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Uhing Engineering Company Sponsors Engineers to Be

Joachim Uhing KG GmbH & Co. in Mielkendorf near Kiel supports the startIng! project run by Kiel University of Applied Sciences. Grouped in project teams, freshman students can gather on-site experience, test their aptitude and get informed of career opportunities.

For a long time, business management students have been having the privilege of practically implementing their theoretical knowledge. What would be more obvious than putting flesh on the bones of mechanical engineering theory by allowing insight in the daily life of a practical engineer? “There is hardly any other sector that demands such a close interaction between theoretical background and practical skills”, says Burkhard W. Bohn, Uhing KG’s Engineering head. “This is why we decided to support the startIng! project.”

Kiel University of Applied Sciences launched the project in Winter term 2006/2007. Some 50 freshman students, grouped in teams of ten, may slip into the role of an engineer after only six weeks of studies. To give them an idea of what their future job holds in store, they solve a problem posed by a sponsoring company. In the course of the project, originating from a very successful initiative of Darmstadt Technical University started in 1998, the future engineers also learn to understand why it is important to study the theoretical background often regarded as dry and removed from reality. “During project work, the students can find out whether the subject they have chosen appeals to them. We can assist young students and also inform them of their career opportunities”, says Bohn.

“Everybody is talking about the threatening technological emergency in Germany”, says Wolfgang Weber, Uhing’s Sales and Marketing head in an attempt to explain the motives of the likewise innovative and long-established enterprise to sponsor a group of students. “It is relatively easy to replicate a machine but you cannot imitate the decades of experience that led to its development. We are glad to offer young students an insight into the daily life of classical engineering. They get first hand experience of what it means to practically implement theoretical knowledge and realise how much know-how is required for our work.” Last but not least the enterprise can detect young talents at an early stage in the course of this project. Such a sponsorship could even lead to a long-term relationship.