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### More flexibility when it comes to cleaning

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The third new machine purchased as part of the Boehlerit investment programme is an automated, multi-chamber cleaning system by Novatec. All Boehlerit tools and workpieces have to be cleaned of all kinds of dirt and impurities before and after certain production steps and/or after their completion. The switch from a lift/shift system with fixed process flows to a system with two independent compilers has made it possible to implement individual cleaning programmes. For instance, individual cleaning tanks may now be left out altogether or repeated, in line with specific requirements. In total, the system comprises nine tanks, four for cleaning and five for rinsing. Some of the cleaning tanks come with ultrasonic power. Acidic or alkaline cleaning agents are added to the tanks, *“always with a rinsing tank in between to ensure that the cleaning liquids are not carried over”*, explains Andreas Königshofer, head of the grinding shop. Quality and intensity of the individual cleaning liquids are constantly monitored on an automated basis, thus ensuring an economical and environmentally friendly operation. Overall, cleaning quality has been raised to a new level, which also improves the adhesion of the carbide layer and thus directly benefits Boehlerit customers.

### Ready for the future

Thanks to the high capacity of the cleaning system – throughput has been doubled compared to the previous unit – Boehlerit is ready to meet future challenges. The flexibility of the individual cleaning processes as well as the possibility of optimising and/or accelerating throughputs helps to keep costs low. In addition, the new system is more efficient compared to the previous one. Orders and carts are scanned using a bar code system. In connection with process and data registration of the individual cleaning processes, this means that each individual indexable insert is fully traceable. Thanks to the OPC UA interface, this data can be evaluated and processed further using an MRP system. The information gained in this way is used to maintain a consistently high quality standard.

## Press release

### The company

Boehlerit, headquartered in the Austrian town of Kapfenberg, sets global standards with carbides and tools for the processing of metal, wood, plastics and composites. With cutting materials, semi-finished products, precision tools and tool systems for milling, turning, drilling and forming, Boehlerit ensures process safety and efficiency on a global scale. The company's extensive product portfolio includes highly specialised tools for the machining of crankshafts as well as for the mining industry, for bar peeling, tube and sheet metal processing and heavy-duty machining. The Boehlerit product range also features carbides for construction components and wear protection. When it comes to coating technology, Boehlerit holds a global monopoly, ranging from the first-ever nano-CVD bonding layer to the hardest diamond layer worldwide. With its many years' experience in metallurgy, coating technology and state-of-the-art press technology, Boehlerit is a highly competent development partner for toolmakers.

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## Images

**Fig. 1:** The automated multi-chamber cleaning system offers flexibility at the highest level: Cleaning processes may now be adapted to individual requirements.



Images

Fig. 2: Optimised cleaning quality ensures the best possible adhesion of carbide layers on indexable inserts.

