

**DIRAK**

**MAGAZINE**

Autum/Winter 2024

**DIRAK**



We develop latch, hinge and fastening solutions for different applications – also for yours

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in



**New DIRAK website is online**  
New functions, fresh look

**Magnetic Solutions for Smart Unlocking** with DIRAK m.tec



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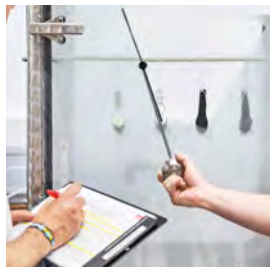
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# TECHNOLOGY

# Dear Readers,

In recent months, we at DIRAK have once again implemented a number of projects, which we report on in this issue of DIRAK Magazine.

For example, our new website was launched a few weeks ago. Thanks to new functions, customers can access even more information with just a few clicks and can now enquire about products directly via our website. At the trade fairs, we presented our new magnet technology for locking solutions for the first time as an exclusive preview and held promising discussions.

There is also exciting news internationally. We are strengthening our global network with the opening of an additional building for our subsidiary in India and a new addition as Head of Sales and Marketing at DIRAK Inc. in the USA.

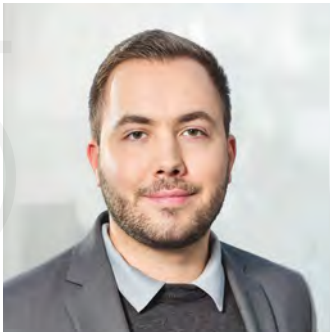
We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Best regards

**Lukas Ramsauer**  
Corporate Partner

**Michael Ramsauer**  
Corporate Partner

**Jens Boche**  
Managing Director of DIRAK  
Holding and DIRAK GmbH





# Expansion of the IT structure and training for employeeese **Investing in the future**

The digital world, industry and working life are constantly evolving – that’s nothing new. To ensure that our company can continue to achieve success, we have invested at various levels this year.

## **MORE SECURITY THANKS TO AN UPDATE OF OUR IT INFRASTRUCTURE**

One area is our IT. Jens Boche, Managing Director, explains: “DIRAK is being upgraded to an up-to-date IT infrastructure. Our internal IT team is receiving external support for this and training on the new systems is taking place in parallel, including the definition of responsibilities and internal substitutions for a reliable future.”



In terms of figures, DIRAK has launched around 30 different projects relating to the DIRAK Group's hardware and software architecture in 2024. Of these, 15 projects had already been finalized by the end of October and 13 projects are currently being implemented with a degree of completion of at least 50%. Two projects are still open and will be launched in the coming year. "There will certainly be one or two more projects," says Jens Boche.

### EMPLOYEE TRAINING COURSES STRENGTHEN EXPERTISE

In addition to the training courses for our IT staff, more than 115 different training courses were held over the last twelve months. This enabled our employees to refresh or acquire new knowledge in more than 500 training days. The training courses covered a wide variety of topics, ranging from technology,

purchasing and sales to team-building training. In addition, internal training courses were held to expand expertise on DIRAK's own products. Jens Boche concludes: "This investment also strengthens DIRAK for the future. It enables us to support our customers with our own specialists and always offer the best solution."

### EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

We are also currently strengthening our international cooperation within the DIRAK Group. The new IT infrastructure ensures a better exchange among each other and training courses were partly held internationally with teams from DIRAK GmbH together with DIRAK subsidiaries. In this way, we are strengthening our intercultural understanding and growing ever closer together as a DIRAK team.



## DIRAK strengthens global network New construction and growth in India



Our subsidiary DIRAK India is on course for success and is growing steadily. This, together with the plan to add some production and assembly operation in addition to the office space led to construction of the new building.

DIRAK India has been operating from its headquarters in Bangalore with sales offices in various Indian cities. Dileep Kumar, Managing Director at DIRAK India, is delighted with the new building, which is located in close proximity to the earlier facility: “The new building is located in the Peenya industrial area in Bangalore. It is in the same area as the existing facility.” This ensures short distances for employees and smooth logistics between the two sites.

### SUCCESSFUL OPENING OF THE ADDITIONAL SITE

The new building was opened in a festive ceremony on November 18. The interior will be occupied very shortly. The ground floor will house manufacturing and assembly options and the second floor will house the new DIRAK India Corporate Office. The sales and application engineering, finance, supply chain and design departments will also move to the new building. Production, customer service and warehousing will continue in the existing facility.

### GROWTH THANKS TO POSITIVE MARKET DEVELOPMENT

India is on a rapid growth path and the pace of growth is expected to accelerate in the future. Dileep Kumar, explains: “As India is the fastest growing major economy in the world, we are very positive about the opportunities in India. There are some current market segments like railroads, metro, renewable energy etc. that are performing well.” In addition, many new segments are emerging like EV infrastructure, clean energy, hydrogen fuel cells, which DIRAK can serve well.

The 'Make in India' campaign and growing awareness about quality components and better material grades are also factors that favor quality brands like DIRAK. “With our longstanding presence in India, we are well positioned to support and grow with the market. We have consistently expanded our local production capacities and will increase them significantly in the future,” concludes Jens Boche, CEO of DIRAK Holding and DIRAK GmbH.



# International sales meeting at DIRAK in China

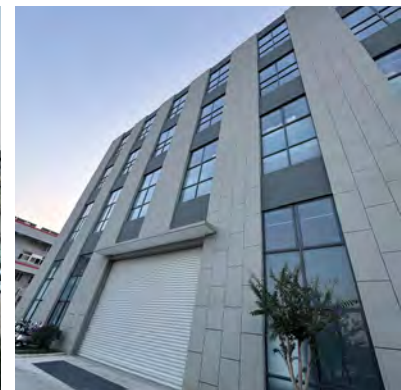
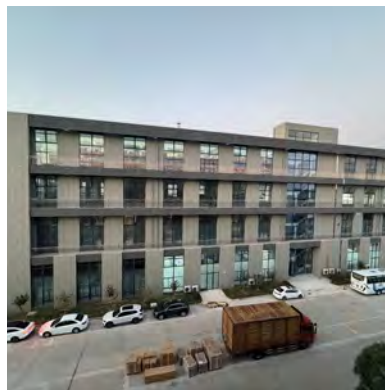


In November 2024, an international sales meeting was held at DIRAK D-SNAP in China. On site, our sales specialists from all over the world were visibly impressed by the manufacturing capabilities and logistics at D-SNAP.

We have also already moved into our newly completed building at the company headquarters, where we have expanded our production and storage facilities accordingly. In addition to the production possibilities in zinc die casting, stamping and bending as well as the assembly of components, a fully equipped test laboratory is also available. The production of rubber profiles is also a highlight at our site in China in cooperation with SAND. Not only standard profiles can be produced here, but also silicone profiles, which are mainly sold on the Asian market.

Our logistics in China are now equipped with self-propelled industrial trucks for the automated supply and disposal of our production and assembly. All processes in production, assembly and quality control are displayed online and transparently at all times.

Jens Boche, Managing Director of DIRAK Holding and DIRAK GmbH, is delighted with the success of the international meeting: “I would like to thank our colleagues from DIRAK ASIA for organizing this meeting for our international sales units to deepen their own knowledge. This is very valuable for us.”





# New addition to DIRAK Inc. Pete Chojnacki is the new Head of Sales and Marketing



Since November, our subsidiary DIRAK Inc. in the USA has an addition to the team: Pete Chojnacki takes on the role as the new Head of Sales and Marketing. In his role, he will build on our current successes to drive the growth-oriented sales and marketing strategy of DIRAK Inc. in the USA and ensure exceptional service for our local customer base. Pete Chojnacki brings over 25 years of B-B sales and marketing leadership to DIRAK. Most recently, as VP of Sales at CCP Industries, he oversaw long-term business development planning and go to market strategies. His expansive commercial strategy focuses equally on driving new business growth, while developing active account management and client retention programs. We would like to introduce him in a short interview.

## WELCOME TO DIRAK! IN NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR, YOU TOOK OVER AS HEAD OF SALES AND MARKETING AT DIRAK INC. HOW WERE THE FIRST FEW WEEKS IN OUR COMPANY?

The first few weeks have been full of learning and meeting customers or sales partners, and the DIRAK team. I have enjoyed learning about the strategy and tactics we use to help our customers. I still have a lot to learn but am excited to grow DIRAK Inc's sales and profits.

## WHAT GOALS ARE YOU PURSUING FOR DIRAK INC.?

We are prioritizing a stocking program to help offset lead times. We also plan on targeting several industries for special sales and marketing efforts. HVAC is one we have identified and will pursue several others. In addition, we are concentrating on Product Management efforts and finding several more Manufacturers Representative firms to serve as our sales agents in geographies where we do not have a sales partner today.

## HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT DIRAK AND WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN OUR COMPANY?

I was approached by a recruiter. I was interested given the history of innovation, the quality of the products, and the outstanding reputation of DIRAK in the market.

## WHICH PRODUCT LINE DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST PROMISING AND WHY?

E-LINE and the mechatronic product portfolio have strong growth potential for DIRAK. Also, we are looking forward to the launch of the DIRAK m.tec magnet technology products as it will help us in several target industries.

# New functions, fresh look: New DIRAK website is online





The time has finally come: after a lot of hard work and great anticipation, the new DIRAK website was launched in October. In addition to a more modern design and numerous new functions, we can now offer you an even more customer-friendly experience.

One particular highlight is the new inquiry basket function. You can now add as many products and accessories as you like to an inquiry basket and conveniently submit a request. This makes it even easier for you to discover our product portfolio and get in touch with us.

You also have the option of navigating through our various application areas in which our products are used. We have the right solutions for every application.

We are delighted to have successfully completed the project and would like to thank everyone involved who contributed to its success. Discover the world of DIRAK in a new way!

We invite you to click through our new website and explore all the exciting features and content

[CLICK HERE >>>](#)



# Magnetic Solutions

## for Smart Unlocking with DIRAK m.tec

At this year's leading trade fairs, InnoTrans in Berlin and EuroBLECH in Hanover, we presented a preview of our innovative magnet technology for smart locking solutions for the first time. The announcement received positive feedback and met with great interest from trade fair visitors. This preview is just the beginning: in the coming year, we will continue to expand the possibilities of this pioneering technology and present you with even more comprehensive insights.

## CONVINCING ADVANTAGES:

### M.TEC DEFINES EFFICIENCY AND CONVENIENCE

In a world that is constantly striving for progress, we are setting new standards in the areas of security, convenience, efficiency, design and durability with our patented DIRAK magnetic technology. Discover the advantages of this pioneering technology and find out how you can make your applications even more secure, convenient and efficient with this smart type of locking solution.

The advantages of our new m.tec product line at a glance:

- Increased security
- Smart comfort
- More efficiency
- Smart design
- Durability



### ALWAYS THE BEST PRODUCT FOR YOUR APPLICATION

Our products from the magnetic technology portfolio are characterized by their vibration-resistant construction and flat design. They are suitable for a wide range of applications and meet the highest quality standards thanks to their IP protection.

#### SWINGHANDLE M.TEC

The Swinghandle m.tec impresses with its vibration resistance and flat design. It is protected against dust and water to IP65 in accordance with DIN EN 60529 and offers a reliable locking solution that is ideal for use in various applications.

#### QUARTER-TURN M.TEC PR20.1

Our Quarter-Turn m.tec Pr20.1 is characterized by its vibration resistance and IP65 protection in accordance with DIN EN 60529. These properties make it a robust and reliable choice for various applications.

You can find more information about magnetic solutions here

[CLICK HERE >>>](#)

# Recommendations from the

## DIRAK STAINLESS STEEL CORNER HINGE FOR DEMANDING ENVIRONMENTS



Whether in rail traffic, enclosures or in the field of road traffic: outdoor applications are subject to severe impacts. Resilient solutions are essential to withstand these loads in the long term. Stainless steel is known for its versatility and its ability to meet the high demands of different industries. For this reason, we have now added to our popular GDZn Corner Hinge 4-320 a stainless steel version as part of our standard range. The reliable DIRAK Pr04 180° stainless steel corner hinge can withstand even the most demanding conditions and also has a long service life. Thanks to its corrosion resistance, it is ideal for demanding applications. The Corner Hinge 7-325 can be used on both the right and left and has an opening angle of 180°. This provides the user with optimum accessibility and a high degree of flexibility.

More information about the product 7-325

[CLICK HERE >>>](#)

## THE RELIABLE COMPRESSION LATCHES MADE OF STAINLESS STEEL FOR CUTOUT 19.1

Integrating a compatible locking solution into different installation openings is often a major challenge. With the new DIRAK Compression Latches Pr19.1 in stainless steel, we offer a tailor-made solution for the special cutout 19.1. The high-quality stainless steel construction of the compression latches is corrosion-resistant and reliably withstands a wide range of loads. Thanks to their resistance to shaking and vibration, secure installation and secure



# DIRAK Product World

locking are guaranteed – even in applications that are subject to heavy movement. By using the existing standard inserts, all of DIRAK’s proven locking options are retained. With the Compression Latches 7-067 and 7-068, we are expanding our range with high-quality product systems that will enable us to serve new fields of application and meet our customers’ requirements even better in the future.

More information about  
the product 7-067

[CLICK HERE >>>](#)

More information about  
the product 7-068

[CLICK HERE >>>](#)



## THE NEW DIRAK COMPRESSION LATCH WITH T-HANDLE

Whether in machine- and plant building, rail traffic or telecommunications – there is a great demand for flexible and reliable locking solutions. With the first compression latch with T-handle Pr20.1 (product system number 1-157), DIRAK is expanding its portfolio and offering an innovative solution for a wide range of applications. Thanks to its IP65 certification in accordance with DIN EN 60529, the compression latch offers optimum protection against dust and water, making it ideal for particularly demanding areas of application. The compression latch can be supplied pre-assembled, which makes installation considerably easier. In addition, the cam can be variably adjusted via the nuts on the square threaded rod to meet specific requirements. The new compression latch with T-handle combines the proven DIRAK quality with easy handling and meets the high demands of a wide range of applications.

More information about  
the product 1-157

[CLICK HERE >>>](#)

# Recommendations from the

## DIRAK HINGE IN STAINLESS STEEL: INNOVATIVE DESIGN MEETS PROVEN QUALITY

With the new version of our tried and tested Hinge 7-203, we have added an innovative solution to our product range that not only offers numerous advantages, but also a wide range of possible applications. The new DIRAK Hinge in stainless steel impresses with its high-quality appearance and rounded design. Thanks to its robust construction and corrosion resistance, it reliably withstands even adverse conditions and is ideal for various applications, such as in mechanical and plant engineering, rail transportation or telecommunications.

More information about  
the product 7-203

[CLICK HERE >>>](#)



## THE SWINGHANDLE FOR ASSA ABLOY CYLINDERS NOW ALSO AVAILABLE AS A ROBUST STAINLESS STEEL VERSION

With the new Swinghandle for Assa Abloy cylinders, we are expanding our range with a high-quality Stainless Steel solution that is particularly versatile and robust. Thanks to its elegant appearance with high corrosion resistance, the Swinghandle 7-064 is ideal for demanding areas of application such as mechanical and plant engineering, rail transport, traffic engineering and tunnel construction as well as energy systems and environmental technology. Thanks to the various adapter sets, the swinghandle can be combined with different cylinder lengths. The IP66 certification in accordance with DIN EN 60529 guarantees comprehensive protection against dust and water, while the multi-point latches offer additional security. The new Swinghandle offers a durability, aesthetically pleasing and functional solution for various applications, both indoors and outdoors. It also impresses with its robust design and attractive appearance.



More information about  
the product 7-064

[CLICK HERE >>>](#)



# DIRAK Product World

## IMPROVED MULTI-POINT LOCKING THANKS TO THE OPTIMIZED VERSION OF THE COMPRESSION ROD LATCH 3-211

With the optimized version of our 3-211 Compression Rod Latch, we offer you a reliable solution in the field of multi-point latches. The new version has an improved rod connection and no longer requires clamps, but only suggests them as an option. The compression mechanism with 4 mm sealing pressure ensures even sealing and secure closure. In addition, several closing points can be inserted simultaneously with just one closing operation. The Compression Rod Latch is vibration-proof in accordance with DIN EN 61373 and meets the most demanding requirements for robustness and stability. This makes it suitable for various applications, such as machine- and plant building, energy and environmental technology as well as transport and logistics.

More information about  
the product 3-211

[CLICK HERE ►►](#)





Malin Rudolf shows us her desk and gives us an insight into her varied and structured day-to-day work in strategic purchasing.

## What does... strategic purchasing do?

### 1 TRAINEE FOLDER

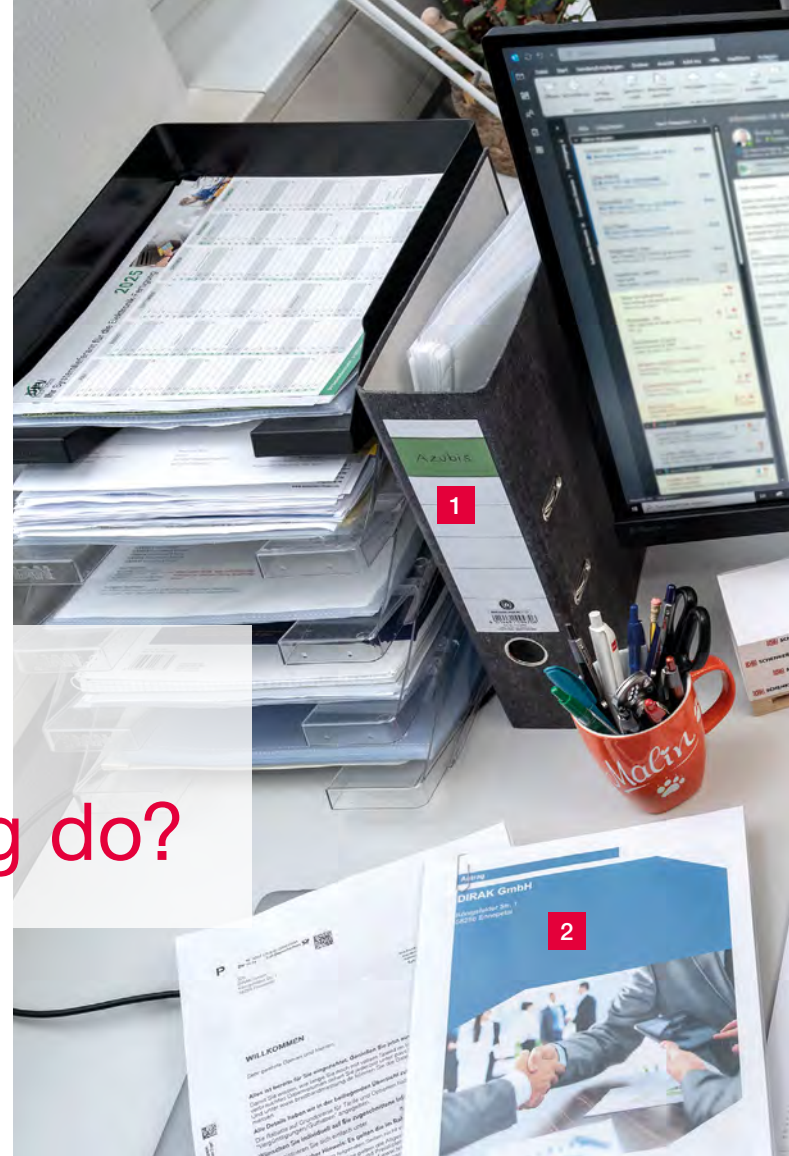
She is also responsible for training and instructing junior commercial staff in Strategic Purchasing. All important information and documentation for the trainees is bundled in their “trainee” folder.

### 2 CONTRACTS

Malin Rudolf is responsible for various contractual matters, such as mobile phone and leasing contracts. Everything that is contractually regulated in this context ends up on her desk.

### 3 OUTLOOK

Outlook is indispensable for daily communication, both internally and externally.



### 4 STICKY NOTES

The strategic buyer likes to use sticky notes for quick notes or important thoughts. That's why they are always to hand on her desk.

### 5 SAP

SAP also plays an essential role in strategic purchasing. All relevant data on articles and suppliers is created and evaluated here, and orders are created.



### 6 MODEL CAR

A small model similar to her own car has a permanent place on her desk – a birthday present from her colleagues, as she has a particular fondness for cars.

### 7 LETTER OPENER

The letter opener is always ready for mail that is still received in the traditional way and not digitally.

### 8 PINBOARD

She puts everything she needs to keep track of on her pinboard. It's not just for organization, but also ensures that the notes don't get lost.

### 9 NOTEPADS WITH SAYINGS

Motivation for in-between: The notepads with quotes were a vacation gift from a colleague – a small detail that puts her in a good mood.





# From Berlin to Warsaw: Review of the DIRAK Trade Show Year 2024

Trade shows not only offer us the opportunity to present our latest products, but are also valuable opportunities for us to talk directly to our customers and make new contacts. In 2024, trade fair activity was again very important for DIRAK in order to strengthen our position in the market and present our innovative solutions. After a successful start to the year at the Metal Show & TIB in Romania and SPS Italia in May, the second half of the year also saw many successful trade shows.

September saw the start of the first trade show of the season in Germany with Inno-Trans in Berlin. At the international trade fair for transport technology, we were able to present the preview of DIRAK m.tec, our innovative magnet technology, for the first time alongside our standard range for rail transport,

which met with great interest from visitors. You can find more information on DIRAK m.tec here in the magazine on page 12. Our DIRAK SNAP technology was also very well received. Another highlight was the visit of our colleagues from India, who supported the stand team and also held a number of interesting discussions with visitors from the Indian market.

FASTENER POLAND took place in Krakow at the same time as InnoTrans. At the trade show for fasteners, our focus was on DIRAK-SNAP technology, our pioneering technology for tool-free connections.

In October, another highlight awaited us at EuroBLECH in Hanover. At the international technology trade show for sheet metal processing, we presented our extensive product portfolio for a wide range





of applications as well as solutions from our iLOQ product line and the DIRAK-SNAP technology area, alongside our magnet technology. Our exclusive preview of DIRAK m.tec also met with great enthusiasm in Hanover. Overall, we had a large number of visitors at our booth on all four days and were able to engage in intensive discussions with them.

Our last trade fair, WARSAW INDUSTRY WEEK, the largest industrial trade show in Poland, took place at the end of the year. Here too, our Polish colleagues exhibited our broad portfolio of solutions from the standard range as well as our iLOQ range.

And next year? Trade show planning for 2025 is already in full swing, so important dates have already been set in the trade show calendar. These trade shows will once again give us the opportunity to demonstrate our innovative strength and deepen our dialog with customers and partners. We are looking forward to an exciting year full of new challenges and opportunities for further development!

## TRADE SHOW CALENDAR 2025

### Germany

**Intec**, Leipzig  
March 11 – 14, 2025

**Blechexpo**, Stuttgart  
October 21 – 24, 2025

Further dates to follow.

You can find more information on our website

[CLICK HERE ►►](#)



Congratulations to Daniel Krause on his 10th anniversary.



Congratulations to Jessica Beckmann on her 20th anniversary.



Congratulations to Matthias Westbrock on his 10th anniversary.



Congratulations to Sven Hofman on his 25th anniversary.



Congratulations to Tobias Voshage on his 10th anniversary.



Congratulations to Frank Niescery on his 10th anniversary.



# Honoring Long-Standing Employees

## We say Thank You

In our fast-paced world, it is not a matter of course to be part of a company for so long and to contribute with full commitment and dedication. We are therefore all the more pleased that we are once again celebrating numerous anniversaries this year. The success and innovative strength of our company would not be possible without the tireless commitment and loyalty of our employees.

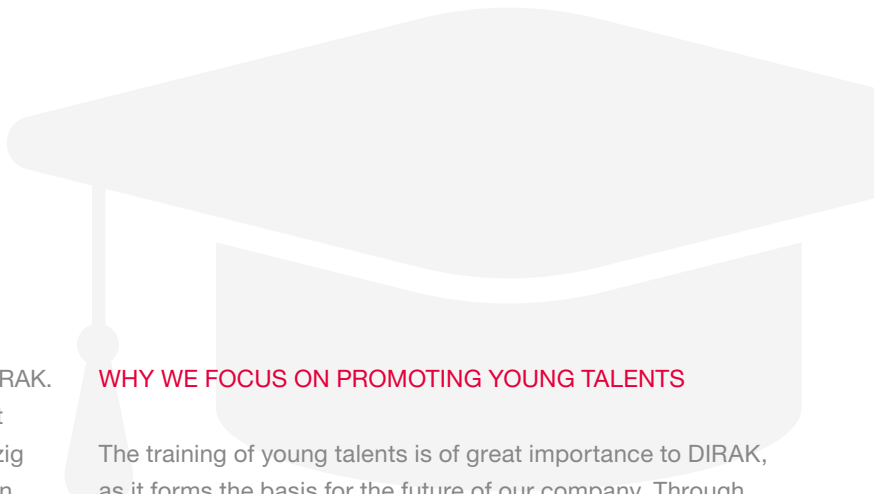
We would like to take this opportunity to thank our six employees celebrating anniversaries from the bottom of our hearts and recognize their valuable contribution. Their long-standing loyalty reflects the family spirit of DIRAK and is a cornerstone of our corporate culture.

A big thanks to all those celebrating their anniversaries for their outstanding commitment and the trust they have placed in us. We look forward to many more years of success and solidarity together.

Welcome to DIRAK

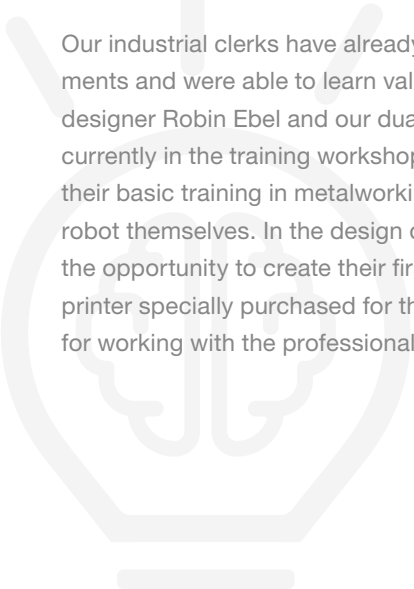
We Welcome our new Trainees





In August, a total of five new trainees started their careers at DIRAK. We are pleased to welcome Robin Ebel (technical product designer), Gerrit Biedermann, Pedro Moreira and Jana Jorzig (industrial clerks) as well as Paula Heringer (dual student in mechanical engineering).

A new job can be overwhelming. That's why we attach great importance to offering our trainees a motivating start. In the first few weeks, they were given exciting insights into the world of DIRAK. For example, they got to know our products up close in the assembly department and received a valuable foundation for their future tasks in the various departments during a two-day product training course.



Our industrial clerks have already started in their first departments and were able to learn valuable basics. Technical product designer Robin Ebel and our dual student Paula Heringer are currently in the training workshop, where they are completing their basic training in metalworking and even building a small robot themselves. In the design department, our trainees have the opportunity to create their first prints and rafts on a small 3D printer specially purchased for this purpose. This prepares them for working with the professional 3D printer during their training.

### WHY WE FOCUS ON PROMOTING YOUNG TALENTS

The training of young talents is of great importance to DIRAK, as it forms the basis for the future of our company. Through training, we not only create qualified young talents, but also enable our trainees to question and improve existing processes with fresh ideas. In this way, they actively contribute to the success of our company and grow into their future roles with the values of DIRAK. We look forward to accompanying them on their professional path.

**Apprenticeship at DIRAK:** You can find information about apprenticeship on our website

**CLICK HERE** >>>



# DIRAK supports Supporting and Helping as a matter of the Heart



As a family business, we value social and human interaction. For us, this also includes strengthening our own region and, above all, helping those who are not as well off as we are. We therefore support various local events and associations. This year, we supported the city festival celebrating the 75th anniversary of the city of Ennepetal, extended our partnership with the EN Baskets and will once again donate to the Kinderhospizdienst Ruhrgebiet e.V. children's hospice service over the Christmas period.

## DIRAK SPONSORS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FOR THE CITY OF ENNEPETAL

From September 20 to 22, there were three days of celebrations in the center of Milsp. There was a varied program, starting with a star run on the occasion of World Children's Day, followed by various bands and magic with Marc Weide. This was rounded off by other activities for children and adults, such as bungee jumping and a car mile. Numerous stalls with international cuisine catered for the culinary well-being of the visitors. DIRAK participated in the sponsoring to make this festival possible.



## NEW PARTNERSHIP FROM CHRISTMAS 2024

For the first time, we are also donating to JAIRUS-Werk e. V., which is creating a place to live for children and young people from dysfunctional social structures with the JAIRUS-Hof, where they receive educational and therapeutic support and social and emotional stabilization.

**You will find more details  
in the next issue.**



### SCORING POINTS TOGETHER WITH THE EN BASKETS

Our partnership with the local basketball club, EN Baskets Schwelm, has entered the next season. For another year, we are supporting the team with new jerseys and strengthening the DIRAK brand in our region with LED perimeter advertising in the sports hall. EN Baskets Schwelm continues to play in the 2nd Bundesliga ProB basketball league and has already recorded a number of successes this season.

### SUPPORT IN DIFFICULT TIMES – THE CHILDREN’S HOSPICE SERVICE RUHRGEBIET E.V.

Supporting the Kinderhospizdienst Ruhrgebiet e.V. children’s hospice service is a matter close to our hearts. This association helps where help is needed in the face of helplessness and has set itself the task of accompanying children and young people affected by an incurable illness on an outpatient basis on their last journey through life. This also includes giving families and relatives

some respite, relieving them, providing information and not leaving them alone when it comes to saying goodbye. Jens Boche, Managing Director of DIRAK Holding and DIRAK GmbH, emphasizes the importance of the long-standing bond: “A terminal illness can affect any of us. That’s why it’s important to us to support the children’s hospice service financially again this year and thus make the work of the caregivers possible and fulfill some last wishes.”

Would you like to support the Kinderhospizdienst Ruhrgebiet e.V. as well?  
You can contact them here

**CLICK HERE ►►**

# Company Visit in Sprockhövel: A View Behind the Scenes

As part of the InKA project, which is run by the Jobcenter EN in cooperation with the Caritas Association Hagen, two company visits took place at our location in Sprockhövel in April and August. The InKA project is aimed at people with disabilities or multiple illnesses. The aim is to place these people with employers and thus promote their social participation.

At both events, the participants were first given a presentation on the company and key figures and processes by plant manager Andreas Taddey. This was followed by a tour of the plant, during which all stations from receiving to dispatch were clearly explained. This insight gave the participants a deeper understanding of the work processes at DIRAK.

The feedback from the participants was consistently positive and many were enthusiastic about the new insights they gained. Such initiatives are crucial to promoting the social participation and integration of people with disabilities.





# DIRAK Quality

## Did You Know?

Salt is not only used for flavoring, but is also the natural enemy of many of our products, as it causes surfaces to rust and attacks materials. However, it is precisely this property that makes it our strongest ally when it comes to the quality assurance of our products. In our salt spray test, we deliberately expose products to an aggressive salt atmosphere. Whether uncoated metals, organic coatings, metallic coatings or chemical or physical surface treatments – this is where you can see what is really corrosion-resistant.

With our salt spray test chamber, we are able to carry out corrosion tests in accordance with DIN EN ISO 9227 / NSS. This ensures that our products remain permanently resistant and reliable.



# Careers at DIRAK

## Former trainees on their path in the company



### INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTOPHER BRABENDER

Every career begins with a first step – and for many of our current employees, that step was their training at DIRAK. In our new series, we talk to former trainees about their personal experiences, their development within the company and the reasons why they have remained loyal to DIRAK to this day. We interviewed our colleague Christopher Brabender, warehouse specialist, about his time at DIRAK. In the interview, he shares insights into his journey from his apprenticeship to his current position and gives valuable tips for future junior employees.

### WHEN DID YOU START AT DIRAK AND WHAT APPRENTICESHIP DID YOU COMPLETE?

I started at DIRAK in August 2011 and completed a two-year apprenticeship as a skilled warehouse operator. This apprenticeship is now also offered in the form of a three-year apprenticeship, but this was not offered at the time.

### WAS THERE A PARTICULAR HIGHLIGHT OR MOMENT DURING YOUR APPRENTICESHIP THAT YOU REMEMBER PARTICULARLY WELL?

Yes, a special moment for me was when I got my forklift license. At the time, there was no one in the company who could provide this training, so DIRAK organized an external trainer. Passing the forklift license was a highlight for me. It was even more exciting to be allowed to drive the forklift truck for the company for the first time after all the preparation – including the G25 examination and other instructions. That was an exciting experience and I learned back then that these machines have more power than you might think.





**WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AFTER YOUR APPRENTICESHIP? DID YOU START DIRECTLY IN YOUR DESIRED DEPARTMENT OR DID YOU SWITCH?**

I've always worked in logistics, which means either in the warehouse or in incoming goods. I actually ended up in my current position by chance and I'm quite happy about that. I owe a lot of that to the team leader for the warehouse and incoming goods department, who gave me a lot of support, especially with the Savanna and SAP programs. She trained me and taught me everything I needed to know about the area. Now I'm in the happy position of warehouse specialist and I'm also very happy there.

**WHAT WAS THE MAIN REASON YOU WANTED TO STAY AT DIRAK AND WHAT SUPPORT DID YOU RECEIVE FROM THE COMPANY THAT HELPED YOU TO STAY?**

The main reasons are definitely my colleagues and the human interaction here at the company. We are a small, family-like team in the warehouse and that is more valuable to me than anything else. I have received great support from DIRAK in the form of training and further education, including the first aid course, a shelf inspection and data protection training, which has helped me a lot. I am particularly proud of the trainer aptitude test, which I passed in July this year, meaning that I am now registered as a trainer in the field of logistics.

**WHAT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE YOU UNDERGONE SINCE YOUR APPRENTICESHIP? HAVE THERE BEEN ANY PARTICULAR SUCCESSES?**

After my apprenticeship, I switched from order picker to back stocking. From there, I was gradually given more and more tasks, such as returns, some of which I now also process. I am always happy to take on new tasks so that I can continue to grow and improve.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE FUTURE TRAINEES?**

My most important piece of advice to future trainees is to own up to your mistakes. Mistakes are never bad as long as you are honest and you can learn from them. Trainees in the warehouse in particular should also know: "Don't put your hands in your pockets – the warehouse/receiving team management doesn't like that at all." I also think it's important to mention that our trainees are offered key qualifications, such as a forklift license, which goes beyond the normal training spectrum and is a real advantage. At DIRAK, we try to do everything optimally, if not a little more than we should.



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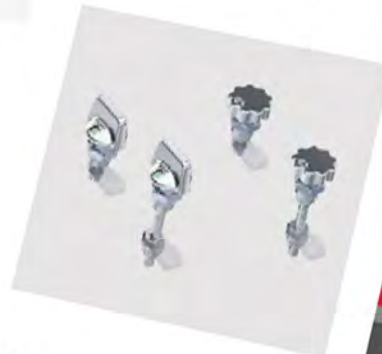


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