

## Press release / Corporate News

# Two Binder+Co apprentices capture first and second place at the National Welding Championships

**Gleisdorf, October 16, 2012. Two apprentices from the Styrian mechanical engineering company, Binder+Co, recently captured the winner and runner-up titles at the National Welding Championships and have thus qualified for the up-and-coming World and European Championships.**

A Binder+Co apprentice has not only just brought the national title in welding to Gleisdorf, but the runner-up in this category is also a trainee in the apprenticeship scheme of this model Styrian company. As the national champion, Christoph Schmallegger has qualified for WorldSkills 2013, the world trades championships, which will be held in Leipzig/Germany. Franz Auner, the runner-up, will take part in the 2014 European Championships.

Binder+Co is delighted by the splendid success of its trainees, as confirmed by Karl Grabner from the Binder+Co Board: "We would like to sincerely congratulate both apprentices on their outstanding achievements!" This confirms the great value that the company has long attached to the in-house training of skilled workers. Binder+Co is well aware that its apprentices make a major contribution to corporate success. Karl Grabner: "The overall framework at Binder+Co supports this positive development. Moreover, our thanks are also due to Manfred Lafer, the head of our apprenticeship courses, who has a highly positive influence on our youngsters, not only in a specialist regard, but also in connection with communications and social skills."

Board member, Jörg Rosegger, is equally convinced of the importance of apprenticeships at Binder+Co: "Among other effects, the excellent specialist training of our apprentices helps us with our efforts towards internationalisation. This is because during the creation of our assembly support units in other countries we need extremely well trained skilled workers, as is currently the case in China. Therefore, the ability to recruit this personnel from among our own ranks is a significant advantage."

The fact that former Binder+Co apprentices assume key positions is demonstrated by numerous employees such as Bruno Egger, the head of production, who laid the basis for his career at Binder+Co with company training as a fitter.

### **The Binder+Co Group**

*Binder+Co AG is a specialist in the field of processing, environmental and packaging technology and the world market leader in the screening and glass recycling segments. The company was listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange at the end of 2006 and is now part of the Third Market in the mid market segment. The Binder+Co Group consists of Binder+Co AG, the two fully owned subsidiaries Comec-Binder S.r.l. and Bublon GmbH, and the Statec Binder GmbH joint venture. In 2010, Binder+Co was awarded the Austrian National Innovation Prize for its successful implementation of inventive capacity and in 2011 received the Best Open Innovator Award of the Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen as the top SME in the D-A-CH region.*