

Press release

## Father of the HUMMEL celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

Generations of parquet floor layers have been working successfully for decades with his products. World-wide, his name is a synonym for innovation and quality in the parquet floor sanding branch.

Eugen Lägler, the Swabian inventor who revolutionised parquet floor sanding, is celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. And he has been called "Mr. Hummel" on more than one occasion during his life. A form of address that he has never found offensive, because despite his modesty he is proud to be known as the inventor of the first floor sanding machine in the world to have an infinite sanding belt: the HUMMEL. When he set up business almost 50 years in the rural Swabian town of Frauenzimmern, no-one had any idea that this one-man business would one day develop into the world market leader for parquet sanding machines. Today, LÄGLER has 50 employees and supplies customers in almost 120 countries with its wide range of products.

This success was not something Eugen Lägler inherited at birth on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1925. He was the son of a railway worker, and his success is due more to his own staying power, diligence and meticulousness. Eugen Lägler wanted to work on the railways like his father. Following an apprenticeship with the national railway company (*Reichsbahn*) and the chance to complete college education, he passed the entrance exam for the engineering college in Esslingen near Stuttgart. This very promising start was abruptly interrupted by World War II. Years spent as a soldier and then prisoner of war followed. After his return in June 1946, Eugen Lägler's existence was in ruins and he started again as a blacksmith. At the same time, he continued his education and passed his master examination as an engineering mechanic in 1952.

In 1956 he took the daring step towards setting up his own business, supported by his wife. He called the first parquet sanding machine he developed ELF – taking the first letters of "Eugen Lägler Frauenzimmern". Right from the very beginning, the Swabian inventor focused on sanding quality, durability, working safety and ergonomics in his development work. The fact that his methods were often unconventional and integrated technologies no-one had ever used before for floor sanding machines made his products uniquely successful. His legendary belt sanding machine HUMMEL set new standards in every respect. It is estimated that between 30,000 and 35,000 of these machines are in use all over the world today.

The development of the centrifugal sanding system followed with the drum sanding machine PROFIT: With his innovative spirit, Eugen Lägler was always on the lookout for optimisation possibilities. In 1993, the triple disc sanding machine TRIO was presented, a machine with integrated, sensor-monitored dust extraction and thus the first parquet sanding machine to be awarded "GS wood dust test" approval by the German Woodworkers trade association (*Holz BG*). The TRIO was the founder of a new generation of design-oriented sanding machines with perfect ergonomics. In the next few years, the edge sanding machines UNICO and FLIP and the single disc sanding machine SINGLE followed, giving LÄGLER a complete range of sanding machines for parquet and floor layers.

More than 10 years ago Eugen Lägler passed his position as managing director on to the next generation, but continued to work in the development department until he was 75. In the years 2003/2004 his life dream was fulfilled as the company was expanded at the Frauenzimmern location, thus setting the course for the future of his company.

Despite this remarkable development, LÄGLER has always remained a classical family business at heart. Lägler's daughter Susanne is responsible for the marketing side of the business and son Karleugen for the engineering. His wife, Gerda Lägler, the good spirit of the company, still works part-time in the office.

Caption:

Eugen Lägler

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