

Award for technology leader in fan technology

ebm-papst excels with innovative strength and is honored as a top innovator in 2025

Innovation is a core value of the corporate culture at ebm-papst, a fan and motor manufacturer based in Mulfingen, Germany. The company's commitment to innovation has once again been recognized with the TOP 100 Award—its third time receiving this prestigious honor. This competition celebrates highly innovative small and medium-sized enterprises, with winners selected through a rigorous scientific evaluation of their innovation activities based on more than 100 criteria.

The TOP 100 Award recognizes Germany's most innovative small and medium-sized enterprises. The selection process is based on a rigorous scientific evaluation led by innovation researcher Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Franke. Companies are assessed across five key categories: innovation-driven top management, innovation climate, innovative processes and organization, external orientation and open innovation, and overall innovation success. The central question is whether a company's innovations stem from a structured innovation management approach or occur by chance. "Innovation means acting instead of reacting," says Franke. "It means actively shaping the future rather than merely hoping nothing will change."

Innovation Drives Major Efficiency Gains

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Tomas Smetana, Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of the ebm-papst Group, highlights the critical role of innovation in maintaining the company's global leadership: "True innovation emerges where efficiency meets enthusiasm—both of which are driven by people. As a technology leader, we develop and manufacture high-quality components and systems for ventilation and heating technology. By combining decades of product expertise with the opportunities presented by digitalization and AI, we continue to achieve significant efficiency gains—an essential factor in advancing the energy transition. Rather than relying solely on individual creativity, we foster an environment where innovative ideas can continuously develop in the minds of all employees. As a team, we are proud to be among Germany's leading innovators. Medium-sized companies like ours form the foundation of sustainable growth, ensuring long-term prosperity in Germany and across the EU."

Ongoing Commitment to "Glocal" Innovation

The TOP 100 Award highlights ebm-papst's ongoing commitment to sustaining its innovative strength and technological leadership in the long term. At its Mulfingen headquarters alone, the company has made significant investments in R&D infrastructure in recent years. Notable projects include the establishment of an EMC laboratory in 2021 (€12 million), a testing center in 2023 (€8 million), the HighSpeed Technikum in 2024 (€15 million), and the E-Drive Solution Labs, set to open in 2025 (€30 million). Beyond Germany, ebm-papst continues to expand its "glocal" presence—combining global expertise with local market focus. Key initiatives include the opening of its new Chinese headquarters, "OneShanghai," in 2024, the expansion of its Xi'an plant in China by 2025 (€30 million), the establishment of a new manufacturing facility in Telford, USA, in 2022 (\$30 million), and the expansion of its production and development site in Farmington, USA, in 2024 (€3 million).

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PRESS RELEASE

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engineering a better life

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Image 1 a + b: Prof. Dr.-Ing. Tomas Smetana, Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of the ebm-papst Group, accepted the Top 100 Award on behalf of the R&D and Innovation Management teams.



Image 2: The innovation cluster managers are delighted to receive the Top 100 award.



Image 3: For the third time, ebm-papst has been honored as a technology leader with the Top 100 Award.

Images ebm-papst

Characters approx. 3,000, including headings and sub-headings

Tags Innovation, technology leadership, SMEs, ventilation technology, efficiency, innovation management, digitization, artificial intelligence, research and development, energy transition

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About ebm-papst

The ebm-papst Group, a family-run company headquartered in Muldingen, Germany, is the world's leading manufacturer of fans and motors. Since it was founded in 1963, the technological leader has set international industry standards with its core competencies in motor technology, electronics, digitalization, and aerodynamics.

ebm-papst offers sustainable, intelligent, and tailor-made solutions for virtually every requirement in ventilation and heating technology. ebm-papst sets the benchmark in almost all sectors, such as ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration technology, heating technology, information technology, mechanical engineering, intralogistics, and medical technology. In the 2023/24 financial year, the Group generated a turnover of EUR 2.408 billion. It employs just nearly 14,000 people at 30 production sites including in Germany, China, and the US, as well as 50 sales offices worldwide.

TOP 100: the award

Since 1993, compamedia has awarded the TOP 100 seal to small and medium-sized enterprises in recognition of exceptional innovative strength and above-average innovation success. Since 2002, the scientific direction of the project has been led by Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Franke, founder and CEO of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Vienna University. With 27 research awards and over 200 publications, Prof. Franke is regarded as one of the world's leading innovation researchers. Science journalist Ranga Yogeshwar serves as the mentor for TOP 100, while the Fraunhofer Society for the Advancement of Applied Research and the German SME association BVMW are project partners. Manager Magazin is a media partner, and ZEIT für Unternehmer collaborates as a cooperation partner.

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