



SUCCESS STORY

› **ERNST UMFORM-  
TECHNIK GMBH**



ERNST UMFORMTECHNIK GMBH

# THE FIRST CHOICE FOR SPECIALTY FORMING

## INDUSTRY

- Automotive and Supply
- Metalworking industry

## PRODUCTS

Forming, stamped and deep-drawn parts, assemblies

## EMPLOYEES

750

## LICENSES

196

## USING ABAS SINCE

1993

## LOCATIONS

Germany, France,  
China, USA

## WEBSITE

[www.ernst.de](http://www.ernst.de)

**EVERYONE HAS THEM, THOUGH FEW KNOW ABOUT THEM: EVERY CONSUMER HAS DAILY CONTACT WITH THE PRODUCTS OF ERNST UMFORMTECHNIK**

The company based in Zusenhofen near Oberkirch makes housings for airbags, electric motors, and electronic components as well as elements for transmissions, air conditioners, and exhaust gas technology for the automobile industry and its system suppliers. ERNST components are found in just about every vehicle, for example, in window lifter motors, driver side airbags, and double clutch transmissions. As a forming specialist and recognized development partner in the automobile supplier industry, ERNST uses the ERP software from abas in Karlsruhe.

**ERNST**





## PARTS WITH ABSOLUTE PRECISION

The company produces highly precise parts and assemblies with tolerances in the  $\mu$  range. Complementary production processes such as machining and joining extend the value chain at ERNST and harbor many benefits for ERNST customers by eliminating subsequent process steps in their own operations. ERNST is also a renowned supplier in the household appliance industry and the electric motor building sector. From white goods such as kitchen appliances to the DIY segment, high-quality housings and precision structural components made of metal are key to the quality of the end product.

ERNST Umformtechnik GmbH has been an established and rapidly growing automobile industry supplier for more than 40 years. The German company is among the market leaders in forming, stamping, bending, and deep-drawing. Just about every consumer has daily contact with products from the hidden champion ERNST, especially in the car. ERNST has been using abas ERP and growing constantly since 1993.

## ERNST STANDS FOR PERFECT FORMING

At times, a tiny detail makes the difference between life and death, for example, when it comes to the function of airbags. ERNST has proven millions of times that its formed parts provide this safety and precision down to the smallest detail. This is the result of development and production processes that have been steadily expanding the range of forming for decades. Today ERNST Umformtechnik in Oberkirch manufactures products in series that still seemed impossible a few years ago. Experienced developers continuously expanded the limits of feasibility in order to achieve this progress. Thus the company from Baden-Württemberg creates new, precise formed parts with a steadily increasing utility value.





*“We have been working with abas successfully since 1993. Thanks to annual upgrades, we are always state-of-the-art.”*

**Rolf Wingert**  
IT Team Leader ERP at Ernst Umformtechnik GmbH

## FROM OBERRHEIN TO THE WORLD

ERNST has often managed to surprise its customers with unique, innovative solutions on the way from the idea to series readiness. This innovativeness has built the company's global reputation as a development partner – even for tricky problems. The company was founded in Oberkirch on Germany's Upper Rhine. Today the ERNST group has over 750 employees at four sites in Germany, France, China, and the USA. The headquarters of the ERNST Group: Oberkirch, Germany.

Egon Ernst founded ERNST Umformtechnik on 1 December 1970 in Oberkirch, where the international group's heart still beats to this day. Aside from extensive production facilities, the ERNST development expertise is concentrated at the company headquarters. This is where specialized knowledge and experience come together to design increasingly complex formed parts made of sheet metal.

Development and project management: Made in Germany Notwithstanding the international orientation, development and project management remain centralized at the German headquarters in Oberkirch. This is where employees of the foreign sites are familiarized

with the standardized ERNST processes. International projects can therefore be implemented at all sites with the same quality and efficiency. The enterprise software abas ERP used globally at all sites is an important basis for the smooth and efficient planning, production, and delivery of the premium parts and assemblies.

## ABAS ERP SUPPORTS ERNST

ERNST has been an abas user from the very beginning and uses abas ERP at all sites in Germany, France, China, and the USA. EDI is used for around 80% of the exchange of data with customers. ERNST uses the abas B2B Portal for its extended workbench (Chain Management) in order processing and communication with its suppliers and their subcontractors. The ERP software is used in Sales, Purchasing, Controlling, Project Management, Accounting, Production (Planning), and Inventory Management. Items and movements are recorded in the warehouse using both scales and identification systems such as barcode scanners.





## ALL GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES

All data in the ERNST international ERP network is managed on three different servers: One runs abas ERP with the clients Germany and France as well as a “master data client” that synchronizes various data between the sites. A second server is the fail-safe and mirrors the production server, while a third server is available as a test environment, for example, to test upgrades and for simulations. ERNST has an abas installation at the headquarters in Zushofen and one respectively in the USA and China. The site in France uses the installation in Germany.

“We have been working with abas successfully since 1993. Thanks to annual upgrades, we are always state-of-the-art. We realized our supplier link to the abas ERP system with the abas e-business solution. This considerably simplified communication with our suppliers. Product tracking & tracing only became possible in the first place with the implementation of the barcode scanner solution,” says Rolf Wingert, IT Team Leader ERP at ERNST Umformtechnik, who never ceases to be amazed by the speed at which requirements can be met in abas ERP.

## FORMING THE FUTURE

ERNST is planning to expand its operations at the Oberkirch site. Investments of more than 12 million euros are planned in the coming years. Optimizing the flow of materials by synchronizing production and logistics is the main objective in planning the future development of operations at the German site. This includes creating facilities where larger production machines can be set up, including corresponding peripherals, in order to prepare for new projects with products of larger dimensions.





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