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Bikar-Metalle GmbH - 50 years of experience with metals and plastics

How it all began

In 1962, the couple Radomir and Luise Bikar founded a metal trade in the picturesque town of Bad Berleburg-Raumland. The beginnings were not easy. The first warehouse with dimensions of 10 x 10 m was built by the couple themselves, after work. The stock of goods in the first year amounted to approx. 6,000 DM (approx. 3,000 Euro). The sawing center consisted of an old hacksaw bought for 50 DM (25 Euro) from a scrap dealer, and the shelving systems were assembled with a small electric welder. A VW Beetle equipped with a sturdy, self-constructed roof rack served as the truck. Bars were tied to it and delivered to the customer. This was to be the beginning of a long story.



50 years later

The company has evolved. Today, 230 employees are employed worldwide to take care of customers' needs. Meanwhile, the family business is managed by the 3rd generation and the philosophy has remained with the thoughts of the founders: "Every customer is important - no matter if their sales are big or small." Because that's how partnerships have been formed that have lasted for many decades. And one point is of enormous importance: "the large and extensive delivery program". Whether aluminum, copper,



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brass, bronzes, plastics or silver steel, in the form of sheets, plates, blanks, rounds, rings, rods, tubes, profiles or drawing parts - almost every wish is fulfilled here. Deliveries are made in sizes ranging from a matchbox to cast aluminum ingots, whose unit weight can be up to 15,000 kg.

What Bikar can do

The company supplies non-ferrous metals to companies as well as metal traders all over the world. In particular, the production of aluminum plates has come to the fore. Mold, tool and model making, automotive industry, mechanical engineering, aerospace technology, metal construction, packaging industry, plant manufacturers and many more are among the loyal customers and appreciate the flexibility. In addition to the standard products, Bikar has its own aluminum materials with the "Bikar + Formodal" product range, which have special properties. For example:



Formodal 023 is a cast material based on the alloy EN AW-5083, with strength values between 220 and 270 N/mm². The material is low-stress and dimensionally stable. It is also easy to machine. At the same time, it is one of the lowest-priced sheet grades.

Formodal 031 is a new cast material which was only added to the range this year. It is also from the 5000 alloy series. Its strengths are higher than the normal cast alloy and are around 270 to 320 N/mm². The machining properties and low stress properties are the same as those of Formodal 023. Despite the improved mechanical properties, this material is also in the low-price range.

Formodal 030-plan is manufactured at the Bikar-Aluminium GmbH plant in Korbußen near Gera (Thuringia). This is a cast aluminum precision plate, particularly suitable for toolmaking. These plates are milled flat on one or both sides with a gigantic cutter head of 2,700 mm diameter. The accuracy is +/-0.1 mm.

Formodal BM-400 is a rolled or forged plate of the highest level. The special features are: Strengths between 380 and 450 N/mm², high core strength, weldable, dimensionally stable during machining and, above all, one of the rare "heat-resistant" aluminum alloys. It can be used up to about 200 °C and still retain very good strength

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properties of approx. 240 to 290 N/mm². Hardly any other aluminum material has this capability. Therefore, the material is also excellently suited for injection molds.



Of course, one also supplies any desired cut from these materials. Just as the company founders once specified.

However, Bikar does not see its importance in sales alone or in its extensive warehousing. 50 years of experience should also be available to the customer. To this end, the company has already compiled a detailed data sheet book for common aluminum materials, which is made available to every customer free of charge. A further new edition, which will even address details such as forming, welding, machining or annealing processes, is in the works and should be completed by mid-2013. But even the best materials book cannot replace a personal consultation. Here, it is a matter of course for Bikar to stand by the customer in an advisory capacity in such cases.

Bikar metals app

The weight calculation app, which was specially developed at the customer's request, is probably also quite unique. This is available free of charge for the iPhone and also for Android cell phones and offers the possibility of calculating weights from over 1,300 material designations and elements. For many non-ferrous metals, foreign material designations can also be compared with EN standards: e.g. ASTM, GHOST, JIS. There are 22 predefined forms available. But not only the weight can be calculated. With the new version 2.0.0, prices can also be entered and calculated. A great helper for every technician and purchaser.

Since they are constantly working on the further development of the program, they are open and grateful for requests.

You can find this app under the name: "Bikar Metals" in the stores.

