



GROZ-BECKERT

Experiences  
since 1852





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Workers at the Meßstetten branch in 1902. However much the equipment and techniques have changed to the present day – the workforce was, is and will remain central to the company's success. The commitment, competence and precision of each individual define the cutting-edge quality of the products.

## An eventful history

Past experience determines the future, and throughout its eventful history since 1852, Groz-Beckert has experienced a great deal. Over this period, the company has undergone consistent and carefully considered further development. Groz-Beckert has overcome even the most difficult periods of political and economic upheaval, seizing the opportunities these afforded to explore new potential. Groz-Beckert's eventful history is described in this brochure. Discover how the company has evolved over the past two centuries to become a leading player and partner to the whole of the textile industry.



Building in Bahnhofstraße around 1884



Company building around 1950



Technology and Development Center (TEZ), 2010



## Groz-Beckert today

- A comprehensive portfolio along the length of the textile value chain
- Over 70,000 product types in total
- A global presence in over 150 countries
- A workforce of around 9,000 worldwide





## How it all began – Theodor Groz

**1852** Theodor Groz opens a toy and fashion accessory store and a needle workshop in Ebingen.

Theodor Groz produces the first warp knitting machine needles for hosiery knitting

**1862** Production of 10,000 pointed needles a week

It is the first half of the 19th century. The Swabian Alb is a rough mountain plateau whose southeasterly edge slopes down to meet the River Danube. This is the location of Ebingen, which today is a part of Albstadt. There is one thing the inhabitants of this small Swabian town can be sure of: a life of hardship. The people of this small town struggle to feed their families from the fruits of their labors. Their main source of income is from hosiery knitting. It will take a long while for the impending industrial revolution to reach Ebingen. One of those who will bring it here is Theodor Groz.

Theodor Groz, son of dispensing chemist Daniel Groz, leaves his home town after the premature death of his father and takes up an apprenticeship with a master needle-maker in Ludwigsburg. Afterwards he continues his travels. His destination is Vienna. In this city on the River Danube, he continues to gather experience in the art of needle manufacture. In 1852 he returns to Ebingen, where he marries Rosine Rieber. At the same time, he opens a store selling toys and fashion accessories with its own needlemaking workshop. The slogan "better needles" still holds true today.



Theodor Groz



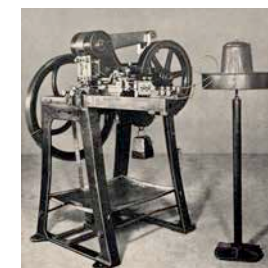
Company letterhead



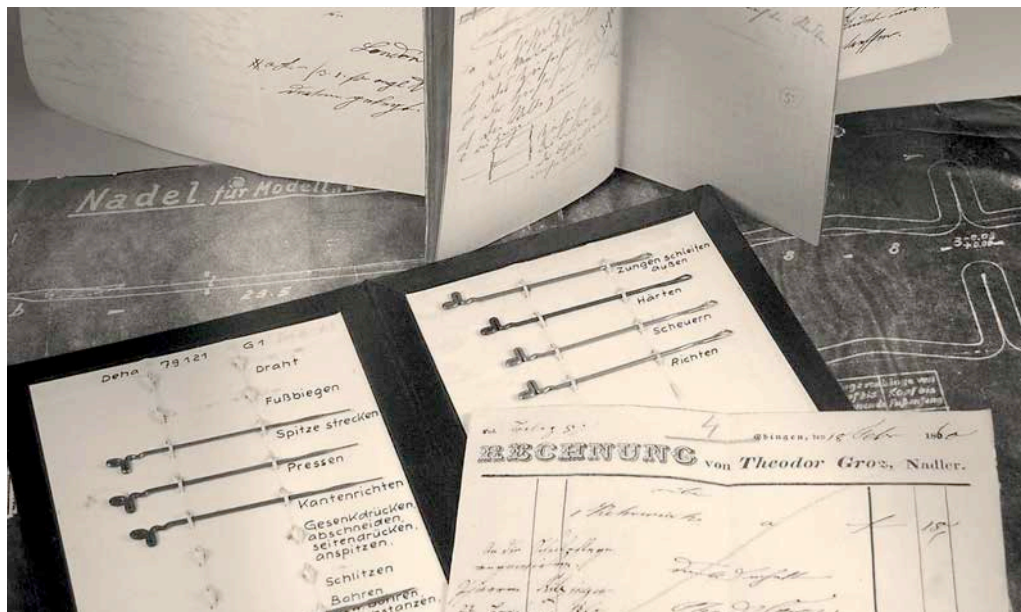
Warp knitting needle



A tool of its times: Manual setting device dating to around 1900



Point press for circular warp loom needles





## How it all began – Ernst Beckert

**1871** Ernst Beckert founds a needle factory in Eibenberg in the Erzgebirge mountains

At the same time, Ernst Beckert spends his childhood in Eibenberg near Chemnitz in Saxony. Here too, many people live from hosiery knitting. Like his father and grandfather before him, Ernst Beckert is often called upon to turn the handwheel of the knitting loom. He is not the least bit interested in knitting, instead training as a mechanic and finding employment in the mining industry. But after Ernst Beckert breaks both legs in an industrial accident, he is confined to bed for many months. It is out of boredom more than anything else that he occupies himself with his father's needles and thinks about their manufacture. He spends the last of his money

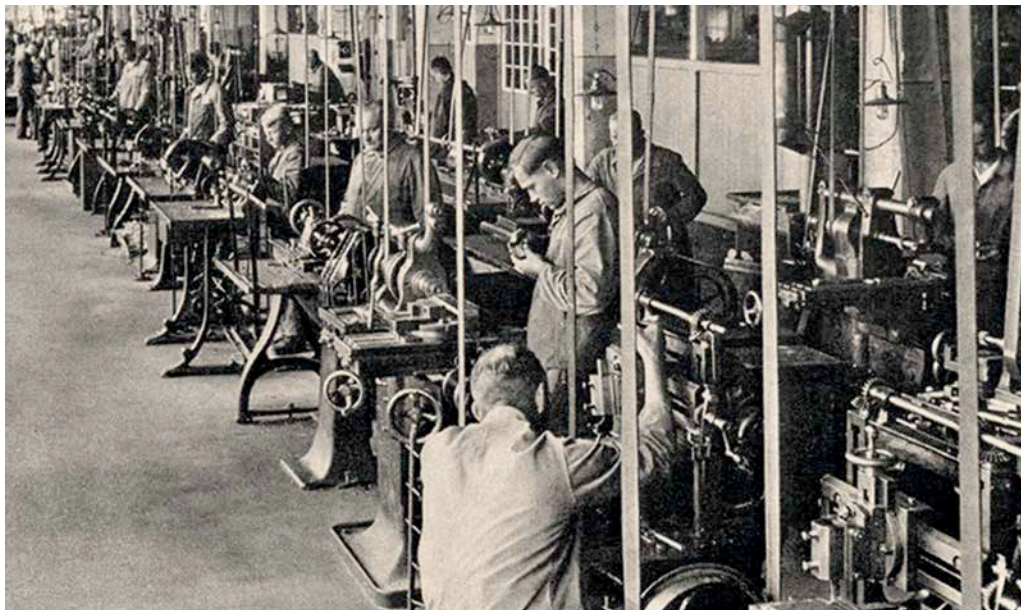
on high-grade barbed wire which he uses to test out different manufacturing and hardening processes. At Christmas 1860, he achieves a breakthrough. It was through this chain of events that Ernst Beckert found his way into the craft of needle making while Theodor Groz was already celebrating first success as a needle manufacturer employing a workforce of 25. Ernst Beckert harbors an ambition which comes to fruition in 1871, the same year in which Bismarck founds the second German Reich: He launches his own needle production factory in his home town of Eibenberg. From this date, there are two needle factories operating in Germany whose paths are destined to merge.



Ernst Beckert



Company letterhead



The company's own special machinery production in Bitz factory in around 1902

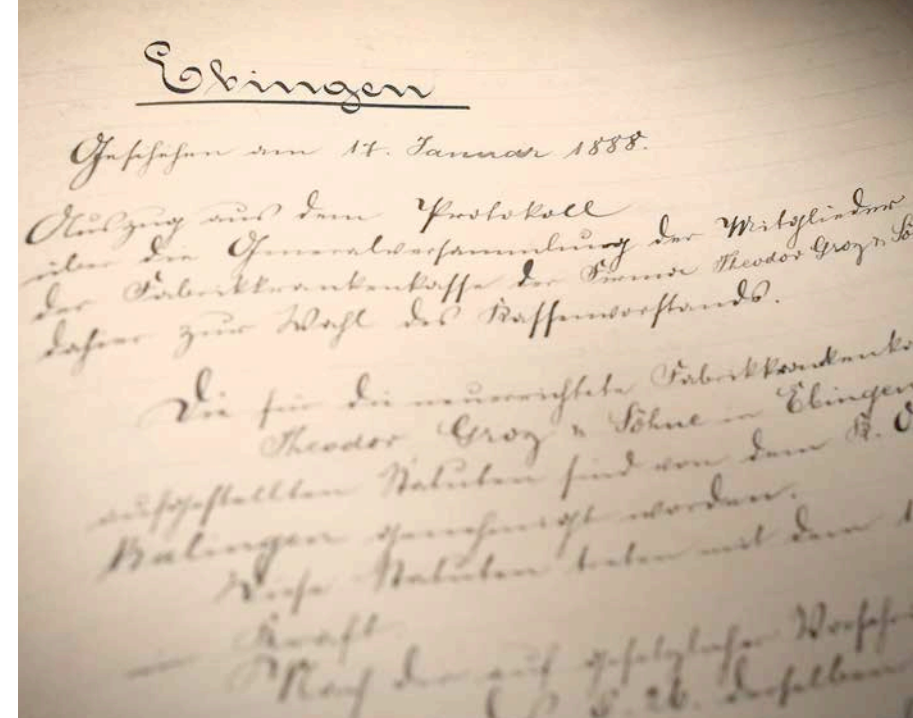
## Business development and first patents

### 1863 Germany's first latch needle is produced in Ebingen

There is still a long way to go to achieve worldwide success. Initially the underlying aim is economic survival, as needle manufacture is laborious and completely hand crafted. At the same time, keeping abreast of the headlong pace of innovation is vital: While Theodor Groz manufactures only pointed iron needles during the first year, a new material innovated in France soon begins to make its mark: steel. But good steel is costly and has to be hardened using special methods. The company's everyday work routine and success are determined over the next few years by its endeavors to develop a workable material and special hardening process. This is clearly illustrated by an example taken from 1864. While Ernst Beckert is engaged in needle manufacture in Saxony, in Southwest Germany, Theodor Groz is threatened by the loss of his entire customer base. The reason: poor wire quality. 400,000 circular warp loom needles already produced are unusable. Alongside steel as a new material, at the beginning of the 1860s a new needle type is becoming established: the latch needle – invented by English textile engineer Matthew Townsend. The use of latch needles, which have an opening and closing joint, simplifies the loop forming process

compared to conventional pointed needles. In 1863, Theodor Groz is the first manufacturer to produce the new needle in Germany. His son Daniel makes decisive improvements to the original design with his friend Daniel Beck in 1874. From this time onwards, the slot in which the latch is fastened is milled rather than punched. Daniel Groz has brought this idea with him from Saxony, where he has spent two years working for the major needle manufacturers. He may even have met the young entrepreneur Ernst Beckert, who has by now opened his own factory. These are the developments that spark the transformation of the workshop in the Swabian Alb into a needle factory.

Production is stepped up, ever bigger hardening furnaces and more powerful steam engines are put to use. Inventions follow thick and fast, and the first patents are registered. These include the pointed needle press and the "spoon" machine for manufacture of the latches, both developed by the technical employee Ferdinand Binder. By the middle of the 1880s, annual needle production has already surpassed the million mark. Nowadays, far more needles than this are manufactured in a single day.



Exemplary:  
The company's own health insurance fund,  
whose origins stretch back to the year 1888



Full of ideas: Innovations right from day one



Effective: View of the production



## Economic growth, expanding premises

- 1884** New headquarters: Theodor Groz & Söhne moves into the factory building in Bahnhofstraße, Ebingen
- 1888** Formation of a factory benefit fund, the precursor to today's company health insurance fund
- 1905** New company headquarters for Ernst Beckert Nadelfabrik in Metzerstraße, Chemnitz
- 1918** First joint foreign sales office for the companies Groz and Beckert in New York, USA

Expanding premises go hand in hand with economic growth. After 23 years, the workshop in the street "Am unteren Tor" has outlived its usefulness: In 1875, Theodor Groz moves into new company premises in Pfarrstraße, Ebingen. In the same year, Carl Theodor Beck begins work for him in Bitz. Over the next few years, there are more removals and extension projects. It is only in 1902 that the company finds its final home in Wiesenstraße, which today has been renamed after the company founder. Building work also goes on at numbers 27-29 Beckerstraße, Chemnitz. Within a quarter of a century, Ernst Beckert's operation has grown exponentially. In 1895, a branch company is opened in Stollberg in the Erzgebirge Mountains, and extended over the following ten years into a complete factory. By 1898, the company is already employing a workforce of over 200: the first factory building in

Chemnitz is bursting at the seams. Extending and refurbishing an outbuilding only provides a temporary respite from the space problem, and in 1905 an impressive new building is erected in Metzerstraße. This move is no longer led by the founder himself but by his son-in-law and successor, Julius Seelmann-Eggebert. Ernst Beckert passes away on October 4, 1909 in Radebeul. On the Swabian Alb, the change of generation has already taken place: In 1879, Theodor Groz makes his two eldest sons Theodor and Daniel active partners. This is reflected in the company name, Theodor Groz & Söhne. But it is not the eldest son who follows in his father's footsteps, as sadly Theodor Groz Junior and Senior pass away in April 1892 within just three days of each other. For a brief period, Daniel Groz leads the company but in 1897 he leaves for health reasons. His younger brother Oskar and brother in law

Heinrich Cless take over the reins of management, although Heinrich Cless leaves a few years later to set up his own company. In 1901, the youngest son of the founder, Adolf Groz, finally enters the company as an active partner. It is this generation of sons and sons in law, Oskar and Adolf Groz on one side and Julius Seelmann-Eggebert on the other side, who lead the two companies forward towards the merger. Initial cooperation takes place from as early as 1918: The two companies, both of which have long since gained a name in world markets, reactivate their international relations after the end of the World War I and found a joint sales office in New York, as a first step towards joining forces. A second step is already in the making, and the merger itself is then ultimately performed by the next generation, grandchildren to the two founders.



Sales office in New York

## The merger – the foundation stone of the Groz-Beckert corporation

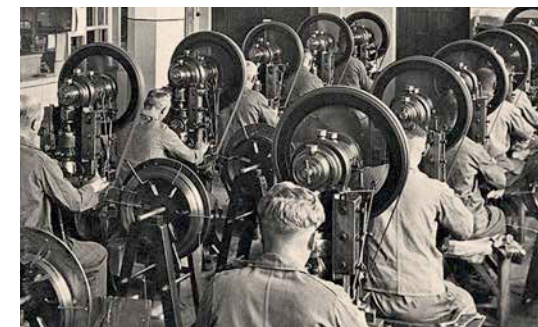
- 1922** Important innovation in the world of needle manufacture: Introduction of solid stamped needles
- 1927** Foundation of a sales company in Paris, France
- 1929** Foundation of a company pension fund at Theodor Groz & Söhne
- 1937** Theodor Groz & Söhne and Ernst Beckert merge to form a single company

1923 sees spiralling inflation, with loaves of bread costing billions of Marks. The repercussions of the World War also impact hard on the needle industry. Everybody needs needles, and production fails to keep pace with demand. A shiny economic bubble develops and new needle factories are constructed. When the inevitable crash comes, the bubble bursts, money is devalued and prices slump. To secure their survival, renowned needle manufacturers consider joining forces in 1924. Nine leading operations based in Saxony, the largest of which is Ernst Beckert, and the Swabian company Theodor Groz & Söhne enter into negotiations. As the economy recovers, the negotiations peter out. But still: Interest has been expressed, contacts have been made and the idea continues to mature quietly. Four years later, a new attempt is made to consider the merger possibility, but again the plans come to nothing. This time the stumbling block are differences of

opinion about automatic production methods, in which the Swabian manufacturer is way out in front of its counterparts in Saxony. Of the manufacturers in Saxony, Julius Seelmann-Eggebert alone is fully appreciative of the benefits. From this time onwards, only the two biggest of the needle manufacturers, Theodor Groz & Söhne and Ernst Beckert continue to consider joining forces. Finally, in 1937 the day arrives: The new company goes into business, trading under the name "Theodor Groz & Söhne & Ernst Beckert, Nadelfabriken Commandit-Gesellschaft, Ebingen und Chemnitz" – or in brief: Groz-Beckert. The new company is led by Hans and Walther Groz, sons of Adolf Groz, and Fritz Seelmann-Eggebert, taking over from his father Julius. The company represents two-thirds of the entire German knitting needle industry, placing it in an ideal position relative to its competitors. But then war strikes, and with it total devastation.



Company merger



Workers in around 1935



Needle pattern book from around 1930



The coats of arms of the Groz and Beckert families



## New beginning

**1945** The Chemnitz factory is destroyed in the war, the machines are dismantled and transported to Russia  
In Ebingen, the dismantling process is stopped under pressure from the French textile industry,  
and production is relaunched

In the night of March 5, 1945, Chemnitz is bombed, and the Beckert factory sustains a direct hit. Part of the factory is burned out, part collapses, and the warehouse of finished needles and sinkers is destroyed. Everything is lost, right down to the company's official rubber stamp. Despite the devastation, the majority of machines sustain only slight damage and can soon be restored for production. The son of the founder, Friedrich Ernst Beckert, and a granddaughter, Dora Steude, are killed in the raid. Fritz Seelmann-Eggebert is injured by the door of an iron air raid shelter. The Groz works in Ebingen and Bitz come off relatively lightly, the Bitz facility actually remaining completely unscathed. But on April 17, 1945, a munitions train comes under fire from low flying aircraft at nearby Ebingen station and is set on fire. The explosions continue throughout the day, with windows and doors destroyed and roofs

damaged. The devastation is enormous, although the substance of the building remains. When hostilities cease, the Allies demand reparations and begin to dismantle German industrial installations. Groz-Beckert is also affected. What remains of the Chemnitz factory is dismantled and transported to Russia. Fritz Seelmann-Eggebert is arrested and spends four long years in Russian custody. In Ebingen too, over 500 machines are dismantled and transported to France. Then something amazing happens: The dismantling process stops, as the allies are unable to make correct use of the machines. At the same time, there is huge demand for needles in France. So ironically it is the French knitwear industry that applies pressure for Groz-Beckert to be allowed to continue producing.



Enormous challenges:  
After the explosion of the munitions train  
in 1945 in Ebingen



Precision craftsmanship at every stage

Documented successes



## The post-war years

### 1952 100-year jubilee of Groz-Beckert

**A partnership contract is concluded between owners and employees. Groz-Beckert launches the Hofa-Spec hosiery knitting needle: It is a mere 0.34 mm thick**

### 1953 The employee magazine "Der Nadler" is introduced (up until the beginning of the 1960s)



Hofa-Spec hosiery needle

How about the employees? How have they survived the war and what is their experience of the new beginning? Many of them have not yet returned home. Many are involved in helping the clearing up operation. And while the first customers are coming to Ebingen and looking for needles, there is one major pressing problem for the people here: hunger. The company management responds by producing and distributing needles in exchange for food. From this initiative evolves the establishment of a works kitchen. This move is indicative of the company's ethos of social responsibility for its employees. One year after the war, social security facilities such as the works health insurance fund and the pension and welfare fund were dissolved by the government of the French occupying forces. The company health insurance fund was not restarted until October 1949. This was implemented at the unanimous request of the workforce in opposition to the proponents of a purely state-organized social insurance scheme. With the construction of several hundred employee apartments, the company helped alleviate

the pressing housing shortage. Older employees are given the opportunity to take a relaxing break every two years in the company's own leisure facility in the Black Forest. This is in addition to their annual vacation entitlement. With these measures, the company sets ground-breaking new standards in ensuring the welfare of its employees. The benefits offered are far in excess of what is customary for the time.

Despite the adverse circumstances, production gets back under way. There are shortages of material, machines and labor, driving forward the implementation of new designs and ever more efficient production methods. International business relations are also resumed. Abroad, manufacturers remember the reliable needles produced by Groz-Beckert and need them urgently. The company has already gained world leadership in the field of knitting machine needles before the war. Now, in a world divided into two power blocks, the quality needles from the Swabian Alb are vital to the

industry. The needle factories located in Saxony are now state-owned enterprises, whose products are sent to Russia. Although the needle producers located in the western states have gained ground during the war years, the quality of their products still trails behind that of Groz-Beckert. Old contacts are quickly re-established. Some of the testimonials of friendship are deeply moving: One customer from Crete recalls his father crying for joy at the first consignment of needles and kissing every individual box. This reaction is understandable if we consider that a textile producer may have yarn, machines and workers ready to produce, but is condemned to idleness without needles. By 1948 Groz-Beckert is already delivering to 39 countries, with exports accounting for 63 per cent of total production. In 1950, as much is produced in the Swabian Alb factory as before the war in both locations together. By the jubilee year 1952, production has doubled. At this point in time, the company employs a workforce of 2,150 and continues to grow steadily over the coming years.



## First production plants abroad

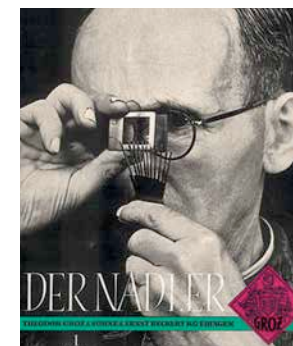
- 1954** Foundation of a production company in France (closed in 1976)
- 1957** Foundation of a production company in the USA (closed in 1982)
- 1960** Foundation of a production company in Chandigarh, India
- 1965** Foundation of a sales company in Barcelona, Spain
- 1969** Foundation of the production company Groz-Beckert Portuguesa Lda. in Valadares near Porto, Portugal
- 1971** Introduction of the meander needle
- 1978** Further development of the meander shape to create the low-profile needle

Internationally, the company was already in its infancy. There is evidence of the first business in the USA as long ago as the early 1860s. Regular overseas trade had been in place since around 1880, although this has suffered a number of setbacks – primarily due to wars. But from 1952 onwards, an ever increasing number of production and sales subsidiaries are founded – at home and abroad. From 1960, Groz-Beckert begins to open up the growing Asian market from Chandigarh in India.

This is followed in 1969 by Groz-Beckert Portuguesa Lda. near Porto. Ten years later, another factory – Euronadel – is purchased in Portugal. The political re-opening of Eastern Europe sees Groz-Beckert acquire the technical needle factory AKRA, which is renamed in 2001 as Groz-Beckert Czech s. r. o. In the mid 1990s, Groz-Beckert also opens a factory in China: Yantex. These are only a few examples taken from the company's development over the past fifty years.



Meander low profile needle



The original: First issue of "Der Nadler" magazine in 1953



Workforce in Chandigarh



Production plant in Porto



Made-to-measure: Needle production in Albstadt-Ebingen, around 1950

## Continued internationalization

- 1980** Takeover of the company Torrington Portuguesa near Lisbon, Portugal, which is renamed Euronadel Industrias de Agulhas Lda. Groz-Beckert now also produces and sells sewing and shoe machine needles as well as felting and structuring needles
- 1983** Patent granted for high-performance steel-plastic composite needle. This combines the benefits of the full-shank needle with those of the meander low-profile needle
- 1987** Foundation of a sales company in Leicester in the UK
- 1987** Spring latch needle for modern flat knitting machines, and compound needle for flat knitting with transfer device
- 1991** Other sales companies in Milan, Italy and Osaka, Japan
- 1992** Flat knitting transfer needle with integrated selector
- 1993** Groz-Beckert acquires the Akra factories in Budweis, Lužice and Klobouky, from 2000 renamed Groz-Beckert Czech s.r.o. Acquisition of Exeltor in Bedford, Canada
- 1994** Foundation of the sales subsidiary Groz-Beckert de México S.A. de C.V. in Naucalpan, Mexico
- 1995** Foundation of the production company Yantex (Yantai) Precision Textile Accessories Co. Ltd. in Yantai, China
- 1997** Expansion of the CPC – Ceramic Punching Components – business field, now called Customized Precision Components
- 1998** Foundation of the sales subsidiary Sinotech Asia Ltd., Hong Kong Acquisition of the tufting needle business – Eisbär brand – from the company Jos. Zimmermann, Aachen
- 1999** Acquisition of the Singer factory in Würselen
- 2000** Groz-Beckert acquires the Swiss company GROB Horgen AG and now also services the weaving machine accessories segment Foundation of a sales company in Canada

The internationalization process goes hand in hand with expansion into new fields of business. Until 1980, Groz-Beckert operations are restricted to knitting machine needles. Now, the portfolio is expanded to include sewing and shoe machine needles and also felting and structuring needles. By acquiring the “Eisbär” brand in 1998 and the Swiss company GROB HORGEN AG in 2000, tufting needles and weaving machine accessories are added to the portfolio. Groz-Beckert may now claim competence in every area of the textile industry which demands precision.

Sales subsidiary in Hong Kong





## Development to become a system supplier

- 2000** To secure its home production base, Groz-Beckert extends its production plant in Albstadt.  
Acquisition of GROB Horgen AG, Switzerland, expanding the portfolio to include weaving machine accessories
- 2001** Foundation of two additional sales subsidiaries in Seoul, South Korea and Singapore.  
Groz-Beckert acquires the company Schmeing (Raesfeld, Germany), extending the weaving machine accessory segment
- 2002** Jubilee: Groz-Beckert turns 150
- 2003** Further expansion in the field of sewing machine needles  
The litespeed® needle is unveiled at the ITMA in Birmingham
- 2004** Groz-Beckert launches its system parts business  
Groz-Beckert sells the first HyTec® jet strips for hydroentanglement plants, opening up new markets  
Foundation of P.T. Groz-Beckert Indonesia in Bandung as a new sales subsidiary
- 2005** Introduction of the transfer wing needle for knitting machines
- 2006** Acquisition of SMC GmbH and expansion of the production range to include cylinders, dials and sinker rings for circular knitting machines

The broad-based product range is continuously extended to include new system solutions and services. In the service sector, Groz-Beckert offers services to enhance productivity, steel card clothing services in the field of nonwovens, and a technical sewing and joining advice service for sewing machine needles.



litespeed®



HyTec® jet strips



System parts

## New horizons – from the TEZ to textile concrete

- 2006** Preparations begin for the Technology and Development Center
- 2007** Acquisition of the head eye business from the company Bräcker
- 2008** Construction of the Technology and Development Center (TEZ) at the headquarters in Albstadt  
Acquisition of mechanical engineering companies Oskar Fischer GmbH und Knotex GmbH & Co. KG in the weaving sector  
Positively driven leno device PosiLeno® for far higher processing speeds  
The sales subsidiary Groz-Beckert Taiwan Ltd. is launched in Taipei.  
Foundation of Groz-Beckert Vietnam in Ai Nghia, Vietnam  
The construction of a textile-reinforced concrete bridge in Albstadt-Lautlingen gets the go-ahead
- 2009** Development of a "Textile Product Technology – Technical Textiles" course in conjunction with the Albstadt-Sigmaringen University
- 2010** Completion of the textile-reinforced concrete bridge and handover to the town of Albstadt  
The litespeed® circular knitting machine needle is awarded the KYOCERA Environmental Prize  
50-year jubilee for Groz-Beckert Asia, India  
Inauguration of the Technology and Development Center (TEZ)  
Foundation of the FTA, Research Association for Textile Technology, Albstadt
- 2011** Foundation of the Groz-Beckert Academy, Groz-Beckert's own training program along the textile value chain

### The TEZ – an overview

- 25,000 sq.m. of floor space
- Competence and technical centers for different textile production and joining methods
- Concentration of competence: Central laboratory, product portfolio, mechanical engineering expertise
- Spacious auditorium for specialist events



PosiLeno® doup frame



The Technology and Development Center (TEZ)



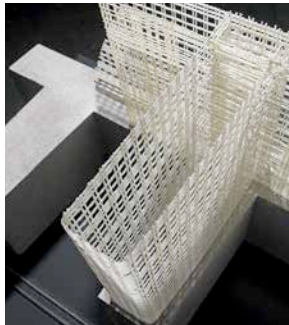
The TEZ inside



Develop, research, improve: What drove Theodor Groz and Ernst Beckert on to be successful entrepreneurs – and ultimately led the company to its premier world standing – remains a tireless maxim. In keeping with this goal, July 2010 sees the inauguration and opening of the Technology and Development Center (TEZ) in Albstadt. The Center is a platform for research and development, for reinforcing the system concept, and for creating innovation and synergies. Working hand in hand with machine manufacturers, users and partners, Groz-Beckert

is helping to shape the textile future here. The five competence centers forming the focus of the TEZ including their respective technical departments reflect Groz-Beckert's fields of business: Knitting, weaving, nonwovens, joining technology and textile construction. The technical departments are equipped with close-to-production machines and plants, enabling application experiments, small and special series production as a service to partners, as well as testing of Groz-Beckert products under real production conditions.

With the Groz-Beckert Academy, training facilities are also available to customers and employees alike. Other central components of the TEZ are its generous trainee workshop and laboratory. The laboratory offers services to wide-ranging sectors from textile technology through mechanical engineering to the aerospace industry. The auditorium is another highlight. Equipped with state-of-the-art multimedia technology and booths for simultaneous interpreting, it is able to accommodate up to 275 people.



Textile to the core



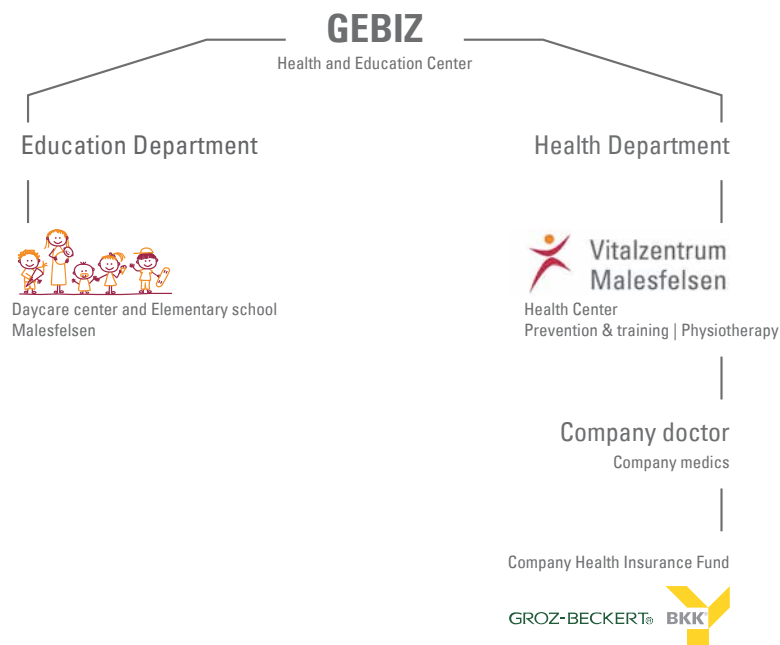
The textile-reinforced concrete bridge in Albstadt-Lautlingen measures around 100 meters in length

## Textile-reinforced concrete bridge in Albstadt-Lautlingen

The TEZ is not the company's only milestone in terms of ground-breaking construction. In the Albstadt district of Lautlingen, a pedestrian bridge in steel-reinforced concrete has become a safety hazard due to corrosion, and is dismantled in April 2007. As textiles are always rustproof, Groz-Beckert proposes a textile solution for the new bridge, in which the steel reinforcement is replaced by a laid textile scrim. The resulting material savings and superior material properties ensure a longer service life and a positive eco balance. The authorities of Albstadt opt to accept the plan and in March 2008 the contract to launch the project is signed. Groz-Beckert takes on the role of general contractor and shoulders part of the cost. Construction of the base and subsequent work start officially in November 2009, and a year later Groz-Beckert ceremoniously hands over the bridge to the town of Albstadt. The project illustrates what textile production is capable of, and is a prestigious calling card for Albstadt and the whole of the region.

## Living the family-friendly ethos and broadening business activity

- 2012** Construction work begins on the Health and Education Center (GEBIZ) and the new tool and mechanical engineering building.
- 2013** Market launch of solidian, a Groz-Beckert subsidiary for textile-reinforced concrete solutions  
A sales branch is opened in Singapore.  
Groz-Beckert Sales & Services Vietnam Co., Ltd. is opened in Ho-Chi-Minh-City, Vietnam.  
The GEBIZ is inaugurated and the facilities begin operations.
- 2015** The Groz-Beckert Turkey sales branch is opened in Istanbul.  
Acquisition of the carding activities of the Bekaert Group.  
With this addition, the portfolio is increased to include carding clothes and accessories for the spinning and nonwovens industry alongside the associated services.
- solidian receives the Innovation Prize for textile reinforcements (soligrid®).



### The Health and Education Center (GEBIZ) – an overview

- 17.5 mill. Euro invested
- Education department with kids' daycare center and Elementary school
- Health department with prevention and training center and affiliated public physiotherapy practice





## GEBIZ

History has shown that assuming social responsibility has always been a vital anchor of the Groz-Beckert corporate philosophy. The newly constructed Health and Education Center (GEBIZ) with Kids' Day Care Center and Elementary School as well as a Healthcare Department was opened in September 2013 at the company headquarters in Albstadt. Over an area of 5,600 sq.m. and with an investment of some 17.5 million Euro, Groz-Beckert is sending out an important signal: Commitment to education and health is the responsibility of everyone – including employers. In its role as operator of the various facilities, Groz-Beckert has recruited experienced partners with sound specialist expertise to come on board.

A family-friendly corporate culture enabling employees to reconcile family life with a career – for men

and women alike – is a central facet of personal life planning. Groz-Beckert makes a vital contribution here with the education department of the GEBIZ. This is home not only to the "Kita Malesfelsen" Kids' Daycare Center but also the private Malesfelsen Elementary School with all-day supervision. Because childcare problems often only begin after the pre-school nursery years, Groz-Beckert saw this service as a logical next step. The Kids' Daycare Center and Elementary School together form a closely matched unit. The common educational concept practiced here is based on the premise which places the child and its world view at the center.

With the facilities of the Healthcare Department, Groz-Beckert is promoting the health and wellbeing of its employees, actively meeting the challenges

thrown up by today's demographic changes. To create a central port of call, all the relevant areas have been consolidated under a single roof: The Health Insurance Fund BKK Groz-Beckert, the company doctor and company paramedics as well as the newly created wellbeing center "Vitalzentrum Malesfelsen", which provides a prevention and training area with affiliated public physiotherapy practice.

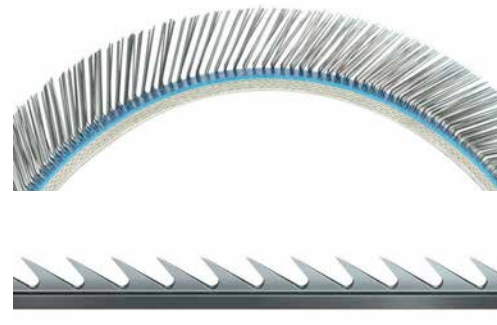
However, the GEBIZ is only one building block of a corporate ethos committed to encouraging a family-friendly culture, health and welfare for employees. The facilities of the GEBIZ have been supplemented, for instance, by occupational health schemes and flexible working time models. These include personal support and individual employee counseling.

## solidian – Textile-reinforced concrete has a new name

To concentrate its decades of experience and know-how in the field of textile-reinforced concrete, Groz-Beckert forms a new company: solidian GmbH, a new supplier of everything related to textile-reinforced concrete products for wide-ranging applications. solidian has been operating since the fall of 2013 and is a fully owned subsidiary of Groz-Beckert. The experts at solidian have already supplied the textile epoxy-impregnated fiberglass scrim used in the construction of the textile-reinforced concrete bridge.



To the solidian website



## Carding – a new product division

Groz-Beckert extends its portfolio of products and services by takeover of the international carding activities of the Belgian Bekaert Group. This acquisition enables the company's first entry into the spinning industry. These products and services form a new division within Groz-Beckert by the name of Carding. This supplements the previous product divisions Knitting, Weaving, Felting, Tufting and Sewing.

As a result of this acquisition, Groz-Beckert is now able to offer complete portfolio of products and services in the field of Carding from a single source: From advice, product recommendations and an entire product portfolio through roller repairs and a mounting and commissioning service. The product portfolio encompasses card wires and clothing for the spinning and nonwovens industry.

In the process of spinning or nonwoven fabric manufacture, the term carding is given to the process of initially straightening the loose textile fibers used to produce a pile or nonwoven fabric. The machines used to perform this process are known as cards or carding machines.



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# GROZ-BECKERT

KNITTING , WEAVING , FELTING , TUFTING , CARDING , SEWING

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