

Customer Interview

CAD/CAM Automation

SCHAEFFLER

The Schaeffler Group is making a decisive contribution to mobility with its high-precision components and systems in engine, transmission, and chassis applications, in addition to rolling and plain bearing solutions for many industrial applications. Since its beginnings, the Schaeffler company has been characterized by groundbreaking innovations and global customer orientation. The main development centers of the Schaeffler Group in Germany are Herzogenaurach, Schweinfurt and Buhl, which operate in a network with other development centers in Europe, Asia, North and South America.

www.schaeffler.de

Interviewee:

Wilfried Höß

Team leader CAM programming,
Schaeffler Automotive Buhl GmbH & Co. KG,
Kappelrodeck



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At the SCHAEFFLER Group, you have been using *hyperMILL®* CAD/CAM automation technologies from OPEN MIND for a long time. What impact has this CAD/CAM automation had on the SCHAEFFLER Group?

CAD/CAM automation is very important in SCHAEFFLER's tool and prototype construction division, as automation has enabled us to increase program throughput whilst improving process reliability significantly. As standardization plays a decisive role for us, it was easy for us to define the processes in the *hyperMILL®* AUTOMATION Center. The tool generates collision-free NC programs for our automated production lines. The aim was also to reduce routine work for the CAM programmers as much as possible. This enables them to focus on the important activities within the business. Interestingly, we can independently develop solutions with the *hyperMILL®* AUTOMATION Center and adapt them to new processes.

How important is it that you and your team can develop automation solutions with the *hyperMILL®* AUTOMATION Center?

Being able to adapt the processes by ourselves is very important as our manufacturing processes are constantly evolving. That's why it's a real advantage for us to be able to optimize and incorporate our ideas and requirements promptly in the *hyperMILL®* AUTOMATION Center. An experienced CAM programmer can now automate programming in *hyperMILL®* independently after appropriate training. In addition, for individual projects, it may nevertheless be necessary to use the support from OPEN MIND.

When do you use the additional OPEN MIND consulting services?

The OPEN MIND technical team support us with their expertise in areas where our knowledge is not yet sufficient or where we have internal capacity bottlenecks. The

knowledge exchange with the OPEN MIND specialists brings new ideas every time. This helps us to automate our processes further.

How do you value the cooperation with OPEN MIND for your automation projects?

For many years we have been working very closely and trustfully with OPEN MIND to jointly develop our manufacturing solutions. We appreciate the high level of expertise, collaboration and feedback from the OPEN MIND automation team. With OPEN MIND's automation solutions, SCHAEFFLER achieves a good return on investment. We have brought many successful automation projects to fruition. For example, we have developed clamping centre solutions that have enabled us to create simple standardized programming of part families. Every time we do this, we apply a *hyperMILL®* program check at the end of the program sequence to ensure complete confidence in the process.

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