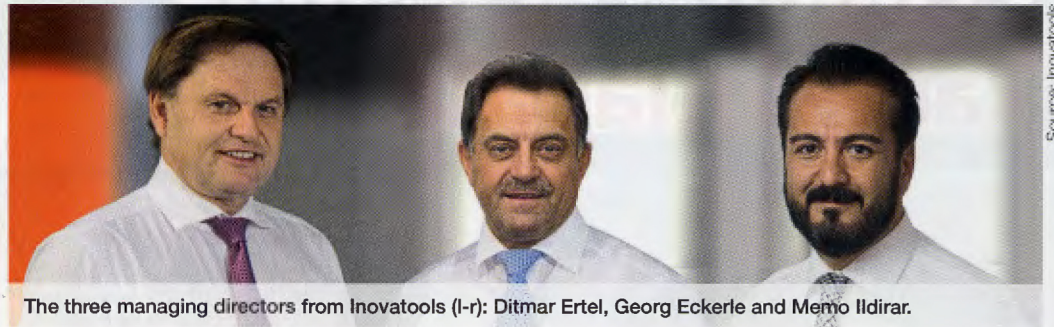


## Sweden-based Indutrade buys in on Inovatools

**Sweden/Germany** Nasdaq Stockholm-listed Indutrade has taken over Inovatools. The takeover will strengthen the Swedish company's position in Germany, while allowing tool manufacturer Inovatools to continue focusing on success and growth with the support of a strong investor, it has been reported. Inovatools says that with the backing of Indutrade, which markets and sells high-tech components, systems and services in six business areas with a turnover of about SEK 13 billion (€1.3 billion) in 2016, it can set the course for additional investments and global growth.

Indutrade AB President and CEO Bo Annvik notes: "Indutrade has been monitoring and getting to know Inovatools for many years. We are impressed by the service and innovative strength of the company."

Founded in 1990 by Georg Eckerle and Ditmar Ertel, Ino-



The three managing directors from Inovatools (l-r): Ditmar Ertel, Georg Eckerle and Memo Ildirar.

vatools is said to be one of the top-20 manufacturers in Germany. With a modern machine fleet, a technology centre for developing and testing special tools as well as a coating centre, the company with its HQ in Kinding-Haunstetten has over 250 employees in 40 sales countries and turnover of about €43 million in 2016. The manufacturer of solid carbide standard tools and specialised production, from resharpened milling cutters and drills to reamers, supplies the mechanical engineering, aerospace,

automotive and tool engineering industries.

Joining MDs Georg Eckerle and Ditmar Ertel is newly appointed Managing Director Memo Ildirar, who is responsible for international sales. "We see clear advantages in attracting a long-term and financially strong owner with Indutrade and planning profitable growth from an international perspective," Ildirar says. MDs Eckerle and Ertel add: "Nothing will change in our management, so we can focus on achieving continued

success with our successful, highly motivated and competent team and a strong investor behind us. Initial investments in capacity expansions, such as in the machine fleet and the already started 16-metre shop extension, are already underway." Inovatools has a dense network of foreign branches and sales partners, including in the USA and the UK. For customers, nothing should change in terms of the business relationship, quality and service.

inovatools.eu

## B.Sc. degrees in business information and career opportunities

**Germany** A digital business information systems course, the Bachelor of Science in Business Information Studies, is now being offered to students at DHBW.

The Bachelor of Science course is a co-operation between the Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW) and tooling company Walter AG.

Germany-based Walter is a provider of specialised machining solutions. The company says the course is a recognition of the potency of Industry 4.0 and will effectively "open the door" to career opportunities in smart factories.

The three-year degree course, which will be internationally recognised, will be offered from autumn this year. The course combines scientific studies and practical experience. Students will be alternating between the university and the company every three months, thereby acquiring



The three-year bachelor degree course can job training can effectively "open doors" to career opportunities in smart factories.

knowledge, professional experience and "soft skills" proportionately.

Students receive a fixed salary throughout the duration of the course, while enjoying all the privileges offered to employees by Walter. Also, the study programme is more engaging than a regular course

and the practical experience has very diverse content. A multiple-week internship at a Walter subsidiary abroad is also incorporated in this course.

According to the company, Industry 4.0 is mechanical and electrical engineering as well as information technology

coming together to form an intelligent, networked production system. And, as such, the interlocking of the analogue and digital spheres needs a lasting change of attitude, which is the reason for having developed this new degree course.

As a pioneer of Industry 4.0, one of Walter's key objectives is digital transformation. The company specialises in optimising component machining, complementing its extensive range of tooling with digital components and apps to continuously monitor machining processes – a strategy that needs digital experts.

The course expands Walter's commitment to co-operative degrees in mechanical engineering at universities. The company also trains "school graduates" to become industrial mechanics, machine and system operators as well as electronics technicians.

walter-tools.com