A tool of the first hour finds its way back to Heitec

HEITEC
HEISSKANALTECHNIK

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Rather by chance, the company Heitec Heisskanaltechnik GmbH from Burgwald-Bottendorf was able to recover a double hot runner system from the early years of the company's history and present it to the public on time for its 30th anniversary.

In mid-2017, the company TG Kunststofftechnik from Erndtebrück sent a nozzle with a heating defect to Heitec for repair. In the course of repairing the First Line nozzle, the hot runner specialists discovered from the nozzle test number that the nozzle was originally part of a double hot runner system that was manufactured and delivered in 1988. It turned out after talking to TG Kunststofftechnik that the system had been in use unchanged in its initial configuration until the nozzle heating failed. To date, TG Kunststofftechnik had used it to produce several million siphon bases for sanitary facilities.

In consultation with TG Kunststofftechnik, it was decided to replace the complete system. A win-win situation emerged for both sides: Heitec was able to regain a system from the early years of the company's history. It is to be the foundation stone for a small company museum. In return, TG Kunststofftechnik received a more energy-efficient and state-of-the-art hot runner tool. The tool only required minimal alterations. The mould plate could be transferred unchanged since the outer contour of the nozzles has changed only slightly over time. Thus, the current nozzles fit perfectly into the installation space from 1988. The original, functional manifold, which still consisted of node elements, was replaced by a modern externally heated manifold, so that adjustments in the area of the frame and clamping plate were necessary. The construction manager of TG Kunststofftechnik, Lothar Treude, was satisfied with the result. "We were able to pick up the tool with the new hot runner, install it and all was up and running again. That's what I appreciate about working with Heitec."

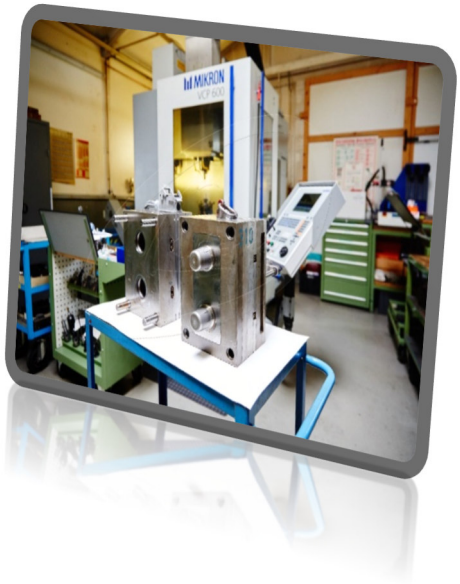
For the managing partner and co-founder of Heitec, Hans Schreck, things have come full circle with the conversion: "For us, it is a huge opportunity to get back such an old system and to be able to integrate it into the new company museum as an exhibit. It is very nice to see that our hot runner system, just like a plastic part, has survived for almost 30 years. The system shows not only the longevity of our products, but also how the production of such systems has changed over time. I made the drawings on parchment paper using

ink. In today’s digitized world, this is hardly conceivable.

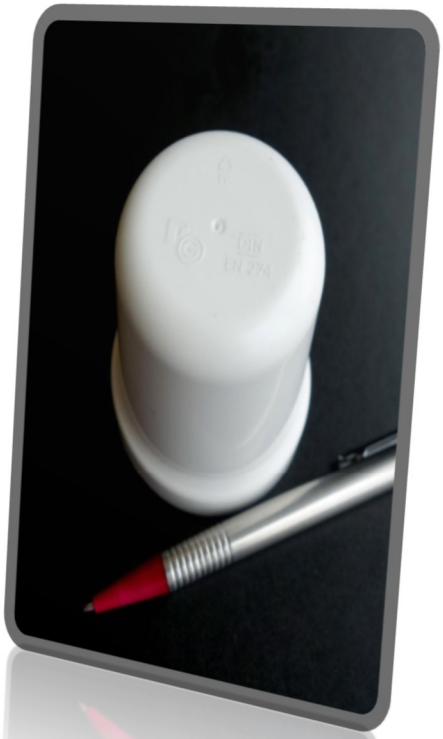
The 29-yearold
hot runner system and the Heitec team

Lothar Treude (left) and Nick Floßbach from Heitec discuss the conversion options
for the old hot runner system on the basis of the drawing from 1998. (Picture – K-Profi)

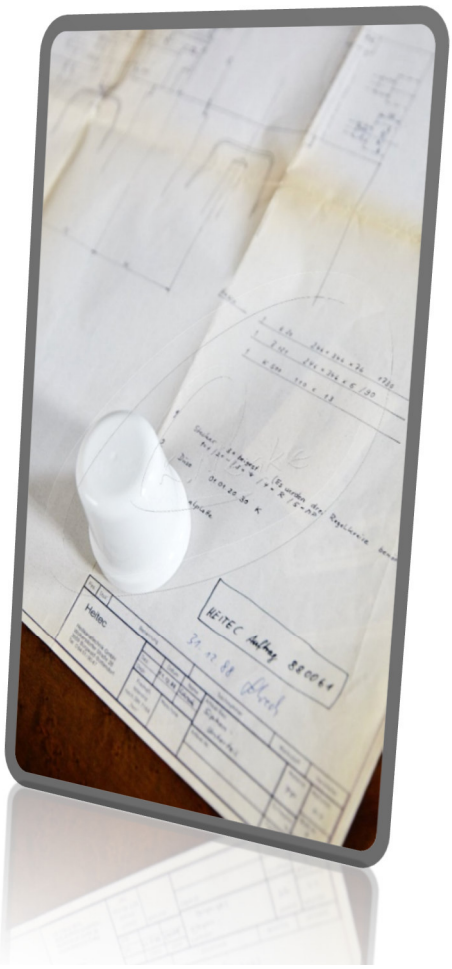
Heitec had just five employees in 1988 when the hot runner system was developed and manufactured. Today, more than 100 people are employed at Heitec. The then still small company now operates worldwide with 28 representatives in Germany and abroad. The product portfolio ranges from open systems and valve gate systems to fully wired hot halves and control technology. A control unit developed in-house for electric valve gate actuators completes the range.



The 29-yearold
2-cavity mould with a new hot runner.
(Picture – K-Profi)



The siphon base is injected directly from the centre of the cap.



At the end of 1988 Hans Schreck drew the first hot runner for the PP siphon base with ink.
(Picture – K-Profi)