

Glob

+GF+

THE GLOBAL MAGAZINE
FOR GF EMPLOYEES

ISSUE 2 - 2018

With heart and hound

Dog trainer Igor Boni from
GF Piping Systems in Caselle
di Selvazzano (Italy)



Going upward

GF Machining Solutions
in North America realized
a new storage system

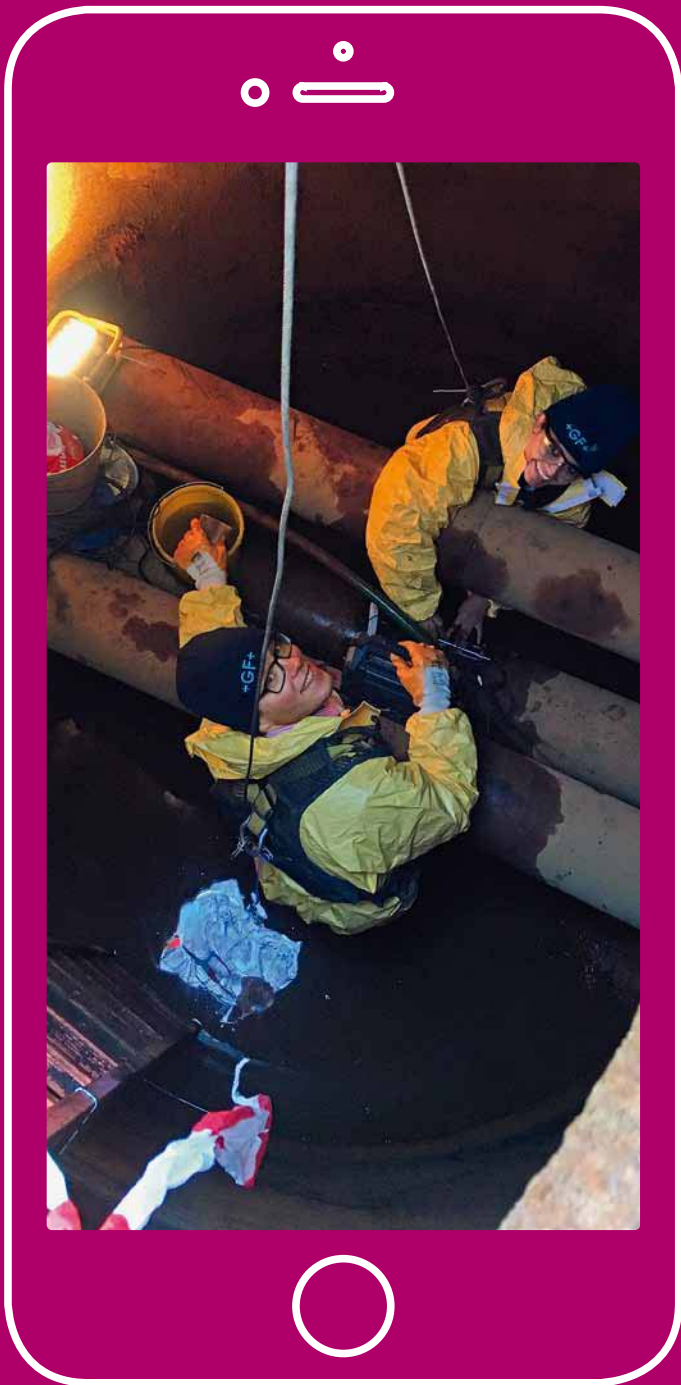
Lightweight design

GF Casting Solutions delivers
11 ultra-light castings for the
new Audi A8

Value Selling

The corporate initiative places
particular emphasis on added
value for customers

HELLO!



Antoine Walter

Ham (Belgium),
March 20, 2018,
4:00 p.m.

At this time, I (I.) was testing the welds of a PE-100 pipe from 1994 for a customer. The test went well and was a key milestone, as this is our first European reference for Non-Destructive-Testing (NDT) services!

Antoine Walter is Project Service Sales Manager at GF Piping Systems in Schaffhausen (Switzerland).





**JOIN IN
AND WIN!**

What are you doing on
June 18, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. local time?
Send your snapshot with "Hello!" in the
subject line and a short description to:
globe@georgfischer.com
All entries will be included in our
competition on page 40.



Eric Lentz

Lincolnshire (USA),
March 20, 2018,
4:00 p.m.

On this day, I (L.) and my colleague Ed (2nd f.l.) had a machine training at the GF Machining Solutions demo center. The picture shows us in front of a Mikron Milling Machine with our Application Engineering colleagues while discussing an emergency situation.

Eric Lentz is Applications Engineer at GF Machining Solutions in Lincolnshire (USA).



You can find further submissions
to HELLO! online at
globe.georgfischer.com

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OUR MARKETS

New name, new markets

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Ask more questions and be an active listener

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My jewel

Vanessa Enrech from GF Machining Solutions raves about Barcelona, the city in which she grew up.



EDITORIAL

Global presence

Dear colleagues,

In the history of any company like GF, which has been around for over 200 years, you will find important milestones. Such as when GF bought the Klostergut Paradies convent in Schlatt (Switzerland), 100 years ago. Many of you will be familiar with the property that we now use as a training center: our very own GF campus in a beautiful location on the banks of the Rhine. We will be marking the centenary with a number of events. If you find yourself attending a seminar at the former convent this year, I can recommend taking a look at the impressive photo exhibition that has been put together to commemorate the jubilee.

There are several parallels between the histories of GF and Klostergut Paradies. Above all, change has been a constant companion. Both the company and the convent have repeatedly questioned tried-and-tested methods, seeking out new avenues to explore. The name change from GF Automotive to GF Casting Solutions is another significant milestone: the rebranding reflects a stronger emphasis on the industrial sector. The portfolio expansion has been driven by the acquisition of the Swiss company Precicast, which specializes in manufacturing complex components for aircraft engines and industrial gas turbines (see page 22).

In addition to Precicast, last year GF acquired Eucasting, a die-casting specialist based in Romania. As of this issue, Globe will also be available in Romanian. We are delighted that our new colleagues now have an opportunity to learn more about the world of GF. To find out more about the presence of GF around the world, check out the world map in this issue.

I hope you have an informative and entertaining read.

Beat Römer
Head of Corporate Communications



IN BRIEF

Optimized: The angular socket with a compatible base and the casing box made of transparent plastic simplify installation.



ANNIVERSARY

A revolution turns 40

It is now 40 years since JRG Sanipex was launched to the market. As the first drinking water installation system with an exchangeable pipe setup, Sanipex revolutionized sanitary engineering, particularly in central Europe. To mark the anniversary, two products were optimized and presented at the Swissbau construction trade fair in Basel (Switzerland) in January and at the IFH/Intherm trade fair in Nuremberg (Germany) in April: the much used pipe socket and the casing box. ■



ISO CERTIFICATION

Production guaranteed

The production site in Losone (Switzerland) has become the first GF location to have its business continuity management system certified as ISO 22301-compliant. The certification confirms that the production of EDM machines and replacement parts will be maintained in the event of a malfunction or breakdown. In the longer term, all GF Machining Solutions facilities will comply with this ISO standard. ■



FOCUS ON AEROSPACE

New Center of Competence

On April 25, 2018, GF Machining Solutions opened a new Aerospace and Energy Center of Competence in Huntersville (USA). The new center brings together GF Machining Solutions and Liechti Engineering, which were previously located at sites a few miles apart. Extending over an area of around 2'000 square meters, the new Center of Competence contains modern office space and training rooms, plus the largest machine demonstration space for GF in North America. The site is the only place in the USA to perform live demonstrations of a Liechti 5-axis milling machine, which is used to manufacture turbine blades and blisks for aircraft engines. The center also provides a display area for presenting new product lines and solutions, such as from System 3R. ■



Philipp Hauser, Head of Turbine Group/ Liechti Americas (c.), opens the new center of competence in Huntersville, USA, together with Jill Swain, Executive Director Huntersville Chamber of Commerce, Pascal Boillat, Head of GF Machining Solutions, Mark Sanhamel, Director of Operations GF Machining Solutions, and Scott Fosdick, President Market Region Americas (f.l.t.r.).





GLOBE NOW ALSO IN ROMANIAN

Globe is now available not only in German, English, French, Italian, Turkish, Spanish, and Chinese but also in Romanian. We hope all our new readers enjoy reading our magazine!

100'000

PRODUCT RANGE

Finding products more quickly

With some 100'000 items, the digital product catalog of GF Piping Systems gives a comprehensive overview of the division's product range. The online catalog is the most visited section of the GF Piping Systems website and is continuously being enhanced. Work is currently underway on an advanced filter search so that in future, customers can find the product they want more quickly and easily. ■



More pictures and videos on the news in brief at globe.georgfischer.com

PRODUCT IN FIGURES



percent more orders: the milling machine business at GF Machining Solutions recorded remarkable growth worldwide compared to the 2016 figures. In 2017 the division sold a total of 1'009 milling machines in 30 countries across five continents, comprising 485 standard machining centers, 257 high-speed milling machines, 205 high-performance milling machines, and 62 Liechti milling machines. These are used to produce everything from the smallest of components measuring just a millimeter up to tooling for heavy machinery and the transport sector weighing up to four tons. At present, GF Machining Solutions produces its milling machines at its own sites in Nidau and Langnau [Switzerland] and in Changzhou [China]. Next year, a new site is set to be opened in Biel [Switzerland].

First product introduced: 1966

Most recent milling machine series: Mikron MILL S

Most important customer segments: Information and communications technology, automotive industry, aerospace

Product range: From components measuring just a millimeter up to machinery weighing four tons



**THE PHOTO BOOK
CAN BE ORDERED
from eisenbibliothek@
georgfischer.com
UNTIL JULY 31,
2018**

ANNIVERSARY

100 years of GF at Klostersgut Paradies

GF has been the proud owner of the listed Klostersgut Paradies convent close to its headquarters in Schaffhausen (Switzerland) for 100 years. Today, the former convent houses a modern seminar and training center. The anniversary year kicked off in March with an official ceremony at the convent attended by more than 80 guests from politics, business and society. Anyone interested in learning more about the convent's eventful history can visit a photographic exhibition on the subject that will be open until the end of the year. Employees who would like to receive a free copy of the beautiful illustrated book with historic photos of GF can order this from the Iron Library team until July 31. ■

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

GF Automotive becomes GF Casting Solutions

GF Automotive had announced its acquisition of Precicast, a precision casting specialist with around 750 employees, in early 2018. The Swiss company manufactures components made of complex alloys for aircraft engines and gas turbines. The acquisition underlines the division's strategy of expanding into new promising markets. To better reflect the development of the portfolio, GF Automotive was renamed GF Casting Solutions following successful conclusion of the transaction in mid-April 2018. More about the future positioning of the division on page 22. ■

AWARD

Outstanding performances

In March, CEO Yves Serra again rewarded outstanding team performances at GF. The well-known Gold Awards were handed over at the Corporate Convention, which was held in Marbella (Spain) this year. Two companies from China and one from Sweden were honored for their particular achievements in 2017. Awards were received as follows: for GF Piping Systems Honggao Li, CEO of the Chinaust Group, Zhuozhou City (China); for GF Casting Solutions Wei Cui, Managing Director, Kunshan (China); and for GF Machining Solutions Henrik Sedvallson, Managing Director of System 3R, Vällingby (Schweden). ■



CEO Yves Serra presented the well-known Gold Awards for outstanding teamwork at the Corporate Convention in Marbella.

TWO POINTS OF VIEW

“Think global, act local.” What does this mean for your work?

Before 2017, we had strategic procurement teams for Commodity Management in Switzerland and in China, and operative purchasing teams in each manufacturing location. We then decided to take advantage of global purchasing opportunities for our division and restructured the strategic procurement organization. In the new setup, we identify groups of commodities for which either a global or a regional approach is most effective.

For this to work well, our global commodity managers regularly sit together with local teams and discuss how best to realize different projects. Despite our global approach, we're still very much aware of the need for local expertise. When we come to China and meet suppliers, for example, we always have our local colleagues with us; this is especially important to our partners.

Today, we work in a very international environment. I am from Russia, my colleagues are from Italy, Germany, Turkey, and the USA. We work with colleagues from China and Sweden daily. We all have a global vision grounded in local thinking. ■



Irina Frost
As Head of Global Commodity Management at GF Machining Solutions in Nidau (Switzerland), Irina Frost understands that local relationships are key to making a global strategy successful.



Thinking globally, acting locally, this is what we do every day. All kinds of nationalities live in the UAE and foreigners represent 80 percent of the population.

Customers come to us because we are able to provide them with high-quality products from all continents and we can work with all kinds of specifications. In a project for the local airport in Abu-Dhabi, for example, we used GF Piping Systems products from Italy, Switzerland, the USA, and the Netherlands.

Most of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries do not have national standards. So we have to deal with the BSI British Standards, the German DIN, the International ISO and the American ASMT. You need to know the different requirements, the products, and their specifications. What is applicable depends on the project, on the engineers, consultants, and designers.

We also work closely with locals. They are few, but they are the decision makers in the companies, authorities, and ministries. My being Moroccan and speaking Arabic is an advantage, as we share the same culture and mentality. ■

Abdelfattah Bensammoud

Regional Sales Manager Abdelfattah Bensammoud leads projects for GF Piping Systems in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In this part of the world, local projects are handled mostly with the support of experts from all over the world.



More pictures of Irina Frost and Abdelfattah Bensammoud at globe.georgfischer.com

MADE IT!
VERTICAL STORAGE SYSTEM

Going upward

Thanks to a new vertical storage system at the GF Machining Solutions logistics center in North America, orders can be processed more quickly than ever.

The North American logistics center of GF Machining Solutions in Woodridge, Illinois (USA) has set the bar high. Every day, the center's 21 employees get more than 300 parcels out the door and on the way to customers on time. Over the years, customers have come to expect high availability of a wide range of parts and consumables as well as next-day delivery in urgent cases. Mark Sanhamel, Director of Operations, and Stan Pokrzywa, Operations Manager, have the task of ensuring that the center lives up to these expectations.

More items needing less space

In 2016, Stan Pokrzywa noticed that the 30-year-old carousel – a horizontal storage system – was beginning to show signs of age. In the worst case, a major breakdown could put the logistics center out of operation for up to a week. Thus, the decision was made to replace the old system, a project Mark Sanhamel and Stan Pokrzywa took on together. After having reviewed different options, they decided on the Modula, a vertical storage solution that saves space. In contrast to the old system, the new one takes advantage of all the space in the nearly 3'000 m² logistics hall, namely by going upward with a lift system. On a footprint of just 50 m² and at a height of just over nine meters, three Modulas have been installed with a total capacity of up to 12'000 items. "Currently we only store around 8'000 items, so we still have some space to grow," comments Mark Sanhamel. Aside from recovering 50 percent floor space, the highly automated system also improves the picking and replenishment of goods.

Guided by light

The Modulas are connected to the site's enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. This ensures that customer orders are automatically transferred to the logistics center. The fact that the IT team was able to integrate the storage solution into the existing ERP and warehouse management systems has made the GF Machining Solutions' North American logistics center a showcase for the industry.

Overall the system not only saves space and time but also further enhances the reliability of order processes. When the software of the storage system receives an order, stocked trays are automatically delivered to the operator. LED display bars and lasers indicate which part to pick and light up a bin in which to place the part, each bin representing a customer order. The replenishment process, too, is supported by LED and laser. This advanced technology significantly improves ergonomics in the workplace as unnecessary bending, reaching, and walking are eliminated.

Smooth operation

During the two-month integration period operators continued to fulfill orders, at times picking from both the old and new storage systems. Best of all, there was zero downtime and no impact on GF customers.

The solution is well accepted by employees, as they can process higher volumes with less stress and physical strain. Yet more than anything, the logistics center can continue to meet the needs of customers in North America, and Mark Sanhamel and Stan Pokrzywa can rest assured that they have a next-generation system that won't let them down. ■

**AT A GLANCE****The site:**

GF Machining Solutions
in Woodridge (USA)

The task:

Implement a modern vertical
storage system

The aim:

Increase storage volume on
a smaller footprint and help
operators to process customer
orders more quickly

The timeframe:

Two months

The result:

Successful system integration
with no impact on running op-
erations. Today, employees can
easily process higher volumes
with greater accuracy



More pictures and a video
at globe.georgfischer.com



Mark Sanhamel, Director of Operations (L.), and Stan Pokrzywa, Operations Manager, introduced a space-saving vertical storage system at the North American logistics center of GF Machining Solutions.

COVER STORY
DOG TRAINER IGOR BONI

With heart and hound

When training dogs, Igor Boni is constantly communicating with the animal, be it loudly or quietly, or with his eyes or body. Monitoring and standards are just as important to him here as in his job as quality control expert at GF Piping Systems.

His gaze turns to the ground. "Do you have any other shoes with you?" "No." "OK, they'll have to do." His handshake is firm, the greeting friendly. His informal tone creates a relaxed atmosphere straight away and whets the appetite for an exciting day ahead. "Ciao, I'm Igor," he introduces himself, his eyes twinkling congenially. The torrents of rain pouring from the sky are forgotten for a moment.

Igor is Igor Boni, 43 years young and a quality control expert at Georg Fischer Omicron S.r.l., a company belonging to GF Piping Systems. When he's not at his work in Caselle di Selvazzano you can mostly find him here at

the dog training ground in Albignasego, which is about a 20-minute drive south of the Italian city of Padua. This is where he spends more than 100 days a year, come rain, shine, wind, or cloud. "It was 40 degrees Celsius when we had our first training session," Igor recalls. Today it's raining, and raining hard. The training ground is under water. Some more suitable shoes would be worth their weight in gold.

The "Addestratore" is top dog around here

Igor Boni is a true dog-lover. He's been training dogs for three years, both his own dogs and those belonging to other people, ten in all so far. "I like Dobermans the best," says Igor proudly. Why? "Because they're full of energy, >





Name: Igor Boni

Position: Quality control expert

Division: GF Piping Systems

Site: Caselle di Selvazzano (Italy)

At GF since: 1998

Remarkable: He spends more than 100 days a year at the training ground



Totally focused: Igor Boni and Doberman Saphy during an energy-sapping defense exercise (above) with a treat afterwards (right). Different people have different requirements regarding a dog. Participant Antonia doesn't let her disability stop her from training her dog Coco (below).



› like me,” he answers with a grin on his face. And because they are loyal, reliable, and honest. “A dog gives you everything without expecting anything back in return. It doesn’t care who or what you are. The only thing that matters is that you’re there.” You feel you can trust Igor straight away.

To qualify as a trainer for service dogs and guard dogs, Igor learned an awful lot of material and passed numerous exams, attending around 250 hours of theory courses and working practically with dogs. Even now, he still keeps up to date with the latest practical exercises. Part of the reason he has come this far is his second Doberman Saphy, back than a young dog, and an animal full of boundless energy. Together they attended an introductory course for service dogs and guard dogs. “Both Saphy and I had a lot of fun on the course,” says Igor. “When the trainer saw how much effort we were putting in and how committed we were, he suggested I become a trainer myself.” That was three years ago now.

Igor opens the door to the enclosed training ground, which has a sign on it saying “Access only for members of the DOG Club”. In the meantime he’s swapped his jeans and pullover for protective trousers and a protective jacket. While Saphy snaps at raindrops,

«A dog gives you everything without expecting anything back in return. It doesn’t care who or what you are. The only thing that matters is that you’re there.»

Igor Boni
Quality control expert
at GF Piping Systems

Igor slips the bite-resistant sleeve onto his left arm and gets into position. Suddenly, shouts ring out across the training ground. There’s a feeling of aggressiveness in the air. Saphy pricks up her ears, her tail becomes stiff, and the dog’s well-defined muscles tense under her fur. Igor swings a stick in the air with his right arm and calls in her direction. He provokes and aggravates Saphy. The Doberman digs her paws into the wet ground and sprints the 20 meters to Igor at full pace. And a mere fraction of a second later, the 32 kg animal sinks her teeth into Igor’s protective sleeve. Igor remains steady. He starts to run, but the dog holds his protective sleeve firmly between her teeth. Igor continues to swing the stick in the air as if he were going to hit her but Saphy doesn’t let go. Loud growls and shouts are followed by the signal “Stop!” and then a “Well done!” just afterwards. Just as the situation turned serious out of nowhere, all tension has now vanished in a matter of seconds. Saphy wags her tail, pants, and looks for some attention from Igor. Igor looks back at Saphy – still out of breath from running across the training ground with the dog holding onto his sleeve.

Body language, look, and voice are what create a connection

“The dog absolutely has to pass the test,” explains Igor. Only then may it go forward to the next stage of training. “Even if it does something right ten times in a row but gets it wrong the eleventh time, it’s the negative experience that sticks in its mind.” And because dogs only have a short concentration span they can only be trained intensively for 15 minutes at a time. “That’s like a person concentrating very hard on something for three hours,” explains Igor. Saphy passed her guard dog test with flying colors and was allowed to go back to her box to rest and take on board what she had learned. And the reward for her hard work? A nice piece of meat. In the meantime, Igor takes a slightly more gentle tone with another Doberman out on the training ground. He teaches the owner how to lead her puppy the right way. Igor motivates the participants and is in constant contact with the owner and the dog using his body language, eyes, and voice. He gives commands in Italian, “Seduta, terra” and in German, “Sitz, Platz” (“sit, down”). He gives the owner clear instructions and corrections and has positive reinforcement and a piece of sausage for the dog.

Community and communication, both at GF and on the training ground

Time for lunch. The Milan Stardust trattoria directly next to the training ground serves wonderful and simple Italian home cooking. ›

3 DOG TIPS FROM IGOR BONI

1

When buying a dog you should definitely seek expert advice. An expert will know what breed and what puppy with what kind of character is right for you. A dog is not a toy, but a wonderful part of life. Depending on the breed, dogs can grow pretty big. That means it’s essential to think hard about what kind of person you are. If you’re a quiet type who doesn’t like going out, you shouldn’t get a dog that is the opposite of you.

2

If you see a dog on the street, never approach it head-on and hold or pat it on its head. The dog may feel like it is being attacked and can react aggressively in self-defense. It is better to approach the dog from the side and hold out your open hand. It can decide for itself if it wants to get to know you.

3

Don’t touch a dog which is already being held by somebody else. The dog may feel threatened and bite you.



Igor Boni's business card
for DOG'S CINOFILIA, his new club



Monitoring, discussing, asking questions: Igor Boni at his workplace at Georg Fischer Omicron. He has worked at the company for 20 years and is proud to be part of the GF family.



› “Do you like it?” Igor repeatedly asks me. And how! Igor and those taking part in the course are in their element: shared experiences with their dogs on the training ground, being together, communication, typical Italian gesticulation, all at the same time, a warm atmosphere. Exchange and a feeling of community are things that Igor appreciates at work, too. The trained mechanic has spent 20 years working at Georg Fischer Omicron S.r.l. in Padua, where GF manufactures butt fusion and electro fusion welding machines for pipes and fittings. As a quality control expert, Igor Boni uses calipers, micrometers, and bore gauges to check the manufactured parts which are later assembled. Does he enjoy his job? “Certainly, because the atmosphere in the GF family is good and my job gives me a good work-life balance.” This means he has enough time for his family and his other hobbies, compound archery and motorcycling.

Igor slides a business card across the table. It reads DOG’S CINOFILIA, a dog-training association which he founded together with his colleague Silvia. “The ink on the certificate has only just dried,” says a proud Igor. “We’re an official association now”. Igor tells us just how much he loves dogs over an after-dinner coffee. “Without my dogs I wouldn’t be me.” And if further proof was needed, he added, visibly moved: “I can’t be without them. When my first Doberman died aged nearly 13, I got a new one shortly afterwards.”

“Ci vediamo,” as they say in Italian. I’ll see you again. It’s time to go. As well as plenty of impressions, some great talks, and a new

way of looking at the relationship between man and man’s best friend, I also go away with wet feet. My gaze drops to the ground. “Do you have any other shoes with you?” I can hear Igor saying in my mind. No. Even so, it was a wonderful experience. ■



More pictures and a video of Igor Boni at globe.georgfischer.com

3x3

1. My favorite morning routine?
2. This always makes me laugh:
3. The best thing about my workplace is ...



Serene Ong
Senior Sales Engineer – Consumables,
GF Machining Solutions,
Singapore



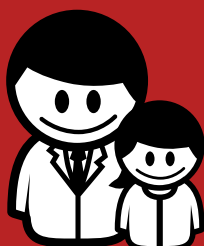
1. Switching on my favourite local radio station.
2. My son imitating a funny face of Sid from Ice Age.

3. ... the feeling of togetherness, harmony and helpfulness.



Kedar Mangaonkar
Plant Controller,
GF Piping Systems,
Ratnagiri (India)

1. Jogging around the park.



2. Talking to my 3-year-old daughter.

3. ... freedom and atmosphere.



Niki Zhang
Quality System Engineer,
GF Casting Solutions,
Suzhou (China)



1. Drinking a glass of water.
2. Playing with my daughter.

3. ... my great workmates.

**JOIN IN
AND
WIN!**

Here are the new questions:

1. Globetrotter or happy on your home turf?
2. My life's motto:
3. In my first job I was ...

Take part and send your answers along with a portrait photo and "3x3" in the subject line to: globe@georgfischer.com
All entries will be included in our competition on page 40.



You can find further submissions to 3x3 online at globe.georgfischer.com

A DAY WITH
JONNY ZHU



Name: Jonny Zhu
Position: Quality Manager
Division: GF Machining Solutions
Site: Changzhou (China)
At GF since: 2016



8:00 a.m.

Jonny starts his day with computer work, checking on open issues that might have been posted. He keeps a particular eye out for installation tickets that the Machine Sales crew has classified as high priority.

On a quality mission

Jonny Zhu is Quality Manager and responsible for product quality control at the GF Machining Solutions site in Changzhou. In his daily work, he strives for continuous improvement.



12:30 p.m.

After lunch, Li Liang, a service engineer from After Sales stops by Jonny's desk. He has an issue with a customer's machine and is seeking advice from the Quality Manager. In a short discussion, they work out a solution: a sealer ring to an oil lubrication filter might help to stop the leakage.



3:00 p.m.

Jonny walks through the production area to see if everything is all right. The GF Machining Solutions site in Changzhou has 8'000 square meters of manufacturing space to produce milling machines for both the domestic and export markets.



9:00 a.m.

Together with his team, Jonny reviews open topics every morning. Special quality meetings called Q-Gate Meetings are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The team discusses open tickets, follows up on related actions, and assesses the results.



11:30 a.m.

Jonny enjoys lunching with his GF Machining Solutions colleagues. He is one of the 194 employees that visit the canteen every day. A meal typically consists of rice, vegetables and meat.



8:00 p.m.

At the end of the day, Jonny looks forward to spending time with his family. When needed, he helps his children with their homework.



More pictures of the day with Jonny Zhu at globe.georgfischer.com

THAT'S HOW IT WORKS!
VALUE-ADDING PROCESS

All from a single source

GF Casting Solutions today is far more than a traditional supplier of casting components. The division offers its customers more and more ready-to-mount solutions by expanding its value-adding processes. One example is the shock tower for BMW, which is manufactured at GF in Altenmarkt (Austria). The component passes seven production steps.

3.

The casting is processed

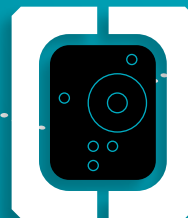
A trimming press removes any excess cast material. Afterwards, small holes are punched into the component which are later required for the connection to other elements in the vehicle. The flash is then sanded off.



1.

The mold is created

Working in close cooperation with the customer BMW, the final geometry of the shock tower is designed to enable its production by die-casting. As a next step, the casting process is simulated on the computer so that the perfect mold can be created. On this basis, the casting tool is made from steel.



2.

The blank is cast

Using the finished mold, the shock tower is cast in aluminum. The liquid metal is shot into the mold at high speed and under high pressure at around 680 degrees Celsius. Afterwards, the cast component is removed from the mold and left to cool.

5.

Holes are drilled

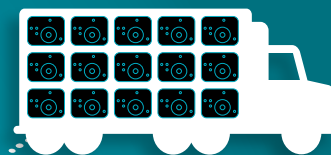
In a fully automated processing cell, robots place the components into the machine where further holes are drilled and milled. These are used to attach the strut and the wishbones of the BMW 7 Series at a later stage.



7.

Ready for the world market

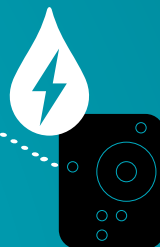
After the painting is completed, the strut mount is delivered to the customers. It will be delivered ready for installation to the BMW factory in Dingolfing (Germany), where the new BMW 7 Series is produced for the entire world market.



6.

The coating stage

To finish off, the shock towers are placed in a cathodic dip coating (CDC) machine. After pretreatment, they are dipped into a tank containing an electrically conductive paint and an electrical charge is applied. The voltage causes the black paint particles to be deposited evenly on the component. Afterwards, the lacquer is hardened in the oven. The hard lacquer provides the metal with long-lasting protection against corrosion and when it is installed it forms the contact surface for the adhesive bond with the add-on chassis components. The CDC machine was installed at the start of 2015 in Altenmarkt, especially for the BMW order. Since then, GF has provided finishing services to other customers, too.



4.

Into the oven

The shock towers are heated to 460 degrees Celsius in a heat treatment furnace and then cooled in an air shower. This gives the components the necessary strength and elasticity to prevent them from cracking during subsequent processing and installation in the vehicle.



The shock tower for the BMW 7 Series is produced at the GF Casting Solutions plant in Altenmarkt.

More and more customers are looking for a partner that covers multiple stages of the value chain and delivers ready-to-mount solutions from a single source. GF Casting Solutions is meeting this rise in demand and increasingly supplying components that are ready for installation. Today, the proportion of machined parts at GF Casting Solutions amounts to about 30 percent. ■

OUR MARKETS
CUSTOMER-SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS

GF Casting Solutions – new name, new markets

Since April 2018, GF Automotive is called GF Casting Solutions. The new name marks a milestone in the implementation of Strategy 2020. As a global solution provider, GF Casting Solutions is now serving more and more customers from the industrial sector.

As of this year, new website content, business cards, and brochures will carry the name of GF Casting Solutions throughout the world. And it will also reach customers from as yet untapped market segments. In line with its Strategy 2020, the division is expanding into higher-margin businesses and offering even more global solutions. It is now broadening its portfolio to facilitate its transition from a player in the automotive business to a global specialist providing customized, ready-to-install solutions. Hence the name GF Casting Solutions reflects the development of the division's portfolio.

A broader customer base

Further evidence of the division's strategy of expanding into higher-margin businesses comes from the acquisition of Precicast Industrial Holding SA in early April. Precicast, a company with production facilities in Switzerland and Romania, is an independent specialist in precision casting whose customers in the aerospace and gas turbine sectors will further strengthen GF's position. These markets will account for something like ten percent of GF Casting Solutions' turnover, with five percent coming from its existing industrial applications business and 85 percent

currently from the traditional automotive business. In addition to its global automotive customers, GF Casting Solutions has now added companies such as GE (General Electric), Safran, and Rolls Royce to its portfolio.

On course for growth

Furthermore, the division also wants to continue to grow its successful automotive business; not so much by selling more, but rather by providing additional, comprehensive solutions. Having so far provided castings to customers' specifications, GF Casting Solutions will in future be offering more ready-to-mount components, such as sill frame members for the new Audi A8 (see page 24). In this regard, the division will be able to make full use of its research and development knowledge.

Trends like e-mobility and lightweight design are among the main drivers of growth in the automotive business. This is where GF Casting Solutions' expertise will make a difference. The industrial applications area is also set for further expansion. GF Casting Solutions is, for example, focusing on industrial lighting solutions or escalator steps. The division is ideally prepared now that it has acquired Eucasting Ro SRL. The aluminum die-casting specialist has two production sites in Romania and generates about 22 percent of its turnover with industrial and street lighting. ■

GF Casting Solutions aims to expand into higher-margin businesses with the acquisition of Precicast.

PRECICAST AT A GLANCE

Founded:
 1970

Locations:
 Novazzano and
 Stabio (Switzerland),
 Arad (Romania)

Workforce:
 Around 750 employees,
 150 of them in Romania

Core competence:
 A precision casting company manufacturing components from special alloys for aircraft engines and industrial gas turbines

Worth knowing:
 It has its own additive manufacturing department



**«Alternative drives,
lightweight design,
or ready-to-mount
components – at
GF Casting Solutions
we have the right
answers to the many
challenges our
customers face. »**

Josef Edbauer,
Head of GF Casting Solutions



Read the full interview
with Josef Edbauer on
globe.georgfischer.com



OUR CUSTOMERS
AUDI



Marc Hummel, Project Manager at Audi, appreciates the personal commitment of GF employees. Here he is with Georg Zerling, Project Manager at GF Casting Solutions, at the site in Herzogenburg (Austria).

Lightweight design for the premium segment

Dynamic, safe and efficient: with the new A8, premium car manufacturer Audi has excelled itself in its core competence of lightweight design. For the car body, the so-called Audi Space Frame, GF Casting Solutions provides eleven ultra-light aluminum and magnesium castings – more than ever before.

The new A8 fully lives up to the “Vorsprung durch Technik” (advancement through technology) slogan of the Ingolstadt-based premium manufacturer. The fourth generation of the luxury sedan impresses not only with the latest technology for highly automated driving but also with its innovative lightweight design. Already back in 1994, with the first generation of the Audi A8, the car manufacturer introduced a revolutionary body construction: the Audi Space Frame. The self-supporting aluminum structure weighed as less as 249 kilograms, making Audi one of the first car manufacturers in the premium segment to focus consistently on lightweight construction and aluminum components.

Unique mix of materials

For the latest generation of its top model, Audi has perfected the legendary Audi Space Frame, also thanks to the expertise of GF Casting Solutions. For the first time an intelligent mix of four materials has been used to further reduce the weight and increase the torsional stiffness of the body structure. GF Casting Solutions provides a total of eleven structural components for the Audi Space Frame: nine parts made of high-strength die-casting aluminum

plus two magnesium components for the front and rear center console. GF Casting Solutions is thereby making a decisive contribution to the intelligent lightweight construction concept of the new A8. Steel and carbon-fiber reinforced polymer (CFRP) complement the innovative material mix.

High customer requirements

“The body of the new Audi A8 requires more large, supporting high-tech structural components casted in light metal than any other car model to date,” says Siegfried Wilhelm, Key Account Manager at GF Casting Solutions. He has been looking after Audi for almost 20 years and understands the customer’s high requirements when it comes to technology and quality. GF Casting Solutions ultimately secured the ambitious A8 contract thanks to its expertise in light metal and its know-how in casting large and complex components.

Significant weight reduction

With the latest generation of its luxury sedan, Audi is setting new standards in the areas of driving dynamics, safety and efficient consumption. The use of very light, yet extremely stable, structural components is a major factor, as for example the increasing amount of electronics adds to the weight of the vehicle. Thanks to the Audi Space Frame, the body of the A8 weighs around 40 percent less than a comparable steel structure. The castings from GF Casting Solutions replace a large number of sheet metal parts with a small number of lightweight structural components. The highly complex geometry of the largest aluminum parts which are connecting the side sills with the rear frame members, could not have been produced in steel. These parts made it possible to further expand the interior of the new A8. In addition, the A8 outperforms the previous model by offering up to 24 percent more torsional stiffness for precise handling and driving comfort. At the same time, the GF castings are used at crash-relevant points of the car body and increase the safety of the large sedan thanks to their high stability. >

The new A8: The fourth generation of the luxury sedan stands out with the latest technologies and innovative lightweight design.





Strong team, strong performance: Among others who worked intensively on the Audi project Markus Beier and Georg Zerling, project managers at GF Casting Solutions Herzogenburg; Christian Platzer, project manager at GF Casting Solutions Altenmarkt; and Siegfried Wilhelm, Key Account Manager at GF Casting Solutions (f.l.t.r.).

› Innovative materials development

The innovative approach to materials and connection technology is essential for ensuring the high level of stiffness of the castings and the stability of the body structure. For the Audi Space Frame of its latest A8, Audi has developed new high-strength casting alloys. The development center of Audi and the R&D department of GF Casting Solutions in Schaffhausen (Switzerland) worked closely together in order to ensure optimum castability of the alloy and to make it ready at GF for serial production.

Greater value creation

A new, four-step heat treatment process is used to further increase the strength of the die-cast aluminum components. "This process enables us to manufacture stronger components even though the walls are up to 1.8 mm thinner compared to previous models," states Siegfried Wilhelm. For the heat treatment as well as for the coating and processing of the castings, GF Casting Solutions invested in new production lines at its site in Herzogenburg (Austria). Here, the 1.43-meter sill frame members are manufactured on GF Casting Solutions' largest high-pressure die-casting machines. The suspension holdings made of aluminum are also casted in Herzogenburg. The remaining aluminum and magnesium components are produced in Altenmarkt (Austria).

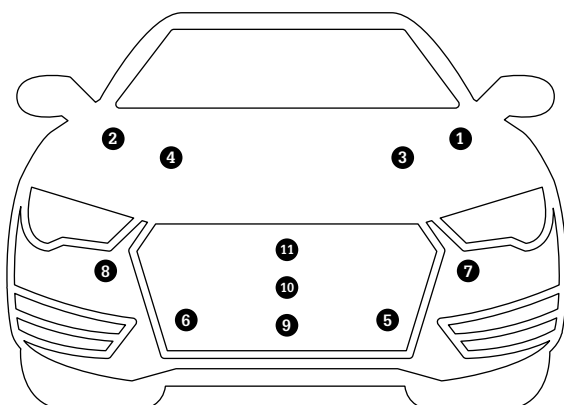
But GF Casting Solutions is not only responsible for the casting, heat treatment, and coating of most Audi Space Frame components; the components are also mechanically processed at GF and partly pre-assembled before they are delivered ready for mounting to the Audi production plant in Neckarsulm (Germany). This is where the new A8 is produced for the global market. "In the scope of this ambitious assignment, we offer Audi even greater value creation and GF Casting Solutions' comprehensive expertise in lightweight design," Siegfried Wilhelm says proudly. ■



More pictures at
globe.georgfischer.com

Ultra-light and extremely stable

GF Casting Solutions provides eleven ultra-light castings for the Audi Space Frame of the new A8. The result: The sedan's body weighs around 40 percent less than a comparable steel structure.



1 / 2

Shock towers left and right: These die-casting aluminum components previously had to be assembled from multiple parts.

3 / 4

Seat mountings left and right: These torsionally stiff die-cast components guarantee a high level of rigidity and crash safety.

5 / 6

Door sill frame members left and right: The largest and most complex die-cast aluminum components of the Audi Space Frame are produced at GF Casting Solutions in Herzogenburg.

7 / 8

Suspension holdings left and right: These die-cast aluminum parts are also new and replace a multitude of sheet metal parts.

9 / 10

Front and rear center consoles: Both parts in the center console are made of ultra-light magnesium and are essential components of the Audi Space Frame.

11

Heel plate: The die-cast part in the undercarriage replaces several sheet metal parts and is a new component of GF Casting Solutions.

“This is casting technology of the very finest quality”

As project manager at Audi, Marc Hummel closely followed the development and production of the eleven ultra-light casting components for the new A8. In this interview, he reveals why Audi selected GF Casting Solutions as a partner.

For the latest generation of the A8 the Audi Space Frame was perfected even further. In which way did GF Casting Solutions contribute with its expertise?

The Audi Space Frame has undergone steady development over the years. Today, large multifunctional components play a key role in the architecture of the body. The experience and know-how of GF Casting Solutions were essential for manufacturing these very large and highly complex aluminum parts. For example, the 1.43-meter-long sill frame member is casting technology of the very finest quality. With regard to complexity, this is top class.

Why did you choose GF Casting Solutions as a partner?

An important factor for us was to find a partner who could meet the special requirements of the project. We wanted to combine for the first time a special casting alloy and heat treatment technology. Since GF Casting Solutions and Audi had worked together on this issue in the past, an atmosphere of trust already existed. And the result speaks for itself. Thanks to this new combination, the strength of the components could be further increased by 50 percent.

What did you appreciate in particular about working with GF Casting Solutions?

In such demanding projects you have to work together intensively for a long period of time. We understood each other very well and always had constructive discussions. These exchanges on equal terms made a major contribution to the positive result. Our contact persons at GF, and in particular the employees in production, were very dedicated. That is really something special! ■



Marc Hummel with the 1.43 meter sill frame member

OUR GOALS
VALUE SELLING

The Value Selling method emphasizes the benefits and added value of a given product or solution. For customers, added value is ultimately more important than the price.



«For a Swiss company faced with a strong currency, it is even more important to be close to the customers, understand their issues and find solutions which address these issues, and in so doing add value for them and for GF. The Value Selling initiative aims at nurturing such kind of salesmanship.»

Yves Serra
CEO GF

Ask more questions and be an active listener

Value Selling is the second corporate-wide initiative after Design Thinking that puts the customer in the very center. The proven sales method focuses on the benefits of products and solutions. This has an important impact on the dialogue with customers.

Our Strategy 2020 is well on track,” said CEO Yves Serra in March 2018 when he presented GF’s financial results for 2017. In order to achieve the stated objectives by 2020 while continuing to generate profitable growth, GF has launched two key initiatives: Design Thinking and Value Selling. Both approaches put customers at the center of everything and focus on the added value offered by products and services. Design Thinking increases the pace of innovation,



«My main expectation regarding Value Selling is to capture a greater share from projects by helping us to achieve a higher level of visit preparation.»

Jeff Kuma,

Regional Sales Director Georg Fischer LLC,
GF Piping Systems, Irvine (USA)

while Value Selling improves sales proficiency in order to deal with ever more complex customer solutions.

The GF financial results also reveal that GF sales employees are doing a great job. The Value Selling initiative builds on that success, offering valuable support for sales employees to further develop their skill sets. As a key driver for Strategy 2020, the initiative is particularly important for shifting the portfolio to higher-margin businesses and selling sophisticated products or services. Value Selling essentially concentrates on customer priorities and offers tailored solutions built around the potential added value. “Trying to sell product features without a thorough understanding of customers’ issues and needs usually does not go very far – one has to listen and ask questions to have a chance to offer solutions which are really interesting and valuable for them,” states Helmut Elben, Head of Corporate Planning at GF.

Engaging with customers

Value Selling is a proven communication methodology that focuses on the customer by asking targeted questions, actively listening, and understanding. It sounds very reasonable, but is often not so easy in practice. Helmut Elben reports: “It requires a lot of practice to be authentic when dealing with customers. You have to change the way you have a conversation: talk less and instead ask more and listen actively.” Good Value Sellers carefully prepare themselves before meeting with customers, identify their customers’ priorities,



«We have practiced selling added value in our department for ages. Today, the Value Selling method supports us successfully in developing the optimal combination of product and service solutions for our customers.»

Fabio Giampaolo,

Sales Engineer, GF Machining Solutions,
Nidau (Switzerland)

listen closely to their needs, and are familiar with the right contact points and the customers’ processes. Value sellers know the benefits of GF products and solutions inside out. And they also know how best to introduce those advantages into conversations with customers. Successful Value Sellers make more effective sales pitches because customers see them as a sparring partner. Discussions >



The Value Selling core team has been actively supporting the implementation of the Value Selling method since the beginning of 2018 (f.l.t.r.): Tina Flodin, GF Machining Solutions; Achim Schneider, GF Casting Solutions; Julia Runow, Corporate Program Manager; and Nicole Küng, GF Piping Systems.

Promoting Value Selling across GF: the Value Selling core team

«Good Value Sellers do not waste the customer’s time because they are well prepared. The salespeople are genuinely interested in identifying priorities and issues. They are not afraid of moving beyond the customer’s comfort zone – or their own.»

Julia Runow
Corporate Program Manager Value Selling

«I want employees to appreciate the benefits of Value Selling. We are a successful company with a long track record and now we are changing established processes and habits. We have a long way to go but it will be worth it.»

Nicole Küng
Head of Strategic CRM & Value Selling, GF Piping Systems

«The Value Selling method can easily be applied in other countries and cultures because customers’ business priorities and problems are similar all over the world.»

Achim Schneider
Head of Strategy & Business Development, GF Casting Solutions

«Learning a new method means staying on a theoretical level. However, living Value Selling means applying it to daily tasks and making it become a habit. That’s when it will become easy and automatic.»

Tina Flodin
Head of Value Selling, GF Machining Solutions

› will tend to focus on problems and solutions as opposed to product features and functionalities. The emphasis is placed on added value and the benefits for the customer rather than the product and price.

Putting theory into practice

Around the globe, 2’000 GF employees have already attended Value Selling training sessions. “The feedback has mainly been positive because it is a simple approach based on solid common sense. We are now working on linking the theory to practical working life,” reports Julia Runow, Corporate Program Manager Value Selling. “We want to transfer the lessons learned into practice and to develop skills through extra internal coaching sessions.” One of the major challenges is maintaining momentum and motivation once employees have completed one of the global training courses. In order to effectively integrate Value Selling in the organization, the sales methodology will be integrated into the CRM system and linked to the 4DX goals, for example. So the real work is only just beginning! ■



«Specifying the power person and digging out the real business issue helps to strengthen the communication efficiency and increases the success rate of winning business.»

Daniel Hu,
Sales Director China, GF Casting Solutions,
Suzhou (China)



More pictures and an extensive interview with the core team can be found at globe.georgfischer.com



2'000 GF employees around the world from all three divisions took part in the Value Selling training sessions.

OUR LOCATIONS
GF PIPING SYSTEMS IN MALAYSIA



Growth in Malaysia

GF Piping Systems has been present in Malaysia since 1996. The latest milestone has been a move to a new site with higher capacities. The regional company is now ready to continue on its growth trajectory.

In September 2017, GF Piping Systems in Malaysia moved to a new site in Taman Perindustrian Air Hitam, 40 kilometers west of Kuala Lumpur. It houses sales offices, a service center, a dedicated training center, an expanded quality assurance lab, and – most importantly – production facilities with higher capacity and an increased level of automation. Currently, four extruders and seven injection molding machines are producing ELGEF fittings, as well as piping systems for the AQUASYSTEM and Silenta 3A ranges. In fact, one of the main reasons for expanding GF Piping Systems’ production capacity in Malaysia was to be able to produce Silenta directly on location.

That’s because market demand for solutions in the area of building technology has increased sharply. “Now that we’re producing the Silenta portfolio here in Malaysia, we are able to provide customers in the region with shorter lead times. In addition, customers benefit from our extended warehouse capacity. We can now locally store GF Hakan Silenta fittings from Turkey much better,” says Amos Yeo, Head of GF Piping Systems Malaysia.

What’s more, the Malaysian colleagues collaborated with the division’s Tech Center in China to further develop the well-established Silenta formula for local production.

The high demand for plastic piping comes from the domestic market as well as other South East Asian countries. The biggest market segment is building technology, which accounts for roughly 65 percent of market uptake, followed by utility at around 15 percent and industry at circa 20 percent. “Made in Malaysia” makes sense for both GF Piping Systems and its customers: products are available quickly, they carry local certifications, and within the ASEAN states have a duty free status.

Steady ascent

GF Piping Systems in Malaysia has evolved steadily to become the successful regional supplier it is today. It all started with a representative office in Subang Jaya back in 1996, which was expanded to a sales office in 2004. In light of continuous growth, the time came in 2008 to open a fully equipped manufacturing facility in Kota Kemuning, Shah Alam. In early 2016 plans were drawn up to expand >



53 employees of GF in Malaysia are motivated to meet the huge demand for plastic piping systems.





**Sallehuddin Samin –
the nature enthusiast**

In the almost five years Sallehuddin Samin has been with the company, he has come to value the chance to work independently. “It’s great to work at GF where people care about the company and doing a good job,” he says. As a Quality Assurance Manager, his tasks include keeping accreditations from certification bodies up to date. A highlight has been setting up new lab facilities for testing in the new factory. His biggest priority is his family. To recharge, he spends as much time as possible in nature.



**Shirley Tan –
the motivator**

In her free time Shirley Tan enjoys walking and swimming. She also likes to learn about positive thinking and motivation. And she shares what she has learned with her coworkers to “motivate them to face challenges in their daily lives.” As a Financial Controller with 20 years of professional experience she is able to ensure effective planning, controlling and decision-making for the Management. She has been with GF for eight years.



AT A GLANCE

Company:
Georg Fischer (M) Sdn. Bhd.
Division:
GF Piping Systems
Founded:
1996
Employees:
53
Production:
AQUASYSTEM PP-R piping systems, ELGEF PE brass transition fittings and Silenta 3A
Market segments:
Building technology, utility, and industry



**Elaine Kok –
the dancing traveler**

In her more than eight years at GF Piping Systems, Elaine Kok has moved up the ranks and today holds the position of Assistant Customer Service Manager. One of her favorite parts of the job: “I love to communicate with customers and colleagues with the world of GF.” In her free time, Elaine Kok likes to dance for the positive impact it has on her health. Her other passion is traveling: “Because it keeps my mind sharp and makes me happier as a person.” That gives her the strength to manage her complex job.



**Jeevandran Samo –
a production man**

Production/Operation Manager Jeevandran Samo likes the variety his job offers. On any given day, he could be involved with production, warehouse, logistics, and safety – in addition to managing ongoing projects. A project he is particularly proud of was setting up the new production plant. He dedicates his time off to his family, doing sports and yoga to “prepare mentally and physically to face new challenges ahead.” Vacation time means trips to India to visit temples and admire architecture.



100% SAFE

Something that everyone at GF Piping Systems Malaysia is proud of is its excellent safety record. At the end of March 2018, the main site and all sales offices had accumulated 1'916 accident-free days. This makes GF Piping Systems Malaysia a leader within the GF family. Behind the success is a comprehensive safety program for all 53 employees.



Handling the growth and additional responsibility that come with an expanded product portfolio requires a special team – Amos Yeo, Head of GF Piping Systems Malaysia (above), knows this all too well. For him, it is important to retain employees for the long term.



› once again, namely with the new site in Taman Perindustrian Air Hitam. Along the way, sales and service offices were opened in the major growth regions of Penang and Johor Bahru in the country's northwest and south respectively, to be close to customers and offer faster response times. Four people work at the sales and service office in Penang and three in Johor Bahru.

It takes a special team to manage the growth and added responsibility that come with an extended product portfolio, points out Amos Yeo. For him, it's important to retain employees for the long term. "I do this by empowering people to make their own decisions and by encouraging them to be accountable for themselves and each other," he says. He supports his people in developing their skills and knowledge, and he also tries to address the needs and expectations of younger team members. "For new and young employees, we focus on training, coaching and team-building programs," says Amos Yeo. The efforts are working, as fluctuation is very low.

Further expansion on the horizon

GF Piping Systems in Malaysia is set to continue growing with the addition of further sales and service offices in Sarawak and Sabah in 2019. The locations are both in Borneo, East Malaysia, which has been identified as an important growth market. To keep up with the expected demand in the next three to five years the new plant in Taman Perindustrian Air Hitam is large enough to accommodate three more extruders and additional injection molding machines. A pre-fabrication and customization facility is already planned for 2018. ■



More pictures at
globe.georgfischer.com

HEART AND SOUL
STEFANO PIZZEGHELLO

**JOIN IN
AND WIN!**

Are you committed to social causes?
Does your colleague help those in need?
Then we would like to hear your story:

globe@georgfischer.com

All entries will be included in our
competition on page 40.

Out of love for others

Stefano Pizzeghello does not hesitate to rush to the aid of people in need. Two years ago, the GF Piping Systems employee completed five months of first aid training to become a paramedic and has since been a member of the voluntary emergency service Croce Blu Veneto near Padua (Italy). "For me, charity and helpfulness are an indispensable part of our lives. As a father, passing on this conviction to my children is really important to me," he explains. "That's why one of my most cherished experiences was holding a first aid course together with my daughter Aurora at a school."

Stefano Pizzeghello covers at least two shifts for the emergency service every month. "Each team consists of at least two people: a driver and a paramedic. Depending on the incident, more people might be involved," he explains. In addition to being a paramedic, he also became team leader last fall – and regularly undertakes further training. Since February he has been authorized to use a defibrillator, a device that enables him to treat cardiac arrhythmia directly on site using electric shocks. "Every callout requires the greatest care and our full concentration. Volunteering as a paramedic is a truly special experience," he adds.

Stefano Pizzeghello does not consider himself a hero, though. Not every callout has a happy ending. Nevertheless, if he had to do it all again, he would jump at the chance of becoming a voluntary paramedic. Out of a simple love for others. ■



Stefano Pizzeghello
has worked in production at GF Piping Systems in Caselle di Selvazzano (Italy) since 2016, where he is responsible for assembling hydraulic machinery.

TAKE AWAY

At home worldwide

Over 16'000 GF employees in different time zones around the globe work on innovative products and solutions. As a globally active Corporation with strong local roots, GF operates in 34 different countries in order to be close to its customers. Did you know that ...



Do you want to find out more about GF's global presence? Take a look at the GF world map, which is enclosed in this issue of Globe.



MY HOME
BARCELONA (SPAIN)



**JOIN IN
AND WIN!**

Would you like to present your home to your GF colleagues? If so, please send an e-mail with "My home" in the subject line to globe@georgfischer.com. All entries will be included in our competition on page 40.

"A jewel set between the mountains and the sea"

For me, Barcelona offers a vibrant and varied mix of culture and architecture. It is a jewel set between the mountains and the sea, with a truly cosmopolitan feel. This is where I live.

Residents and visitors to Barcelona can explore some unique sights. We are especially proud of our architectural treasures. A lot of the world-famous monuments are examples of Catalan art nouveau (modernism), built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including Antoni Gaudí's Sagrada Família church and the Palau de la Música Catalana concert hall designed by Lluís Domènech i Montaner. The medieval buildings in the Gothic district – Barri Gòtic, the oldest part of Barcelona – are also worth a visit. Before lunch I sometimes enjoy an aperitif in one of

the bars close to the Santa Maria del Mar cathedral. One of my favorite places is the small, less well-known Park Turó, a tranquil place that I often visited with my parents when I was a child. This green oasis is a great place to relax and is close to Avenida Diagonal, the big shopping street.

I live on the outskirts of Barcelona, twelve kilometers from the city center in Sant Cugat del Valles. It takes me 20 minutes to get to GF Machining Solutions in Sant Boi de Llobregat. On my journey to work, I see Monserrat, the rocky sandstone range that stretches inland from the city, and the Serra de Collserola mountain range, home to the Tibidabo amusement park. I often head to the park with my family at the weekends. The views over the city are breathtaking. ■



Vanessa Enrech was appointed Chief Administrative Officer at GF Machining Solutions in Sant Boi de Llobregat (Spain) in 2016. Vanessa grew up in Barcelona and lives with her husband, two children aged five and seven, and the latest addition to their family – a dog – in Sant Cugat del Valles.

A day in Barcelona



MORNING

SIGHTSEEING



We start by visiting the famous Sagrada Família, which is located to the north of the old city in Eixample. The impressive basilica designed by Antoni Gaudí in the Catalan art nouveau style is still unfinished. Construction work began in 1882 and there are plans to complete the building to mark the 100th anniversary of Gaudí's death in 2026. Other stunning modernist buildings can be found close by, including the former Hospital de Sant Pau.



LUNCHTIME

CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE

Football fans should make a detour to the Camp Nou stadium, the home of Barcelona football club. For art lovers, we recommend the CCCB cultural center, the Picasso Museum, or the Fundació Joan Miró perched on Montjuïc. The museum's position on the hillside offers a great view of the Barcelona skyline. The shopping district between La Rambla Catalunya and Passeig de Gràcia is very popular with locals.



More images of Barcelona can be found at globe.georgfischer.com



EVENING

READY FOR THE NIGHTLIFE



For dinner I recommend the Restaurante Barceloneta, the Restaurante Salamanca and the Restaurante Merendero de la Mari. As an appetizer, I like to have the local dishes calçots (scallions) and escalivada (smoky grilled vegetables). A stroll down the famous Las Ramblas boulevard takes you down to the harborside and boardwalk. If you want to try the nightlife, the place to go is the El Born district, where you will find a multitude of bars and clubs.

GLOBE 2018 IMPRINT

Published by

Georg Fischer Ltd.
Beat Römer, Corporate Communications
Amsler-Laffon-Str. 9
CH-8201 Schaffhausen

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Production

Signum communication GmbH,
Mannheim (Germany)

Translation

CLS Communication AG, Glattbrugg-Zürich
(Switzerland)

Printing of the Chinese edition

DE Druck Europa GmbH, Berlin (Germany)

Printing of other editions

abcdruck GmbH, Heidelberg (Germany)

Image credits

anbileru adaleru from the Noun Project,
Audi, Colin Dutton, David Johnson, Issa AlKindy, Javier Cabezas from the Noun Project, Jorge Franganillo, Justin Tiew, Nook Fulloption from the Noun Project, Oliver Oettli, Patrick Wack, Rolls-Royce plc, Severin Wurnig

Other images: GF



Globe is published four times a year in German, English, French, Italian, Romanian, Turkish, Spanish, and Chinese with a total print run of 9'000 copies.

The next issue will be published in September 2018; the editorial deadline is June 27, 2018.

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COMPETITION

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Win an iPad Air 2, Bose wireless headphones, or a JBL Bluetooth speaker. A prize draw will be held among all employees who send in entries under the sections **Hello!**, **3×3**, **Heart and soul**, and **My home**. Send an e-mail to globe@georgfischer.com with the appropriate subject line. We look forward to hearing from you. The winners will be announced in the next Globe.

Conditions of entry

The competition is organized by GF. All employees of GF are entitled to take part. The winner will be established by means of a draw among all submissions entered within the deadline. Cash payment, payment in kind, or an exchange of prizes are excluded. Participants agree to their name being published if they win. Any recourse to legal action is excluded.

**JOIN IN
AND
WIN!**

Here are the winners of the last competition:

- 1st prize:** Tasha Nunerley (GF Piping Systems in the USA)
- 2nd prize:** Frank Schilling (GF Machining Solutions in Switzerland)
- 3rd prize:** Ng Kwan Chay (GF Piping Systems in Singapore)

All entries which could not be included in the printed magazine can be viewed online at: globe.georgfischer.com

The closing date for entries is June 27, 2018.

