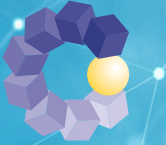


COMPAMED



Member of  MEDICAlliance  
DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY  
11-14 NOVEMBER 2024

# PRISMA

The WILD Group  
magazine



## AN EYE FOR PRECISION

**WILD**  
**PHOTONIC**

WILD invests  
in automation

3

Better optics for even  
sharper digital microscopes

4

Diligence along the  
whole supply chain

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# A STABLE CONSTANT IN DYNAMIC MARKETS.



**Wolfgang Warum**  
Managing Director CTO  
WILD Holding

Companies are sensing that our world is changing faster than ever - and not just since the pandemic. Where volatility used to dominate the market, many processes have now become more unpredictable and anything but linear. In times like these, true constants are proving even more essential. They give people foothold and security. WILD is such a constant. With an equity ratio of around 70%, the company group rests on a rock-solid foundation, so both customers and staff can look into the future with confidence.

We will be carrying this spirit with us to COMPAMED, where we have also been a constant for 15 years. We are looking forward to discussing new product ideas and exploring exciting opportunities again with you in Düsseldorf.

Digital microscopy is a good example of the innovative features currently in demand in areas ranging from ophthalmology to dental

medicine. At the heart of all these functions are optics. Our special expertise in opto-mechatronics, coupled with our software solutions, can help you get the most out of these components.

Technical equipment plays an equally important role and, as you can read on page 3, we recently invested heavily in new machinery. In addition to automation, we are also advancing environmental aspects in the process. This is an issue we scrutinise very closely and are continuously improving as part of our supply chain due diligence. For more, go to page 7.

**Make sure you stop by our Booth J19 in Hall 8a!**

We look forward to seeing you there,

Wolfgang Warum



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- 4-6** — High-precision optics for innovative digital microscopes.
- 7** — Think ahead instead of trailing behind.
- 8** — Starting together.

# AUTOMATE AND GROW.

**By commissioning the RS 1 robot system by Hermle, WILD is taking the next step towards greater flexibility and efficiency in manufacturing.**

The great diversity of workpieces has always demanded maximum flexibility from WILD. To also ensure the highest possible productivity at the same time, the company recently put into operation an automated pallet and workpiece handling system. It was linked to two HERMLE 5-axis C 32 machining centres, which are now automatically loaded by the robot. "The RS 1 robot system is a combination cell which enables both pallet and workpiece handling", explains Christian Rabitsch, Managing Director at WILD GmbH. Three individually selectable rack storage modules with die and pallet places, as well as clamping device and gripper places ensure an optimum provision of parts. NC Grippers and automatically adjustable clamping devices can flexibly adjust to the workpiece blanks in a large and coordinated gripping and clamping range. Manual intervention is virtually eliminated, thus significantly increasing efficiency.

Another advantage is that the robot and the machining centres operate autonomously and can switch between day and night operation. Parts with short machining times are processed during the daytime, while components requiring longer machining times are manufactured during the night or on weekends. "This intelligent system is a leap forward for us. However, it also requires very well-defined processes, both for planning, work preparation, CAM-programming, as well as for finishing and quality assurance. We are currently

fine-tuning those aspects so that the RS 1 can go into full operation by the end of the year", Rabitsch explains.

## FOCUS ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

WILD also recently invested in the modernisation of its compressor infrastructure. "Compressed air is a major cost factor. The new control system allows us to reduce energy consumption to a minimum", explains Harald Gindl, Energy Officer at WILD GmbH. On the one hand, we can reuse up to 78% of the motor's energy through a heat recovery system for heating and process water. On the other, WILD uses the exhaust air from the compressors to heat the adjacent storage room. Moreover, the existing galvanic line was upgraded as part of the infrastructure investment totalling EUR 1.6 million. Modern sensors and dosing containers warrant flawless waste water treatment and improve efficiency and sustainability.

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# HIGH-PRECISION OPTICS FOR INNOVATIVE DIGITAL MICROSCOPES.

Despite exciting development leaps in post-processing, high-quality optic components remain indispensable for the visualisation of tiny details in the microscopic world.

Digital microscopy offers us high-resolution images of living cells and cell processes in real time, which has led to significant advances in cancer research, genetics and stem cell research.

In pathology, digital microscopy has revolutionised the analysis of tissue samples by enabling more precise diagnoses and collaboration between pathologists worldwide. In neuroscience, too, researchers can use these systems to examine neuronal networks and synapses in greater detail over long periods of time.

In many disciplines, both in medicine and industry, digital microscopes are seen as revolutionary. With sharp,

high-contrast images at enormous resolutions and sophisticated tools for image processing and in combination with other

digital technologies, they expand access to the finest details now visible under the microscope. There is no doubt that today's information technology has no problem processing immense amounts of data. As a result, digital microscopes have stretched the limits of diagnostics,

efficient treatment methods and research. On thing is clear though: Anything that the optical components of digital microscopes cannot capture cannot be made visible with post-processing either.

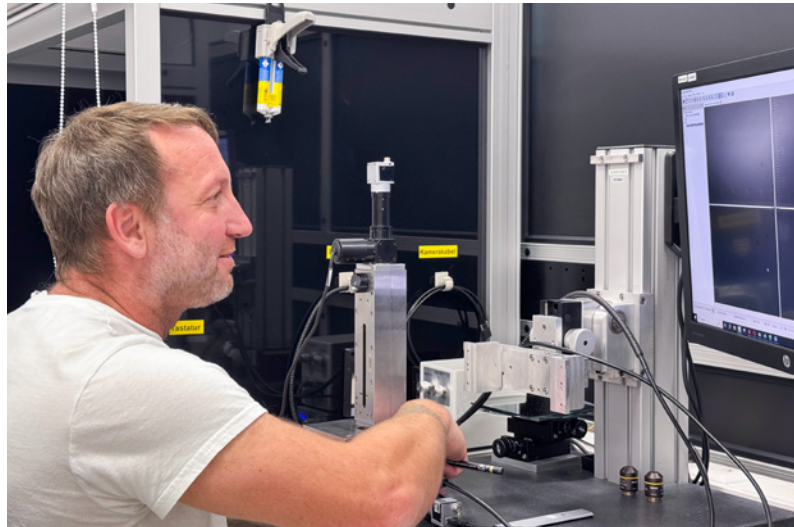
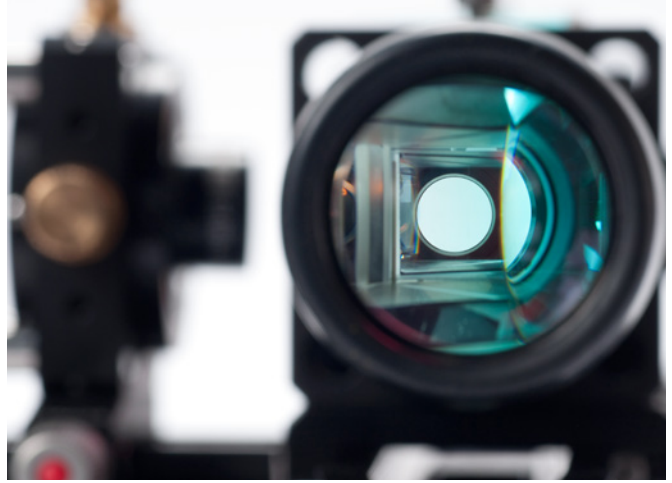
**How well a digital microscop works will ultimately depend on the quality of its optical components. Precisely these components are our specialty.**

*Franz Aigner, Head of Business Development  
WILD Group*





High-precision positioning of optics: Alignment turning for the highest accuracy and quality.



Adjustment of optics: Exact alignment for optimal performance and maximum precision.

**OPTICS DETERMINE THE QUALITY**

“Optics are and remain the key to excellence in digital microscopy. How well a system works will ultimately depend on the quality of its optical components. Precisely these components are our specialty”, stresses Franz Aigner, the WILD Group’s Head of Business Development. Whether it is Digital 3D microscopes for high-tech operating theatres, state-of-the-art video microscopes for ultra-precise on-wafer measurements or microscopes for mask aligners in semiconductor manufacturing, they have one thing in common: the centrepiece of all these systems are excellent optics.

“We bring the outstanding concepts of our customers into serial production in a safe and cost-effective manner. Not only due to our long-standing expertise in the development and conceptual design of optics, but primarily due to our different special skills in the manufacturing of high-precision optics, which we have mastered to the point of perfection”, Aigner adds.

**EVER HIGHER COMPLEXITY AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACT MANUFACTURERS**

This combination of depth and diversity in expertise is particularly coveted in digital microscopy. “Nowadays, one

“**The quality of illumination is essential for the image to be generated.**

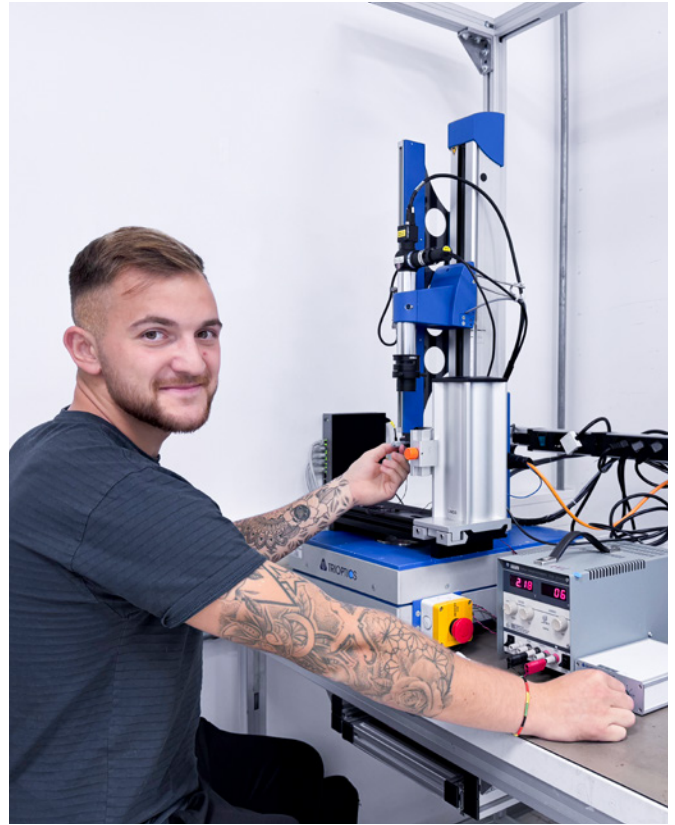
*Stefan Zotter, PHOTONIC Managing Director*

can combine a digital microscope with OCT technology or other digital technologies. It is also possible to use several sensors that are active on several wavelengths. As a result, not only surfaces but also cross sections become visible.

Yet the rising complexity of digital microscopes also brings higher requirements for competence, precision, and purity. WILD can meet these high requirements. The company’s competences range from the selection of the best-suited components, process engineering and choice of production and assembly process, to precision cleaning, cleanroom manufacturing and accurate adjustment of measurement instruments. “Moreover, customers can also rely on WILD’s competent support in creating fully compliant documentation for MDR or FDA approval”, emphasises Stefan Werkl, Head of Business Unit Optical Technologies.

**GROUNDBREAKING INNOVATION FOR OPERATING THEATRES**

The latest example is a digital surgical microscope that has been on the market since 2024. It opens new opportunities for the dynamic visualisation of information and has the potential to herald groundbreaking innovations in the field of surgery. WILD supplies the entire device. The customer opted



WILD staff measuring alignment errors in optics (above) and MTF measurement of lenses (left).

for the expertise of the Austrian technology partner at a very early stage in the project phase. “The current optical block is based on a concept developed by us”, says Manfred Gallé, Head of Business Unit Medical Technology.

**PROCESS EXPERTISE PAVES THE WAY TO NEW TOLERANCE RANGES**

“Due to our close proximity to manufacturing, we were also involved in the definition of the assembly process. This meant dealing with questions like ‘Which measurement parameters are necessary?’ or ‘What should individual assembly devices look like?’”, Gallé explains. This shows that in order to advance into new tolerance ranges, much more is needed than just technical equipment and expertise in manufacturing techniques like positioning milling and alignment turning. “We are constantly fine-tuning our processes, and they are permanently improving.”

**PHOTONIC DELIVERS LIGHT**

The WILD Group also delivers the complete lighting system for this innovative system. PHOTONIC supplies the complete lighting unit. “The quality of illumination is essential for the image to be generated”, stresses PHOTONIC Managing Director Stefan Zotter. Though this basically applies to every microscope, this one presented particular challenges. Zotter cites the example of a surgery mode, in which more light is

projected into the eye over a short period of time. “The light intensity is significantly higher but also critical, so it must be monitored accordingly”, the lighting expert explains.

**VIDEO MICROSCOPE FOR GLOBAL MARKET LEADER**

Outside the field of medical technology, digital microscopes are also firmly established in the semiconductor industry. WILD is very pleased to welcome a new customer here, considered to be among the global market leaders in high-precision wafer testing technologies. Starting in 2025, they will be handing over the production of a video microscope for ultra-precise on-wafer measurements to the technology partner. The system was developed by the customer themselves and incorporates an array of high-quality optics that guarantee maximum resolution.

“We are proud to be part of these groundbreaking developments”, admits Stefan Werkl, Head of Business Unit Optical Technologies.

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# THINK AHEAD INSTEAD OF TRAILING BEHIND.

Not an obligation, an endeavour born from conviction: the WILD Group is voluntarily improving its supply chains in numerous areas.



PHOTONIC and WILD not only stand for innovation and quality. For decades, they have also endeavoured to act in an environmentally-sound, sustainable and forward-looking manner. “Though EU supply chain legislation does not affect us from a legal point of view, we are currently evaluating our entire supply chain for risks regarding compliance with human rights, corruption or environmental standards”, explains Managing Director Arthur Primus. The technology partner benefits from having secured a commitment from its suppliers at an early stage. “They already had to declare compliance with specific standards that go far beyond what is required today”, adds Primus.

The company now also examines whether suppliers are operating in regions in which child labour exists or where no remuneration systems similar to collective bargaining agreements are in place. “We are also critical with regard to countries which, according to Transparency International, present a higher corruption risk or have not signed treaties like the Minimata or the Basel Convention”, says SCM Manager Thomas Obertausch. Based on this analysis, WILD draws up a shortlist with suppliers to be examined in greater detail.

## ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

In addition, WILD is now voluntarily preparing itself for ISO 14001 environmental management certification, which is scheduled for early 2025. The audit will further consolidate

“**We can already proudly claim today that the environmental impact of the WILD Group is extremely low.**”

*Arthur Primus, Managing Director WILD*

standards and redefine requirements for suppliers. “Greater priority is given, for instance, to recyclable packaging or CO2-reduced deliveries,” as Obertausch points out. Yet a lot more is being implemented based on an ESG strategy aimed at further improving WILD’s ecological footprint. “We can already proudly claim today that the environmental impact of the WILD Group is extremely low. Social standards at our sites are high and compliance with applicable laws is an absolute must”, says Primus.

## OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH NEW DIRECTIVES

Though formalities in connection with supply chain due diligence are time-consuming and costly and require that staff members are regularly trained and internal processes adjusted, the management believes they also offer opportunities. “All of this is forcing us to look even closer and to further improve ourselves,” Primus stresses. The WILD Group will therefore continue to meet these requirements with great care. “Respecting people and the environment has always been the standard for us. A legal requirement has now been added to that common sense.”

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# Starting together.

At this year's COMPAMED, WILD and PHOTONIC are positioning themselves as dynamic technology partners for visionary optical systems.

The path from an ingenious idea to serial production is rarely a sprint. Usually it is more similar to a steeplechase or a half marathon. What is definitely required are perfect preparation, speed, and stamina - exactly where the WILD Group delivers top performance. Especially with regard to the development and manufacturing of high-tech optics.

FAIR

- 8 Visitors to the COMPAMED 2024 trade fair can experience first hand how the group has managed to be both a specialist and an allrounder in this field. An allrounder because it can contribute experience from a multitude of projects ranging from dental scanners and digital surgical microscopes the world's only confocal laser scanning microscope for in-depth analysis of the human skin. A specialist because WILD is a much-coveted technology partner for excellent optics. "We not only provide support in manufacturing; we also contribute our decades of expertise already in the optical design phase. Our advantage is that we master different disciplines,

from lighting and measurement technology to assembly", says Franz Aigner, Head of Business Development. "This enables us to turn our customers' visions into reality."

At the customer's request, WILD can take over the complete transition process to serial production, including industrial engineering, the entire supply chain and quality management, as well as process engineering, i.e. the definition of optimised production and assembly processes. Especially in the case of complex products, WILD's experts distinguish themselves with special skills like alignment turning or cleanroom manufacturing, meeting the highest requirements for precision and purity.

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?**  
**Meet us at the WILD Group booth**  
**in hall 8a/booth J19.**

## PUBLISHING INFORMATION

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## THE WILD GROUP

The WILD Group is comprised of the WILD brands which are established in Völkermarkt and Wernberg (Austria) and Trnava (Slovakia), as well as Vienna-based PHOTONIC. The technology partner develops and produces optomechatronic systems for medical and industrial applications as well as optical technologies exclusively on behalf of its customers. Approximately 500 staff members are always the first choice whenever precision and reliability are called for and wherever innovation takes place.