



## **EUROGUSS 2022: Heck & Becker GmbH & Co KG and Hanomag Lohnhärtereigruppe present ready-to-install prototype component for new Mercedes EQS**

***Successful cooperation optimizes production chain from casting to ready-to-install finished part***

(Hannover, Dautphetal 11/24/2021) - Heck & Becker GmbH & Co.KG and the Hanomag Lohnhärtereigruppe will present the A-pillar for the new Mercedes EQS at EUROGUSS, which will be held in Nuremberg, Germany from 18 to 20 January 2022. In Hall 7 at Booth 556, interested trade visitors can inform themselves about the entire innovative prototype production chain from the casting to the ready-to-install finished part for the all-electric EQS.

The joint project between Heck & Becker GmbH & Co. KG and the Hanomag Lohnhärtereigruppe began back in 2018. The initiator for the cooperation was the order from Mercedes to manufacture the prototypes of the A-pillar for the latest luxury electric model, the Mercedes EQS. As part of the close collaboration, Heck & Becker's casting technology experts produced the castings using the K1 prototyping process at the Heck & Becker Diecasting Technology Center (DTC), replacing the sand casting process previously used in this area. The advantages are obvious: "By using the die-casting process, which is ultimately also used to manufacture the series components, we can represent at an early stage exactly the properties that are expected in the series parts that are later installed. With the special K1 prototyping process, we create the conditions to produce the components in 12 weeks from the design freeze. With a series mold, on the other hand, you would have to reckon with a manufacturing time of four to five months until the first castings are available", states Martin Baumann, Managing Director at Heck & Becker.

After production at Heck & Becker in Dautphetal, the prototypes were solution annealed at Hanomag Lohnhärtereigruppe GmbH in Hanover using individually tailored heat



treatment parameters, manually straightened and then artificially aged. The Hanomag Lohnhärtereigruppe is a leader in Germany in heat treatments for steel and aluminum materials that are individually tailored to the material. For the completion of the parts, the company relies on Herbst Zerspanungs- und Messtechnik GmbH in Hildesheim, which, as a member of the Hanomag Lohnhärtereigruppe, specializes in the mechanical machining of prototypes.

"Many reasons were decisive for the successful cooperation," says Hanomag Managing Director Karsten Seehafer and continues that the cooperation includes the entire process competence for aluminum components. "The advantage for our customer is that he receives all production steps from a single source and significantly faster," emphasize the two managing directors Karsten Seehafer and Martin Baumann, clarifying that the client has nothing to do with internal coordination and logistics. Both companies attach great importance to the fact that the customer does not have to worry about auditing the entire supplier chain - regardless of whether prototypes, replacement or series components are involved - but only has to approve the final product.

### **About the companies:**

The Hanomag Lohnhärtereigruppe has been one of the leading contract hardening plants in Germany for over 30 years and, as a universal hardening plant, offers the entire range of processes in the field of heat treatment of steel and aluminum materials. In 2018, the service portfolio was expanded to include mechanical processing and measuring services.

The company offers its customers from the automotive industry, mechanical and plant engineering, the wind energy sector and many small supplier companies individual, component-optimized solutions - from the unmachined part to the tested, ready-to-install finished part and from the prototype to the fully developed series part.



Continuous investments in state-of-the-art plant technology and the development of an experienced, competent team of employees form the basis of the company's long-standing success. All sites of the Hanomag Lohnhärtereigruppe are certified according to the management systems IATF 16949:2016, ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 50001:2018.

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The company Heck & Becker GmbH & Co. KG is one of the most innovative mold makers in the automotive industry. Since the 1990s, Heck + Becker has focused exclusively on the production of sophisticated die casting molds and is thus involved in the development of forward-looking technologies in this industry. The company offers a wide range of services: In addition to component and mold design and the manufacture of die casting molds, the focus is also on their sampling through to prototype production in 12 weeks, both of classic powertrain and large structural components. With a fully automated 3,200 ton casting cell, the integrated DTC offers the possibility of sampling molds, optimizing the casting process before the start of



series production, and making initial castings available for further machining or as small batches. The DTC is thus the centerpiece for testing the latest technologies and for process optimization.

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