

Press release

European technology cooperation agreement opens up opportunities for industrial valve and safety technology

Establishment of the latest generation of shape memory alloys in the chemical industry and power plant technology

Bochum, Oberentfelden and Olten, November 22, 2024:

EQE AG, Ornot Consulting GmbH and Ingpuls GmbH are pleased to announce that they have entered into a strategic cooperation.

On July 4, 2024, the management of the companies signed a cooperation agreement for the joint development, production and international marketing of innovative valves, fittings and actuators based on shape memory alloys. The companies and the executives got to know each other several years ago during a project to develop a SMA leak stop valve for the Gösgen nuclear power plant in Switzerland.

Leo Ornot characterizes the potential of the shape memory technique as follows:

“The development of the passive leak stop valve with the high-temperature SMA springs ($AF > 200^{\circ}\text{C}$) has shown that linear movements can also be realized without electric, pneumatic or hydraulic drives if you understand how to use the energy provided in the system. The development of SMA applications for the industrial sector has enormous economic potential. In my opinion, however, it also has the potential to develop into an independent area of drive technology alongside electric, hydraulic and pneumatic drives, with the possibility of saving weight, energy and components.”

Dr. Burkhard Maaß, founder and Managing Director of Ingpuls GmbH, describes the roots of the collaboration: *„The leak stop valve in the Gösgen nuclear power plant utilizes unique components made from high-temperature shape memory alloys that no one else in the world manufactures. The thermally activated safety valve serves a critical function in the power plant that could not previously be achieved with conventional solutions. It therefore contributes to the safety of technical systems in an innovative way. We see the partnership with the internationally renowned nuclear technology expert Leo Ornot and EQE AG from Switzerland as the ideal constellation to expand our technical developments in the future not only in the nuclear technology sector, but also in conventional power plants and other industrial sectors.“*

Alexander Menges, Managing Director of EQE AG, summarizes the cooperation to date and the outlook as follows: *„ Solving technical challenges is in our DNA. New technology combined with established solutions and the curiosity to discover new things have motivated us to take up the challenge. Together with our partners, we have succeeded in designing a new product group that will revolutionize power plant and system technology. We are delighted to be part of the team and to be able to bring new innovation to existing plants and new buildings.“*

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