

## Press information

### BPW to use robots in vocational and professional training

- **An industry first in the region: BPW opens a training centre for robotics**
- **Upgrade for vocational training through inclusion of robotics knowledge**
- **Apprentices benefit from leading know-how in transport, IT and mechatronics**

**Wiehl, 23.11.2018 --- As one of the innovation leaders of the transport industry, BPW dovetails its know-how in IT and mechatronics closely with its vocational training. As a result, BPW was given the distinction of being one of the “Best Companies for vocational training in Germany” in March. Now the company is taking its vocational training and staff qualifications to the next level by adding a robotics branch.**

BPW Bergische Achsen KG has started its own training centre for robotics at its headquarters in Wiehl, Germany. For the first time, apprentices, employees and students can learn about how to operate, maintain and program modern robots in the company’s own training centre under real-life conditions. To enable this, the company installed two 6-axle robots from the company Kuka. They can literally operate hand in hand and will now exclusively serve vocational and professional training purposes.

Although robots come as standard in today’s industrial facilities, the new BPW training centre is unique, even in Germany’s industrial heartland of North-Rhine Westphalia. Only very few companies invest in own robotics training facilities: normally, employees are trained in external training centres belonging to the robots’ manufacturers.

“Having our own training centre gives us the opportunity to significantly enhance our vocational training programme in the field of robotics,” explains Harold Mayer, who was responsible for the project as trainer. “Alongside the technical installation of the robots themselves, we have also developed a corresponding didactic concept. Since spring, our apprentices in the fields of electronics and mechatronics were trained and in the second step, we will introduce the future industrial mechanics to the system”.

BPW employees can also be safely instructed in the operation and maintenance of robots in the training centre. Harold Mayer emphasized that “Safety was paramount when the training system was designed, as industrial robots move extremely quickly and powerfully. Along with students of the Technical College in Siegen, we developed a comprehensive safety concept. It effectively reduces risks and enables the system to be used in near-real operating conditions. We are proud of this system, as it once again proves us to be among the top companies for apprentices in Germany”.



**Image caption:** A special training centre for robotics has been set up in the BPW training facility. Nikolaj Merkel, Andreas Janzen und Thorben Kalkkuhl (from left to right) developed the robotic system as part of a project of the Technical College in Siegen. (Source: BPW Bergische Achsen KG)

#### **About BPW Bergische Achsen Kommanditgesellschaft**

*BPW Bergische Achsen Kommanditgesellschaft is the parent company of the BPW Group. With over 1,600 staff, including around 120 apprentices, the family-owned company has been developing and producing complete running gear systems for truck trailers and semi-trailers at its headquarters in Wiehl since 1898. BPW's technologies include axle systems, braking technology, suspension and bearings. BPW's trailer axles and running gear systems are in use in millions of vehicles around the world. An extensive range of services also provides vehicle manufacturers and vehicle operators with the opportunity to increase the efficiency of their production and transport processes. [www.bpw.de/en](http://www.bpw.de/en)*

#### **About the BPW Group**

*The BPW Group, based in Wiehl, Germany, is a reliable international mobility and system partner for the transport industry and offers innovative solutions from a single source. Its portfolio ranges from axles, suspension systems and braking technologies (BPW), locking systems and trailer body technology (Hestal), lighting systems (Ermax) and plastics technologies (HBN-Teknik) to user-friendly telematics applications for trucks and trailers (idem telematics). The BPW Group's technologies and services enable economical production processes for manufacturers and provide maximum transparency in loading and transport processes for efficient fleet management by vehicle operators. The owner-managed BPW Group encompasses more than 70 subsidiaries and employs around 7,000 people worldwide. [www.bpw.de/en](http://www.bpw.de/en)*

#### **Contact:**

Corporate Communications Department

Press and Public Relations

Nadine Simon

Tel.: +49 22 62 / 78-19 09

Fax: +49 22 62 / 78-49 09

[SimonN@bpw.de](mailto:SimonN@bpw.de)

BPW Bergische Achsen KG, Ohlerhammer, 51674 Wiehl, Germany | [www.bpw.de/en](http://www.bpw.de/en)

Die Marken der BPW Gruppe:

