

Press Release

Digital manufacturing: Schaeffler invests in AI-based software development

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- Schaeffler acquires stake in German startup up2parts GmbH
- Investment supplements existing cooperation in digital manufacturing
- Thomas Krämer, Head of Advanced Production Technology at Schaeffler, takes on additional role as Co-CEO of up2parts GmbH

For Schaeffler, digital solutions will be key to achieving sustainable and intelligent manufacturing in the future. German software startup up2parts GmbH has been accompanying Schaeffler on the way to the digital factory for a few years now. The purpose of the cooperation is to develop AI-based automation solutions for modern machines and the holistic value chain in manufacturing and to deploy these solutions in an agile manufacturing environment. Schaeffler has now acquired a stake in up2parts. The parties have agreed not to disclose the purchase price. At the same time, Schaeffler's Head of Advanced Production Technology, Thomas Krämer (49), is joining CEO Marco Bauer in leading the company.

"The complete digitalization of manufacturing is Schaeffler's top priority," says Andreas Schick, Chief Operating Officer responsible for Production, Supply Chain Management, and Purchasing at Schaeffler AG. "It will make our global manufacturing network more agile, efficient, and fast and is thus critical to the success of Schaeffler. Acquiring a stake in up2parts is the next logical step in transforming, in cooperation with a strong partner, our 83 manufacturing plants into semiautonomous and sustainable factories." Schaeffler already cooperates with up2parts and DMG MORI, up2parts' other stakeholder, at Schaeffler's state-of-the-art tool technology center in Höchstadt. Together, they established an integrated system for digitalization of toolmaking with AI-based route sheet creation.

Thomas Krämer, Head of Advanced Production Technology at Schaeffler and Co-CEO of up2parts, says: "Schaeffler and up2parts have a strong, close partnership, which we now want to strengthen even further. The joint development of an innovative system for the digitalization of toolmaking will be groundbreaking: using artificial intelligence, Schaeffler will, for example, be able to plan route sheets even more efficiently in the future. We will also develop a cloud-based AUTOCAM solution for the automatic creation of machining programs for machine tools."

In addition to Schaeffler, Sandvik is also investing in up2parts. Sandvik is a global, high-tech engineering group providing solutions that enhance productivity and sustainability for the manufacturing, mining and infrastructure industries. "Schaeffler and Sandvik not only strengthen our financial base, but also contribute valuable expertise and market knowledge. Their expertise will help us to make our vision of a digital and efficient manufacturing landscape a reality," says Marco Bauer, Co-Managing Director of up2parts.

Schaeffler Group – We pioneer motion The Schaeffler Group has been driving forward groundbreaking inventions and developments in the field of motion technology for over 75 years. With innovative technologies, products, and services for electric mobility, CO₂-efficient drives, chassis solutions, Industry 4.0, digitalization, and renewable energies, the company is a reliable partner for making motion more efficient, intelligent, and sustainable – over the entire life cycle. The Motion Technology Company manufactures high-precision components and systems for drive train and chassis applications as well as rolling and plain bearing solutions for a large number of industrial applications. The Schaeffler Group generated sales of EUR 16.3 billion in 2023. With around 84,000 employees, Schaeffler is one of the world's largest family-owned companies and one of Germany's most innovative companies.

Thomas Krämer, Head of Advanced Production Technology at Schaeffler, is the new Co-CEO of up2parts GmbH. Foto: Schaeffler

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The pathway to the digital factory: Schaeffler is investing in the startup up2parts GmbH to accelerate the development of AI-based solutions for automation of modern manufacturing machines. Foto: Schaeffler

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Schaeffler already cooperates with up2parts at its state-of-the-art tool technology center in Höchststadt, Germany. Foto: Schaeffler

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