

New training year at Pilz in Ostfildern: one third female apprentices and additional dual study courses - focused on promoting skills

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Ostfildern, 04.09.2017 - **The new training year at the automation company Pilz in Ostfildern started on 4 September. A total of six apprentices and six students from the Baden-Wurttemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW) embarked on their professional career. One of the apprentices and three of the new students are female. From 2018 the company will have more dual courses as well as a new apprentice place in addition to those already offered in the training programme.**

Pilz also places great value on training that extends beyond technical qualifications. The training programme always includes at least one period spent in a subsidiary abroad with a view to promoting social and cultural skills.

Greater female representation

“A successful career is not a question of gender, but of competence and determination”, reckons Susanne Kunschert, who is one of two women on the management team of the company alongside her mother Renate Pilz and her brother Thomas Pilz. “It's great to see that this year one third of our new apprentices and students are female”, adds Susanne Kunschert, who among other responsibilities heads up Human Resources at Pilz. “After all, even engineering skills must not be prescribed by society.” That's why the Swabian family business helps schoolgirls get an insight into careers in engineering with taster events such as the Girls' Day.

Spoiled for choice...

Pilz has been cooperating with the Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW) since as long ago as 2008: through the Faculty of Technology of DHBW, the internationally oriented company has been offering places on the courses in “Electrical engineering, specialising in automation”, “Computer science, specialising in information technology”, “Applied computer science” and “Business administration and engineering”, in this case with the focus on “Production and logistics”.

The number of dual courses available at Pilz will be expanded again from 2018. This will give the next batch of students a choice also of “Electrical engineering (electronics)” and “Business administration and engineering (electronics)” from the summer term. The range of training courses on offer will be supplemented by a course in “Technical computer science – system integration”.

Whether a dual course of study or an apprenticeship at Pilz, though, the application process essentially starts in the early summer of the year before training starts. Anyone interested should therefore have applied by June of the preceding year.

Travelling the world for training

As well as the dual courses, the traditional apprenticeships available at Pilz are the three-and-a-half year courses leading to qualifications as a “mechatronic engineer” or “device/systems engineer”. Here Pilz places great value on training that extends beyond technical qualifications. The training always includes at least one period spent in a subsidiary abroad with a view to strengthening social and cultural skills. “For an internationally oriented company with customers who are likewise internationally focused, it is important to look beyond one’s own horizons even during training. That makes subsequent cooperation so much easier on all sides”, Susanne Kunschert believes. Pilz apprentices get to know the culture and everyday working life in France or Switzerland, while the students may, for instance, go to Ireland or the Chinese subsidiary in Shanghai.



Caption: *Tooled up for starting their career: on their first day, the new apprentices and dual students at Pilz were given not only important information by their trainers, but also their own personal toolbox.*

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