

ANDRITZ Schuler and WF Maschinenbau enter into strategic cooperation

Göppingen/Sendenhorst, 24. April 2026. **ANDRITZ Schuler Pressen GmbH and WF Maschinenbau und Blechformtechnik GmbH & Co. KG have entered into a cooperation agreement in the field of manufacturing high-strength, closed-base precision tubes. The objective of the partnership is to combine specialized forming processes in order to manufacture technically demanding hollow-body components for mission-critical applications more efficiently.**

Integration of forging, flow forming and necking-in

The scope of the cooperation covers system concepts for the production of **large-format metal cases or metal shells**, as used across various industries, including the defense sector. The core technologies of both companies are combined: forging with hydraulic presses (ANDRITZ Schuler) with flow forming and necking-in (WF Maschinenbau), jointly meeting the highest requirements for ballistic precision and material strength.

Starting from forged preforms from ANDRITZ Schuler, further shaping is carried out using WF Maschinenbau's flow forming and hot spinning processes. This combination enables targeted improvements in material efficiency and manufacturing flexibility for the production of **thin-walled yet extremely pressure-resistant tube components**. „The cooperation with ANDRITZ Schuler allows us to integrate our technologies into higher-level system concepts. Together, we create the foundation for coordinated process chains in the manufacturing of **large format metal cases**,“ said Christian Malkemper, Managing Director of WF Maschinenbau.

Advantages of the combined process chain

The integrated process chain of forging/pressing and flow forming/necking-in offers manufacturers of high-precision hollow bodies decisive economic and technological advantages:

- **Integrated turnkey solution:** ANDRITZ Schuler and WF Maschinenbau jointly provide a coordinated process chain, from preform design through to the finished **hollow body**.
- **Reduced material input:** Depending on the variant, raw material weight is reduced by up to 15% with a direct impact on material costs and procurement logistics.
- **Optimized material utilization:** Coordinated process steps maximize material utilization. Machining is reduced to a minimum.

- **Reproducible internal geometry:** Flow forming ensures a precise, process-stable internal contour of the shell, which is a fundamental prerequisite for ballistic reliability.
- **Industrial scalability:** Systems are designed for series production with high cycle-rate capability.

European manufacturing competency in focus

Against the backdrop of rising demands for industrial manufacturing capacities in the defense sector, ANDRITZ Schuler and WF Maschinenbau are bundling their expertise in a strategic partnership. Both companies have many years of experience in the development and manufacturing systems for demanding metal forming processes. „We see it as our responsibility to actively drive technological advancement. The aim of this cooperation is to offer our customers an expanded process spectrum in order to realize the technically and economically best solution for each application.“, said Patric Winterhalter, Director Hydraulic Presses at ANDRITZ Schuler.

As part of the strategic cooperation, ANDRITZ Schuler and WF Maschinenbau will present their joint system and process concepts at the international trade fair Eurosatory from June 15 to 19, 2026 in Paris.

About WF Maschinenbau

Founded in 1975 in Sendenhorst, Westphalia, WF Maschinenbau und Blechformtechnik GmbH & Co. KG has been developing and producing highly efficient special-purpose machines for chipless metal forming for over fifty years. The company is regarded as an innovation leader in flow forming and metal spinning technology and is among the most experienced manufacturers worldwide of systems for flow forming, metal spinning, necking-in and shear forming.

All machines are developed and manufactured exclusively in Germany. WF Maschinenbau operates its own R&D Center for metal forming, where new manufacturing processes are developed and validated under near-series conditions, also on behalf of customers. Customers from the automotive industry, aerospace, energy, and defense sectors rely on WF Maschinenbau systems worldwide.

WF Maschinenbau is part of the mpool group, Düsseldorf; around 110 employees are based at the Sendenhorst site.

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About ANDRITZ Metals

ANDRITZ Metals is – via ANDRITZ Schuler – one of the world's leading suppliers of technologies, plants and digital solutions in metal forming. The product portfolio also includes automation and software solutions, process know-how and service. In the metals processing segment, the business area offers innovative, sustainable and market-leading solutions for the production and processing of flat products, for welding systems and furnaces with its own burner solutions, as well as services for the metals processing industry.