

## PRESS RELEASE

### **punker wins renowned Manufacturing Excellence (MX) Award**

**A credible company with innovative product development, trend-setting IT, leadership culture and employee integration, punker is the first company from Schleswig-Holstein to win in the Best SME category.**

Eckernförde, 9 November 2018: "Create the Digital Change Together" was the theme of the Manufacturing Excellence Network Conference held at the Berlin Water Tower where punker GmbH, located in the German state of Schleswig-Holstein, has been awarded the 2018 Manufacturing Excellence (MX) Award in the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) category. punker managed to rise above its strong competitors from all over Germany and was particularly persuasive in the product innovation, information technology and management culture / employee integration evaluation categories.

'Winning the MX Award – especially on our first attempt – is an honour for the entire punker team', said a very pleased Dr Henning Bähren, the company's Managing Director. After more than 5 years of implementing Smart & Lean practices, punker participated in the MX Awards to gauge where the company stands in relation to the top industry companies in Germany and to determine which areas of their business have further improvement potential. As an example, detailed feedback from the judging panel has pointed out an area of such potential in the way production is managed on the shop floor and provided valuable indications on how it could be made more transparent and result in greater efficiency.

About punker GmbH:

punker develops, produces and sells radial fan impellers made of metal that are used in a variety of industry fields. Such areas of use include: air conditioning and household appliances; industrial applications for compressors and car wash installations; as well as the agricultural and food industries. punker has been based in Eckernförde for over 60 years producing around 4 million metal fan impellers annually for over 1,000 customers worldwide, making it the sector's largest European manufacturer. For more information, visit [www.punker.com](http://www.punker.com)

About the Manufacturing Excellence (MX) Award:

The guiding principle of Manufacturing Excellence is: 'Recognizing strengths – setting standards'. The MX Award has been given out annually since 2005 and is a respected business competition that serves to establish the industry benchmark. It aims to be the leading network to exchange best practices in the German-speaking world. The primary goal of Manufacturing Excellence is to promote cross-industry

cooperation and create a communication network for science and industry experts. Innovative and creative solutions not only strengthen international competition in a sustainable manner, but also place Germany in the centre of this integral cooperation.

The MX Award is made possible under the patronage of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy. For more information, visit [www.manufacturing-excellence.de](http://www.manufacturing-excellence.de)

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