

Press contact

Julia Preukschas
Marketing Referentin
T +49(0)228 558-3026
julia.preukschas@step-g.com

February 6, 2024

Press/media release

With the request for publication.

STEP-G location in Bonn again achieves IRIS Silver certification

The Bonn location of extrusion pressing specialist ST Extruded Products Group (STEP-G) has again achieved Silver certification in accordance with the International Railway Industry Standard (IRIS) ISO/TS 22163 for aluminium components and complete solutions designed for use in rail vehicles. With the certificate, STEP-G continues to be the only aluminium extrusion plant worldwide to have achieved this level.

STEP-G is one of the world's leading producers of extruded aluminium profiles. With production sites in Germany, Belgium and China, STEP-G is a multinational company that offers an extensive range of aluminium profiles and rods. In autumn 2023, the STEP-G location in Bonn was recertified in accordance with the international IRIS standard at the level Silver.

IRIS is an initiative of UNIFE, the Association of the European Rail Industry. The basis for qualification is the ISO 9001 quality management standard which in this case is extended to include requirements specific to the rail industry. ISO/TS 22163 is designed to strengthen competition and ensure higher quality standards. To increase transparency in the supply chain of the rail industry, UNIFE has established a maturity level model with the ratings Bronze, Silver and Gold. Companies are assessed on their performance and quality as well as customer perception. By meeting the criteria, companies prove that their management system meets top rail industry standards. Details of the certification results of all certified companies are published in the IRIS database, which many companies in the rail industry consult for information.

The Bonn STEP-G location has been producing large and highly complex extruded aluminium profiles for rail vehicle construction, among other sectors, for over 100 years. The range includes both individual components and finished assemblies. STEP-G ensures high quality, safety and sustainability by drawing on many years of technical expertise and ensuring that knowledge is shared across departments and locations. Dr. Wolfgang Kühlein, Head of Quality and Technology, emphasises: "The renewed international IRIS certification in Silver

confirms our consistently excellent quality and performance level, which we are very proud of. The certificate means that our customers around the world can rely on the fact that we offer highly qualified, complete assembly solutions for rail vehicle construction certified according to ISO/TS 22163.” Klaus Funken, Head of Competence Centre Rail, adds: “Thanks to our successful achievement of the requirements, with the support of the entire Rail Team, we were able to pass the audit once again. Our focus now is on maintaining and further improving this level.” The next audit of the STEP-G location in Bonn, with a new revision of the standard, will take place in September this year.



Caption: STEP-G receives IRIS certificate in Silver (from left: Dirk Sperlich, Dr. Wolfgang Kühlein, Klaus Funken and Markus Kleimann) // © STEP-G

The company at a glance

ST Extruded Products Group, or STEP-G, is one of the world's leading producers of extruded aluminium profiles. With production sites in Germany, Belgium and China, STEP-G is a multinational company. The three German press plants in Bitterfeld, Bonn and Vogt are highly specialised and offer a comprehensive range of extruded profiles and bars. The automotive industry and its direct suppliers rely on the company's innovative quality. Other customers are in the aerospace, rail, and mechanical and electrical engineering industries as well as the construction sector. Completing the portfolio are various forms of processing through to component manufacturing. The foundry in Hettstedt with a comprehensive range of standard and special alloys provides reliable technology and consistent availability from one source.

From the company's foundation to the present day

In 1915, the first German factory was opened in Bitterfeld. It was followed in 1921 by the German plant in Bonn, in 1946 by the plant in Duffel, Belgium, and in 1952 by another German plant in Vogt. In 2000, the Chinese plant in Tianjin was commissioned. In 2006, Aleris International Inc. acquired the plants of Corus Aluminium. On 1 March 2015, the Aleris aluminium extrusion operations transferred to the Japanese company Sankyo Tateyama, Inc., a manufacturer of extruded and cast products. In 2019, the foundry in Hettstedt was incorporated into the STEP-G group.

More information is available at www.step-g.com and www.bug.de.