

IBL-Löttechnik opens new headquarters in Forchheim

The global market leader in vapour-phase soldering is investing in Forchheim as a business hub with a new 5,000-square-meter facility—a clear commitment to innovation and “Made in Germany” quality

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IBL-Löttechnik GmbH officially opened its new headquarters in the Breitweidig industrial park in Forchheim with a festive ceremony. The new building is far more than just an expansion of floor space: It is the centerpiece of a well-thought-out manufacturing strategy through which IBL is continuing to expand its high level of vertical integration, modernizing its CNC manufacturing, and strategically dividing the production of various product lines between two locations—for shorter throughput times, greater flexibility, and even more reliable delivery capabilities.

From the garage to a modern manufacturing facility

IBL-Löttechnik was founded in 1985 by Helmut Leicht in Augsburg, initially as an engineering office – starting out modestly in a garage. Just two years later, in 1987, the company began manufacturing its first in-house vapour-phase soldering systems. In 1992, the company moved to Königsbrunn near Augsburg, where the production area grew over the years from around 500 to 2,000 square meters. With the new location in Forchheim, an additional 2,800 square meters are now being added, bringing the company’s total area to around 4,800 square meters.

Since 2017, Armin Leicht has been leading the company as the second generation of the family.

With the opening in Forchheim, he is bringing his father’s vision to life—the new building was planned together, but unfortunately, Helmut Leicht did not get to see it completed. “I am certain that he is with us today,” said Armin Leicht in his opening speech. With the Forchheim location, IBL-Löttechnik can accelerate the development of its new CCS100/Smartphase inline system series and expand into new markets.



Forchheim as a strategic location

The choice of Forchheim was a deliberate one: the excellent connections to the highway network, the proximity to Nuremberg Airport, and access to skilled workers from the metropolitan region were decisive factors. Strategically crucial, above all, was the opportunity to establish a high-quality, independent manufacturing facility here: With modern CNC milling machines, in-house machining, and assembly capabilities for specific product lines, Forchheim is becoming the company’s second fully equipped production site. IBL currently employs seven people at the new location; the plan is to expand this to 20 to

30 employees in the areas of machining, mechanics, electrical engineering, as well as development and sales.



In addition to numerous business partners, local political leaders also offered their congratulations at the opening. Wolfram Brehm, CEO of the Bayreuth Chamber of Industry and Commerce for Upper Franconia, highlighted the project's significance for the economic region. The event was rounded off with a welcoming address from the Bavarian State Chancellery by its head, Dr. Florian Herrmann, who emphasized the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises for the Bavarian economy and congratulated IBL-Löttechnik, a technology leader, on its new location in Upper Franconia.

A technology leader with a global reach

IBL is recognized as a pioneer and technology leader in the field of vapour phase soldering of electronic assemblies. The process offers gentle and uniform heating, high reproducibility, process reliability, and significantly faster heat transfer compared to conventional convection ovens. The systems are used wherever particularly reliable solder joints are required—in aerospace, defense technology, the automotive industry, medical technology, the semiconductor industry, as well as in the fields of green energy and e-mobility.

Today, IBL serves customers in over 70 countries worldwide, supported by a network of more than 80 sales partners. More than 30 national and international patents underscore the company's ongoing commitment to innovation. In addition to its original headquarters in Königsbrunn and its new headquarters in Forchheim, IBL operates a subsidiary in St. Cloud, FL, USA.

Award for a long-standing partnership

During the opening ceremony, IBL paid special tribute to long-standing sales partners with specially awarded honors. A prime example: Bienert Laboratory and Manufacturing Equipment, an IBL partner since 1995, was honored for its collaboration lasting more than three decades. This is a rare sign of reliability and mutual trust in a fast-paced industry.

Technical presentations and training sessions rounded out the program and underscored IBL's commitment not only to opening, but also to sharing knowledge and strengthening networks.

International network visits Forchheim

The guest list was a clear indication of IBL's global reach: sales partners and business associates from all over the world traveled to the opening ceremony—from numerous European countries as well as from Turkey, South Korea, Japan, China, and the United States. The fact that business partners traveled long distances to be in Forchheim on this day underscores the depth and quality of the relationships that IBL has built over decades across all continents.

The presence of international guests elevated the event beyond a mere regional opening ceremony: it became a gathering of a global professional community—vivid proof that Forchheim will serve not only as a production site but also as a hub for the global vapour-phase soldering industry in the future.

Manufacturing strategy: specialisation instead of centralisation

The new facility in Forchheim is the result of a deliberate strategic decision: IBL remains committed to its philosophy of high vertical integration and is taking it to a new level. While many competitors are outsourcing or streamlining their manufacturing, IBL is taking the opposite approach—investing in its own expertise, machinery, and processes.

Specifically, this means that different product lines will be manufactured at their respective specialized locations in the future. Batch systems and existing production lines will remain in Königsbrunn, while Forchheim will take over production of the new CCS100/Smartphase inline system series. This clear division of responsibilities makes it possible to reduce construction times, optimize processes, and significantly shorten delivery times, without compromising on quality. With local supply chains, state-of-the-art CNC technology, and a clear focus on sustainability and efficiency, IBL remains true to its “Made in Germany” commitment in every respect.

About IBL-Löttechnik GmbH / IBL Technologies

IBL-Löttechnik GmbH was founded in 1985 by Helmut Leicht and, under the leadership of Armin Leicht, is now a leading global manufacturer of vapour-phase soldering systems. With locations in Forchheim and Königsbrunn (Germany) as well as St. Cloud, FL (USA), IBL serves customers in over 70 countries. More than 30 national and international patents attest to the innovative strength of this family-owned company.

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