

## ebm-papst Founder Gerhard Sturm turns 85

Mulfingen, 12/13/2019

Gerhard Sturm, the man who founded ebm-papst, is celebrating his 85th birthday on December 17. Thanks to outstanding entrepreneurial effort in conjunction with a great deal of humanity, Gerhard Sturm led Elektrobau Mulfingen (ebm) – a firm with 35 employees back then – to become the globally active company ebm-papst within five decades. Today, the ebm-papst Group, a pioneering manufacturer of fans and motors, has over 15,000 employees around the globe and generates annual revenues of more than 2 billion euros.

Gerhard Sturm was born on December 17, 1934 as the third of five children in Künzelsau-Nagelsberg, Germany. When he was 14, Mr. Sturm started his apprenticeship as a machinist. Afterward, the classmate of Reinhold Würth and Albert Berner started working at Ziehl-Abegg, the fan manufacturer. After passing the master's examination, Mr. Sturm was appointed to the position of plant assistant and in 1960, he became the head of external rotor motor production. In 1963, Gerhard Sturm and his mentor, Heinz Ziehl, founded a company known today as ebm-papst Group. The consummate entrepreneur influenced the company for more than 50 years, and retired from the operative business in 2007.

Mr. Sturm's decisions always showed courage and a great deal of trust in his employees.

For many decades, he upheld the company principle that every newly developed product must be superior to its predecessor in terms of ecology and economics. As a result, ebm-papst developed its GreenTech philosophy.

Providing sustainable support for training and continuing education has always been important to Mr. Sturm. A member of the university council at Heilbronn University of Applied Sciences for many years, he was also a key sponsor of the establishment and expansion of the Künzelsau campus. Mr. Sturm was also engaged in local politics: he was a member of the municipal council for decades.

For his social commitment and entrepreneurial activities, Gerhard Sturm received many honors. They include the Federal Cross of Merit, the Medal of Merit of the State of Baden-Württemberg, and the Diesel Medal, the highest honor for inventors.

Mr. Sturm will celebrate his 85th birthday with his family and closest employees.

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## Captions (Photo: ebm-papst)

Figure 1/2: Gerhard Sturm is celebrating his 85th birthday on December 17, 2019.

## Über ebm-papst

Die ebm-papst Gruppe, ein Familienunternehmen mit Hauptsitz in Mulfingen Baden-Württemberg, ist der weltweit führende Hersteller von Ventilatoren und Motoren. Seit Gründung 1963 setzt das Technologieunternehmen kontinuierlich weltweite Marktstandards und bietet mit über 20.000 Produkten für praktisch jede Aufgabe in der Luft- und Antriebstechnik die passende, energieeffiziente und intelligente Lösung.

Im Geschäftsjahr 2018/19 erzielte der Branchenprimus einen Umsatz von 2,18 Mrd. €. Die ebm-papst Gruppe beschäftigt über 15.000 Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter an 28 Produktionsstätten (u. a. in Deutschland, China und den USA) sowie 48 Vertriebsstandorten weltweit. Ventilatoren und Motoren von ebm-papst sind nahezu in allen Branchen zu finden, wie zum Beispiel in den Bereichen Lüftungs-, Klima- und Kältetechnik, Haushaltsgeräte, Heiztechnik, Automotive und Antriebstechnik.

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