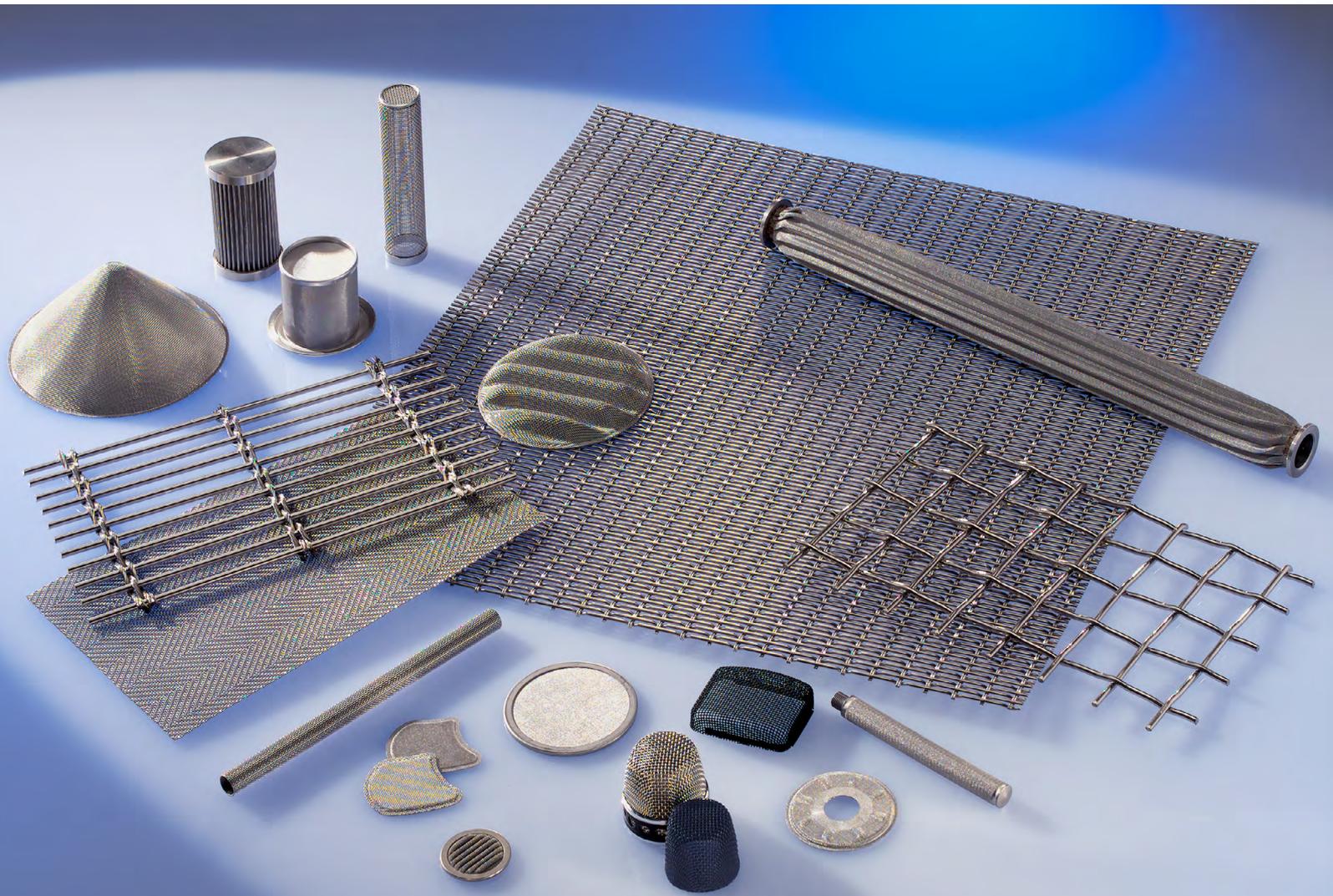


**HAYER & BOECKER**



**DIE DRAHTWEBER**

# **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN WIRE MESH PRODUCTION. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ALL AREAS.**



# ENQUIRED.

**Detlef John is engineering manager at Haver & Boecker's Wire Weaving Division and has been with the company since 1989. In this interview, he talks about the digital transformation in the production of woven wire cloth, innovative materials and his own personal recipe for success.**



**Mr John, you have been with Haver & Boecker for 32 years. What has changed since you joined the company?**

An incredible amount has happened in all areas of our operation since then. To summarise it in one sentence: we have evolved from a wire weaving company with an artisan-style filter fabrication and have become a product and process designer for wire mesh products.

**What are your most important challenges at the moment?**

Our clear objective in the Wire Weaving Division is to always remain on an equal footing with our customers. Their challenges are also our challenges. That's the reason why everything is currently dominated by digital transformation. With the introduction of SAP, we are able to capture our process data at the source. We are pushing the digital transformation of our entire production with the "HB-Falcon", a self-developed modular digital platform. This platform is creating detailed analysis of our machine and production data as well as it integrates integrating tools like SAP, MES and an asset management system. The great advantage is, that we have full access to the software and it can be expanded by ourselves. The "HB-Falcon" is so to speak the 'sharp eye' on our production.

Our machines will be additionally equipped with communication interfaces that will allow new dimensions in the speed and analysis of data. The focus here is on the complete process chain comprising planning, production, QA, maintenance and logistics.

But our main attention is always the intense work on innovative solutions made of new types of wire mesh and manufactured on highly automated product lines. We're currently investing a lot of time and energy in the expansion

of our plastics injection moulding production. In this area, for example, we have developed a new PEEK material, used for overmolding filters and fabricated parts.

**What innovations are you currently planning for your production?**

We are continuously working on new developments for our weaving machines. In our in-house toolmaking department we manufacture self-engineered production lines and the tooling according to customer needs. Generally, only these machines are able to meet the exact requirements for the precise production of highly complex mesh.

If it's reasonable, we are also increasingly augmenting our production with innovative automation technology such as robots and our own camera system. The installation of a new laser welding line will strengthen our technical competence of our filter fabrication. We still have a lot on our agenda!

**You are highly regarded in our company as a person with exceptional experience and professionalism. Would you tell us what your personal recipe for success is?**

This is the interaction of many factors - but the focus is undoubtedly on a good team. This is exactly what I've been able to rely on without reservation since I joined Haver & Boecker.

My very personal recipe for success is a combination of analytical thinking and ample pragmatism, a knowledge that are based on my apprenticeship as a tool maker and my engineering degree. My daily work requires a well-balanced amount of empathy and assertiveness and, last but not least, hard work and my personal critical reflection, which for me are indispensable.

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