



## *Dieter Siempelkamp*

1933-

Building on a tradition of technological innovation and business leadership established by his father and grandfather, Dieter Siempelkamp made the company that bears his name a global leader in the design and construction of equipment and factories for the wood products and building materials industries. Entering the 21<sup>st</sup> century, G. Siempelkamp GmbH & Co., Maschinen-und Anlagenbau, known in the U.S. and Canada as the Siempelkamp Group, has operations and customers worldwide, including some of the best-known names in a wide variety of industries.

Dieter Siempelkamp was born on October 11, 1933, in Krefeld, Germany, a city just west of the Rhine in the vicinity of Dusseldorf. The year of his birth marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Siempelkamp machinery factory by Gerhard Siempelkamp, Dieter Siempelkamp's grandfather. By 1933, Eugen Siempelkamp, son of Gerhard and father to Dieter Siempelkamp, was in his 15<sup>th</sup> year as President of the company. Eugen

Siempelkamp would eventually hold this position for more than 50 years.

Dieter Siempelkamp completed his secondary education in 1951, and then pursued a commercial and technical education in banking and engineering. This dual educational focus helped prepare Mr. Siempelkamp to eventually assume the helm of the family-owned company. In addition to studying in Germany, Mr. Siempelkamp also spent time abroad in England and France.

Mr. Siempelkamp joined the Siempelkamp company in 1958 and became a member of the Board of Directors in 1964. During these years, he played a major role in sales activities around the world, with special emphasis on North America. Mr. Siempelkamp's fluency in English and experience abroad made him a perfect international ambassador for the company.

In 1970, Mr. Siempelkamp became spokesperson of the Board of Directors and

President of the company. In his first year as leader of Siempelkamp, the company's revenues were \$36.3 million; by 2000, the company reached nearly \$500 million.

This remarkable period of growth under Mr. Siempelkamp's leadership followed from his acceleration of a trend that had begun in the company in the later 1950s. The company's original and core focus had been the construction of hydraulic presses for many industries. Gerhard Siempelkamp, the company's founder, had invented a method and process to drill holes in steel plates. This new technology enabled hot platen presses to maintain uniform temperatures for the first time.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Siempelkamp presses were provided to the textile industry which flourished in Krefeld. By the 1920s, Siempelkamp presses were being used for glueing and drying veneers, smoothing paper, manufacturing celluloid products, spreading and tentering cloth, and more. In time, Siempelkamp presses served manufacturers of wood products, plastics, laminates and rubber products, including conveyor belts. The company was also involved in metal forging.

While the company had a long history of developing presses for diverse industries, only in the late 1950s did it begin to extend its activities to include the building of complete manufacturing plants, especially for the particleboard and fiberboard industries.

Beginning in 1970, under Dieter Siempelkamp's leadership, the company redoubled its commitment to providing complete and efficient manufacturing solutions to its customers. The company introduced a new corporate motto "Bauen

and Wohnen" ("Building and Living"), meant to signal that the company was providing comprehensive plant development services for the building materials and panel industries. To further extend the company's capabilities and to serve its growing global clientele, Mr. Siempelkamp also spearheaded the acquisition of numerous equipment manufacturing and engineering facilities.

In addition to fulfilling a broad set of duties as President of the company, Mr. Siempelkamp always remained in close contact with key customers around the globe. He also worked as the *spiritus rector* (the guiding spirit) of the company's ongoing pursuit of innovation. Working with the company's research and development facility at Krefeld, as well as with other research institutes, Mr. Siempelkamp stressed the development of new and environmentally friendly products. For instance, the company's investment in filtration and solid-liquid separation technologies has helped to minimize the environmental impact of waste sludge produced in manufacturing processes.

Mr. Siempelkamp's commitment to the business community reaches well beyond the boundaries of his own company. From 1973 to 1981, he was a member of the General Assembly of the Chamber of Commerce, first of Krefeld, and later of the Central Low-Rhine Region. For his work as an honorary judge of the Regional Court of Krefeld, sitting on the panel for commercial matters, he received the Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande (the Distinguished Service Cross with Riband of the Federal Republic of Germany).

Mr. Siempelkamp also served as: a member of the Regional Board of Advisors of Deutsche Bank A.G., Dusseldorf; a member of the Board of Advisors of Gerling-Konzern

Versicherungs-Beteil-A.G., Cologne (the holding company of the Gerling-Konzern Insurance Companies) President of Fachgemeinschaft Holzbearbeitungsmaschinen in VDMA, Frankfurt (The Association of Wood Processing Machinery Manufacturers within the Association of German Machinery Manufacturers); a member of the Board of Directors of Thyssen Krupp Stahl A.G. Duisburg (Thyssen Krupp Steel); and a member of the Board of Directors of Deutsche Messe A.G., Hannover (the German Trade Fair Joint Stock Company).

Except for his time abroad in the 1950s, Mr. Siempelkamp has been a lifelong resident of Krefeld. In addition to his business activities in the city and surrounding area, he served as President of the Board of the Forderverein Senioren-Zentrum Krefeld e.V. (the association for the promotion of the Krefeld Center for Seniors). Outside these various civic and professional activities, Mr. Siempelkamp found pleasure in family life and leisure time. Mr. Siempelkamp and his wife Gabriele raised seven children. Long an avid golfer, he also served as President of his golf club in Krefeld.

Dieter Siempelkamp not only led his family's company past its 100-year anniversary, but also took it into the third century in which the Siempelkamp name has proudly appeared on state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment. Under Mr. Siempelkamp's leadership, the strong emphasis on technology and service perfectly positioned the company to continue its growth as a worldwide leader in the planning, assembly, start-up, and optimization of complete manufacturing facilities for a wide variety of industries, including the building product and wood-based materials industries.