

Labina Fundição Injectada, Lda, Portugal: Moving upwards despite the economic crisis.

The Challenge

To weather the current economic crisis and to maintain the growth of the past few years: The objective for brothers Jorge and José Pimenta is clear. They want to strengthen the market position of their die casting company, Labina, as a supplier to renowned national and international companies in the electric, automotive and aircraft industry even in times of economic crisis. They rely on Bühler technology to help them reach their objective.

The Solution

Jorge and José Pimenta's recipe for success is "regular investments in new technologies and state-of-the-art machines". Since 2008, they have invested about two million Euros a year in their business. José Pimenta revealed that it is important for their customers to know that a vendor like Labina always operates at the cutting edge of technology. In order to accomplish that, the die casting company with approximately 50 employees relies primarily on Bühler. Nine of a total of 19 die casting machines have already been supplied by this Swiss production systems manufacturer: seven of the Evolution series and two Bühler Carat machines. These Bühler Carat machines feature a state-of-the-art two-platen die closing unit and real-time control of the shot profile. Their newest machine, purchased in April 2012, is a Carat 180 which has 18,000 KN of clamp force. Now, Labina owns the largest die casting machine in Portugal.

The Future

With the new Carat 180, Labina not only wants to make great strides in technology, but also plans to access new markets and customers who need more complex, thin-walled die cast components. Negotiations are already underway with a large company in the lighting industry and additional companies have expressed interest. José Pimenta estimates that the company "will have to purchase up to eight new machines ranging from 1800 to 2200 tons locking force" in order to fill the orders. According to the owners of the company, there is no doubt that the machines will be supplied by Bühler. "Bühler has the best and most advanced technology. This is the basis of our success."



"Bühler machines are operated very intuitively and provide a high degree of operational reliability that makes them more productive and reduces their maintenance costs"

Jorge Pimenta, Co-Owner and Technical Manager of Labina Fundição Injectada, Lda.,
José Pimenta, Co-Owner and Chief Financial Officer of Labina Fundição Injectada, Lda.

More about Labina Fundição Injectada, Lda.

Labina Fundição Injectada, Lda is a leading die casting company in Portugal. The family-owned company was established in 1968 and is owned by brothers Jorge and José Pimenta. 50 employees work in the four factories in the industrial area of Braga and produce aluminum die castings for many customers in the electrical, automotive, aircraft and lighting industries. About 75% of the production is ordered by foreign customers.



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