



IN MEMORY OF HOLGER POLANETZKI

December 13, 1956 - June 19, 2026

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our highly respected and beloved colleague, Holger Polanetzki. A brilliant Engineer of Metallurgy, Holger dedicated much of his life to advancing the aerospace industry during his long and distinguished career at MTU Aero Engines AG in Munich and within the worldwide shot peening community. Holger joined MTU in 1986, initially taking responsibility for various special processes. Over the decades, his expertise deepened, culminating in his role as the Designated Process Specialist for Shot Peening and Grit Blasting, as well as the GE Certifying Agent for Shot Peening—a pivotal position he held for over 20 years prior to his retirement.

Holger's peer Alfred Pirker at MTU says "Beyond his technical expertise, we will remember Holger for his exceptional mentorship. He consistently challenged and guided his MTU colleagues in work planning and team leadership, providing cross-company support with unmatched expertise and competence."

Holger was a visionary in his field, responsible for conducting critical audits, providing expert consultations on design, quality, and manufacturing, and driving the development and implementation of new technologies, even in the face of opposition.

Wolfgang Hennig, former process owner from Rolls-Royce in Oberursel says: "I will miss the passionate discussions with Holger on shot peening processes and equipment."

Due to his ongoing dedication to shot peening as Holger was honored as "Shot Peener of the Year" (2008) by The Shot Peener magazine. He was an active member of AMEC, developed and implemented the highly advanced ultrasonic peening surface treatment process at MTU and co-developed the process and tooling for spiker needle peening. Even after his retirement he was actively involved in the German Shot Peener Forum and served as a dedicated trainer at workshops hosted by Electronics Inc. in the U.S. and sentenso in Germany.

"With his engagement in our workshops and his contributions Holger has brought technological excellence to our events. Moreover I'm missing him as a very helpful and reliable fellow over many years.", says Volker Schneidau, general manager from sentenso.

Holger will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of working with him. Our deepest condolences go out to his family and loved ones. ●

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