Case Story.
Reconditioning Schött GmbH.
Case Story.
Bühler Retrofit – impressive solutions from Lake Garda.

Hustle and bustle permeates the big hall. Here and there you can hear the buzz of a drilling machine, now and again muffled hammering from different directions, and in the background, the steady, uniform humming of a milling machine. The venue is the manufacturing facilities of the Brescia-Presse Company, the Italian specialists for high-quality reconditioning of die casting machines. This is where the second casting machine made by Schött Druckguss GmbH can be found, currently undergoing a comprehensive fitness program.

Schött Druckguss GmbH with headquarters in Menden has been at home in the world of die casting since 1963. The core business of this innovative company lies in the production of die-cast functional elements made of aluminum. 250 employees produce about 13 million parts per year. “Continuous use for multi-shift operations over many years takes its toll. The general overhaul of various die casting machines stands out in my mind as evidence of that” says Detlef Rissenbeck, Production Manager at the Schött Company in regards to the overhauling of his machines.

“We took advantage of the economic slump of 2009 to modernize our manufacturing capacity in order to gear up for the upswing.” Their investment program also included the renovation of two Buhler SCD 66 die casting machines.

An Expense that Pays Off
“Careful and precise reconditioning can hardly be done in the harsh environment of a foundry. The most efficient way proved to be sending our machines to the Brescia-Presse factory, the reconditioning partner of the Buhler Company” says Rissenbeck. If you look at the high standards of accuracy required for overhauling components and the degree of precision and cleanliness required for reassembling the components, there is hardly any way around having such work performed in a plant specifically set up for that purpose. This is an expense that definitely pays off both for partial as well as general overhauling, since experience has shown that it takes an enormous amount of time and effort to complete such work in a foundry with running operations, not to mention that the required degree of quality can never be reached. When Brescia-Presse reconditions a machine, all core components of the die casting machine are checked very carefully. The assemblies are broken down to their individual parts, cleaned and checked in detail in terms of their condition and reusability. Wear
parts are replaced or repaired whenever necessary and feasible. The machines are overhauled according to Buhler standards. This ensures the compatibility of the components. Any machine overhauled by Brescia Presse thus remains an original Buhler machine. In terms of technical support, the existing service network of the manufacturer can also be accessed. This is an essential point for some customers.

**Interesting Insights and Lasting Memories**

During the overhaul, the Project Manager for Schött Druckguss GmbH was afforded the rare opportunity to examine the machine when it was completely disassembled. This was also appreciated, since it made it possible to form an impression of the actual state of the machine and to determine the next steps to be taken quickly and efficiently. “We really appreciated this openness and reinforced our trust in the course of action and quality of the work performed by Brescia Presse” commented Detlef Rissenbeck regarding the professional approach. Only a few weeks later, the newly overhauled die casting machine was reassembled and completely connected, ready for approval. All of the tests that could be run in a dry state were conducted and logged, once again in the customer’s presence. “Our visual impression of the machine was very good. We had no complaints about the work performed” acknowledged a satisfied Detlef Rissenbeck. Both visits to the Brescia-Presse factory were very insightful and left lasting memories – and not just due to the excellent cuisine of the Brescia region!

**Transparency builds Trust**

The transparency of how the entire job was handled was also appreciated. Already with the first budget offer showed what the customer could expect: “The statements were clear and the final price of the overhaul still came in below the planned budget amount despite additional work performed.” This was also due to the fact that not all of the overhaul work initially planned for proved to be necessary. The Schött Company was really impressed by that degree of honesty: “The services provided by the Buhler’s partner company are very good. We were very impressed with their fast reaction times and open dialog was consistently maintained”, concluded Rissenbeck about the smooth cooperation with the Italians.

**Portrait of the “Brescia Presse” Company**

The Brescia Presse company has specialized in reconditioning die casting machines made by all of the notable European manufacturers for over 25 years. In their Castel Mella reconditioning facilities in Brescia (Italy), they perform partial and general overhauls of every type of machine with up to 2500 tons of locking force. Reconditioned machines are delivered all over the world. Bühler Druckguss AG and Brescia Presse have been collaborating closely in the field of die casting machines since 2005. This has resulted in the creation of an excellent reconditioning program, particularly for overhauling Bühler machines.