it is hard, you need to keep up with that. Whether that means asking for guidance or help from family and friends. Are we

supposed to waste energy and cling to the old and known? I don't think so.

What is your vision?

Excellent service for our customers in all phases and on all channels of communication. The key for success is continuous investment in the development of our employees and systems. That way we can keep up with the ever-changing demands of the market.



RS AUSTRIA SAYS: THANK YOU!

INDISPENSABLE AND COMPETENT: OUR JUBILEES

5,25 and even 35 years: many employees stay with us for many years. For that we are grateful and therefore we would like to express our sincere thanks. We are proud of our incredibly talented and diverse staff who bring their absolute best for our customers and partners.

5 years: Bianca Bachler (7) and Jacqueline Pahr (8)

10 years: Sabrina Holnsteiner (6) and Marion Meixner (4)

20 years: Kerstin Gatterwe (5)

25 years: Ing. Johann Ertl (1)

35 years: Claudia Preissl (2) and Monika Rogner (3)

"We are proud and grateful about the renewed certification. Austria and the entire DACH region with its great market potential has a key function in the growth strategy of RS Components. We invest heavily so that our Austrian customers receive their orders even faster and profit from even better services around their orders and needs. Availability and short distances in goods traffic are essential for the success of the Austrian economy."

✓ Reinhold Bock,
Director of Customer Services

DEVELOPING THE AUSTRIAN MARKET SUSTAINABLY

Leitbetriebe Austria is an independent, cross-industry platform of excellence that awards exemplary companies in the Austrian economy and connects them. In co-operation with these leading companies, the initiative creates milestones for the lasting development of Austria as business location.



Leitbetrieb
Österreich

THE **VARIETY** OFFERED BY RS COMPONENTS

WE WORK WITH OVER 2,500 LEADING SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRONICS,
AUTOMATION AND MAINTENANCE AND OFFER YOU A UNIQUE PRODUCT PORTFOLIO

Automation



Electrics and measurement



Semiconductors



Interconnect, passive components and electromechanics



Tools and materials



FEMALE LEADERSHIP AT RS COMPONENTS



Barbara Kluesche-Grass
Head of People

"My dream job was to be a professor of English literature but I ended up in HR. My personal conclusion: real people are much more interesting than characters in books."

Nadja Trogisch
Marketing Director

"I care about respectful and constructive interaction in my daily work life. I enjoy change and the opportunities it brings."

Andrea Roos
Finance Director

"My goal: making more time for actual "brain work". That is why I am working on eliminating or automating as many of the so-called non-value added tasks."

Alessandra Messing
Head of Field Sales

"I don't drink coffee. I fuel the balancing act between remote management (of my family as well as my team) and bringing my best performance with a Kinder chocolate bar."

Dietlind Vinson
Director Product & Supplier Management

"Change is great, when I prescribe it a positive meaning. It is up to me to shape my future."

WOMEN: DRIVING FORCES OF TRANSFORMATION

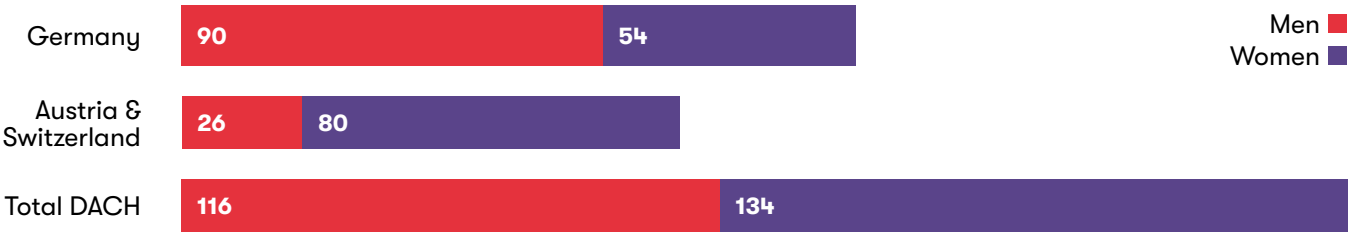
At RS Components we strive for excellence and continuous growth. Change has always been part of our DNA. That also means that we permanently review our structures to identify hidden potential. In a historically male-dominated industry, a female perspective often is an eye-opener. I think it would be reckless to ignore this potential. Hiring women for leading roles is exactly about that: we want to connect know-how, create room for innovation, and foster ideas. Our organisation and providing the best service for our customers is always at the centre of our efforts. Apart from completely new approaches, we are benefiting from a completely new variety of perspectives, a higher collective intelligence and increased competencies for innovation and change. Women ensure that problems are considered from all angles, think more in terms of the big picture and analyse possible risks in detail. For us that means a higher process quality and reduced error margins. We also observe positive effects in the interaction: In the technical field or in sales, women do not fuel the traditional competitiveness which in turn opens up completely new possibilities for action. That is also true for our internal transformation processes: women have a more empathic way of approaching and easing people's fears, building bridges and reaching out to them. For example, many

employees feared that the (partial) automation of the of the new central warehouse would make them redundant. Communication around the development was tricky at first. After all, seeing change as an opportunity can be an abstract concept for many. Nevertheless, we were able to successfully build acceptance - a great success for our mixed teams. At RS we greatly benefit from the commitment and skill of our female employees. In that spirit, we encourage all women to follow their dreams – which might lead them to RS one day. We would be delighted!



Ralf Hellwig,
Managing Director,
RS DACH

GENDER BALANCE DACH



MEET & THINK today

on-site in **BAD HERSFELD**




**FRANCETTE KURT, EDITORIAL MANAGER OF NEXT LEVEL
ON A WALK WITH JÜRGEN HEBEBRAND, VICE PRESIDENT
OPERATIONS, SUPPLY CHAIN & TRANSFORMATION**



A lovely Sunday afternoon on a hiking trail in the Harz. A man in his prime holds his grandchild by the hand and leisurely kicks a ball every now and then. As pleasant as this scene may be, it is also deceptive: The man is Jürgen Hebebrand, leader of a 300-person team and “man of the hour” at RS Components DACH. Jürgen’s workday is everything but quiet. Around him, the last tests for the opening of Hersfeld 2 are being carried out, there are workshops happening next door. The Vice President for Transformation is very busy. It’s the countdown to the go live. The responsibility and stress is tremendous. Where does the 58-year-old top manager get his inner peace? Born in Schwalmstadt, he has remained very down to earth. He switches off by listening to music, like Iron Maiden’s “Fear of the Dark” or by taking his Triumph for a cruise. His relaxed nature also transfers to his employees. He knows how to motivate: authenticity, empathy, openness, and passion for logistics. Anyone who works with him is infected by his enthusiasm. His success is no accident. It is based on continuous growth, “You always have to be at the cutting edge of technology, and,” Jürgen emphasises, “always have an open ear and an open door for the employees. Because you can only be successful if everyone is on board.” His employees feel valued and therefore happily follow his lead. The human aspect is omnipresent in the large transformation project Jürgen is heading since 2020. Yes, it is about automation, but precisely for this reason it is also about the people. It is about change, but also about fears.

„Every transformation project is accompanied by fears. What you can never do is ignore them, cast them aside or trivialise them. Fears are part of every change and together we endure the highs and lows. Like a family” says Jürgen.

Now Jürgen is about to complete his mission. Mission Bad Hersfeld 2. Planning, designing, coordinating, controlling – just as he has been doing successfully for 37 years, facing different challenges every time. But that is not the end of the story. Rather a milestone, because transformation never ends. 

HOW CAN WE BETTER HANDLE TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES?

FOUR PIECES OF ADVICE FROM JÜRGEN HEBEBRAND

1. Taking the fear out of fear

People usually reject change instead of seeing the opportunities that come with it. Understanding this helps destigmatising fear. In practice, this means that we have to shape the transformation process in a way that recognizes fears and insecurities early on and handle them empathically.

2. Calling things by their name

When managing fear, it is important to at first, explicitly name them. Then you are able to assess and handle them together.

3. Communicating openly and honestly

Things will change almost every hour and that complicates communication. The golden rule: Transparency, openness, honesty, humanity. It's okay to say, “I don't know at the moment.”

4. Accepting ambiguity

The ability to deal with uncertainty, the courage to make decisions with only 80 % of the information – that is a necessity in the transformation process. This skill is called ambiguity tolerance. It is about the ability to accept and endure inner tensions and contradictions, to rate them positively or at least neutrally and to deal with them constructively.

„When dealing with fears it is completely irrelevant whether they are “legitimate” or not. There is no point in dismissing fears as “illegitimate” or “irrelevant” – that only takes away the chance to handle them meaningfully.”



THE SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY OF THE **DEMATIC MULTISHUTTLE** IS THE HEART OF THE NEW CENTRAL WAREHOUSE

20 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RS COMPONENTS AND DEMATIC

Since 2001 RS Components places its trust in the expertise and experience of Dematic. For 20 years now, the competent intralogistics experts have been equipping our warehouses with automation solutions and provide a wide range of services. Within that partnership Dematic not only expanded and modernised the warehouse in Bad Hersfeld, but also other buildings for the parent company in Italy, England, and France. Constant optimisation enabled a steady growth in productivity and reduction of errors and costs of consignment. These targets also underled expansion of our site in Bad Hersfeld. The Dematic Multishuttle is the heart of the project – an in-house development – and just one of many milestones Dematic created over the years. With the launch of the Multishuttle in 2006 Dematic played a decisive role in the implementation of Industry 4.0 in logistics.

THE MULTISHUTTLE – A DEMATIC INNOVATION

Review: In spring 2001, around the time of the first joint project between RS Components and Dematic, Volker Jungbluth and his team met in a café in the south of Dortmund. Between 1999 and 2004, Jungbluth was the head of the machines and systems division of the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics (IML) in Dortmund. The reason for the meeting was: to find out why the automated pallet transport module with the distinctive name "Alf" did not establish itself on the market. It quickly became apparent that "Alf" was simply too heavy. The logistics vehicle had a total weight of more than 2.5 tonnes, including batteries. To operate Alf, compatible shelves had to be made of extremely robust and therefore expensive steel structures, which also affected the speed of the system. The new goal was easily defined: the system had to become lighter. Because its great advantage over an automatic small parts storage (AKL) was that it could increase the flow

rate without need for additional space. The scientists achieved first reductions in weight by switching pallets for lighter containers. In the next step the power supply was switched to cabling the shelves, which meant that the heavy battery pack could be discarded. Roll-up grippers already developed by the IML, where used as pick-up technique. They drove under the cartons and containers and took on the items through rotation. This way of handling was also an integral part of the first prototype from Siemens Dematic, a predecessor company of Dematic. Nevertheless, the warehouse vehicle was still too heavy to work without steel structures on the shelves. Furthermore, the items in the containers could shift, making the method too unsteady for everyday operation. As a result, Siemens Dematic switched to gripper arm rails.

ONGOING REFINEMENT

In April 2004 Jungbluth joined Dematic with this first prototype. Before, he had already changed the name from "Alf" to "Shuttle", a name that has since taken root in the logistics industry. In order to install the Beta-Shuttles, the intralogistics specialist developed the fitting steering technique and software. Programming the algorithms was one of the biggest challenges, as the Multishuttle was much more complex than an AKL. With HK in Finland and the Pharma logistics company Transpharm the first companies started test phases. Next, Dematic's next objective was to ensure that the shuttle was ready for serial production.

BETA-VERSION OF THE DEMATIC MULTISHUTTLE

After taking over from the Fraunhofer Institute, the development team at Dematic kept improving the system. Cabled shelves were changed to electricity rails. The tools for pick-up, the grabbing arms, were improved. Additionally, extendable telescopes which could reach into the shelves were developed. Repositioning the bundles solved another problem, as Dematic implemented its patented inter aisle transfer (iAT). This direct exchange of cargo units between the aisles is accomplished by means of a new eight-finger system that pulls cartons towards the shuttle. In the future Dematic will continue to develop and improve the Multishuttle. To that end, the company is currently working on a deeper reach into the shelves to increase storage space. The developments also include new robotics. In the future, the shuttles are supposed to be able to reach any product at any position on the shelf.

LATEST GENERATION OF THE MULTISHUTTLE

The latest generation of Dematic Multishuttle will ensure smooth operations at the new RS distribution centre in Bad Hersfeld. It is the continuation of the extremely successful 20-year partnership between the two companies.

THE LATEST DEMATIC MULTISHUTTLE IN THE NEW NEW WAREHOUSE IN BAD HERSFELD

The 10-aisle Dematic Multishuttle system offers space for 300,000 container locations. The compact solution can store up to 500,000 items and more, buffering and sequencing for picking and order assembly. For this purpose, 300 shuttles automatically access containers and transport them within the three-storey building directly to the goods-to-person (GTP) picking stations, to shipping or to the inventory warehouse for repackaging. The goal for RS Components is to use the automation to increase the picking performance to up to 38,000 orders. The Dematic software ensures everything from the smooth and efficient flow of materials up to the point of order compilation.

ABOUT DEMATIC

Dematic is an intralogistics innovator that develops, builds and services intelligent, automated solutions for manufacturing, warehouse, and distribution environments. Customers include some of the world's leading brands, which, also thanks to Dematic installations, are driving the world of trade. Dematic's global network of development centres, production sites, and service locations with 10,000 employees in more than 25 countries has contributed to realizing over 6,000 customer installations so far. Dematic is based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA and is a company of the KION Group. It is one of the world's leading suppliers of industrial floor conveyors and supply chain solutions as well as warehouse automation.



Designed for women



uvex 1 sport



uvex 1 ladies

Neben dem optischen Design, ist es zum idealen, passgerechten Schutz für Trägerinnen von Sicherheitsschuhen notwendig, den spezifischen Anforderungen von Frauenfüßen gerecht zu werden und diese ernst zu nehmen. Daher werden uvex Sicherheitsschuhe für Arbeitnehmerinnen in den gängigen Größen über einen reinen Damenleisten gefertigt und in ihrer Geometrie ergonomisch dem weiblichen Fuß angepasst.

protecting people



INTERVIEW WITH MAXIME GARNIER



Maxime Garnier
Yacht Captain/Technical Engineer

Last year, pandemic-related travel restrictions put a damper on many holiday plans. That is why we decided to treat our readers to a short trip to the sea. Captain Maxime Garnier has leagues of experience and has sailed the world on many beautiful ships. He is the founder of Max Marine Ser-

vice in Antibes and does consulting work for Maritime Maintenance Management. In this interview he tells us about the benefits partnerships with global distributors have for him.

Mr Garnier, in what contexts do you work with global distributors?

Sadly, technical setbacks are part of seafaring. The salty and humid environment puts the entire technology on board under a constant strain. This can go so far that corrosion runs down the control system of the windlass. Then a replacement is needed quickly. Here, in a way, the pandemic has had a positive effect: in many areas, the world moved closer together. For example, I received spare parts from Germany for the maintenance of ships in France.

nance of ships in France.

Safety probably plays a large role in the maintenance of hydraulics?

Correct. The ship's motion can lead to accidental movements of unsecured parts of the ship or the machinery. Maintenance work on ships therefore requires particularly intensive planning. Some things must always be carried on board.

What does that mean?

High demands are placed on the availability and operational safety of certain parts, for example the hydraulic systems of the driving mechanism. This is especially important for the steering gear. Technical protective measures, such as separations, shields or protective covers, cannot be implemented in every case. This means that there is a risk of unauthorised persons entering operational areas where hydraulic components may have been laid unprotected and where break-off guards and pipe or hose rupture guards are missing. Due to the confined space and trip hazard moving parts can be an immediate danger to life. I hope that wasn't too technical. To simplify, on a ship, space is precious. And that's why the necessary safety measures are often missing in hazardous areas.

How do you make sure to avoid downtime?

Important driving operating systems





MECHANICAL SYSTEMS – SHIP MAINTENANCE

Before every trip



Rinse the motor



Clean the boat



Do a safety check

Monthly



Check the fuel filter



Check all cables for tears



Check the steering



Check nuts and bolts for rust



Check the hull for cracks

Annually



Check the life jackets



If necessary, replace petrol cans



Replace the engine oil



Carry out an engine inspection



Check all fire extinguishers



Spray rust preventive under the lining

As needed



Carry out an equipment check to anticipate malfunctions



Replace the propeller



Replace all nuts and bolts



Carry out all necessary repairs to the hull



Paint the hull



Replace dry planks in the floor

such as the steering gear should always be installed twice. That way you always have a fallback for emergencies and a guaranteed fail-safety.

How does that work in practice?

That is pretty easy, you have two parallel systems powered by different sources and with automatic switching. In addition, there should be separate emergency systems for limited operation of the steering gear (emergency hand rudder, electric pump). On a ship with this standard you can sail quite safely.

Captain Garnier, many thanks for the insight into the nautical world. Our readers' next holiday trip might be a cruise.

The interview was conducted by Francette Kurt.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, **RS PRO!**

OUR NAME BRAND RS PRO: 5 SUCCESSFUL YEARS ON THE MARKET



RS PRO –
the clever choice!

In February 2016 RS combined its various brands under the new brand RS PRO. We thereby created an incomparable range of products that is greatly appreciated by our customers for its high quality and its attractive value for money. Choosing RS PRO can reduce your costs significantly. Over the last years, RS PRO has become our most important and best-selling brand. Our focus areas are electrical installation, electronics, automation, workshop equipment and measurement technology. Every RS PRO item is thoroughly tested by qualified engineers and only then receives the RS PRO quality seal. Over the years, we have expanded the RS PRO range to over 70,000 items in stock. To make sure we keep meeting customer requirements in the future, we constantly continue to expand and adapt our range constantly.

If you have any questions regarding **RS PRO** or would like a customised offer, our competent sales team and friendly customer service will be happy to assist you.

Get in touch!





BACKSTAGE STORIES

EPISODE #3: SISTERS IN SPIRIT

A normal day at RS Bad Hersfeld: 500,000 products, more than 1,000 orders and hundreds of inquiries. Behind the scenes Denisa Pravera, Brigitta Schneider and Martin Urban from the picking station are juggling everything whilst keeping the quality at the highest level. That can be enough to break a sweat, but our team won't lose its sense of humour.

Oops. 2 broken air filters!
How did that happen?

Soon my legs will be grateful for the automation. With goods-to-person, everything will work by the push of a button. I might have to sign up at the gym next year. If we don't have to walk anymore, I need to keep fit. Yesterday I had far more than 10,000 steps. That will soon be over.

Martin, could please you go and get the same article from the warehouse? The numbers is 7302827 by RS PRO. Let's test this. We will meet at the packing station. No detours to the coffee maker, we can have breakfast together later.

Here you have the filters girls.

Did you use air cushions for the last shipment?

That's the problem, then boys. No wonder, if you only use paper.

Martin starts his (long) journey

Suddelny, Martin is gone

Eh, is he upset now?

No way. He really has a meeting now. Look here! Perfect. We need to use both, paper and air cushions. I will let Susan know tomorrow so she can mark it down.

Brigitta is there too

Hi Denisa, how are you? And? Were you able to solve the problem with the filters?

Yes, we should make a note to always wrap the filters in paper and air cushions from now on.

One day later: Friday 8:30 a.m. during the supervisor's call.

Happy weekend! How many parcels did you process today?

404! And without a single error. I almost broke my personal record!

YOU GO GIRL

After work drinks in the afternoon

RS COMPONENTS

ALWAYS NEAR YOU

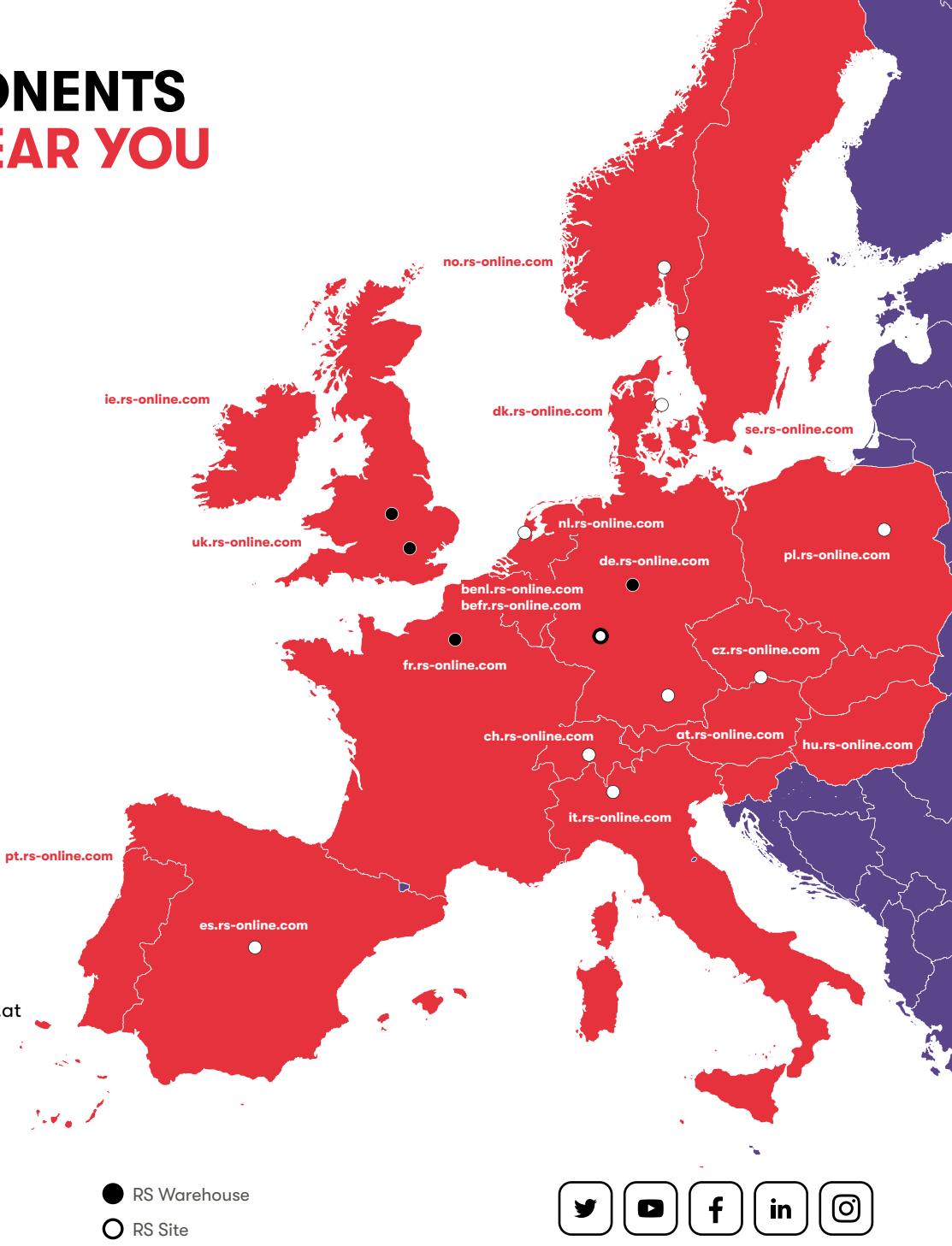
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IMPRINT Publisher RS Components GmbH, Mainzer Landstr. 180, 60327 Frankfurt am Main - Ralf Hellwig – **V.i.S.d.P** Frank Behrens – **Art Direction, Editorial management** Francette Kurt – Contact: nextlevel@rs-components.com, de.rs-online.com – **Layout** Alexandra Wothe, QUBUS media GmbH, Hannover – **Editorial** Benjamin Grimmer, REINSCLASSEN – **Translation** Kim Vollrodt, mfk corporate publishing GmbH – **Print** QUBUS media GmbH, Hannover – **Images** Bigstock, Foto Rimbach, Adobe, Maxime Garnier, Francette Kurt, Rudolf Koch