

**Source:** Wittgensteiner Wochenpost (WIPO)  
WP edition of January 26, 2019.  
Internet [www.wipo-online.de](http://www.wipo-online.de)

**Photo:** BIKAR METALLE

**Date:** 26.01.2019

## Sound training in the heart of Wittgenstein

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**Raumland. (ch)** Mechanical and plant engineering, mold making, the automotive and aerospace industries - all these strong branches of the German economy need metals. One of the top addresses in Germany is BIKAR, the family-run company in Raumland. Since 1962, trading in non-ferrous metals such as copper, aluminum, brass or bronze has been BIKAR's business.

"The materials come to us in large blocks, for example, which can weigh up to 18 tons," explained Jan Saßmannshausen from BIKAR. At the Raumland site, the appropriate workpieces are sawn from them for the customer and made ready for shipment. Around 30,000 tons are waiting in Raumland alone for customers located all over the world. These customers receive the desired material in the size range of a "telephone booth" with a unit weight of up to 15,000 kg, right down to the small brass rod with a diameter of 1 mm.

## EVERYTHING

with tradition

There are now 600 employees working at the headquarters in Bad Berleburg-Raumland and the numerous sales offices. "The company is growing steadily," reported Ali Raad, who is jointly responsible for training at BIKAR. Therefore, the Raumland company is also always looking for motivated new employees and trainees.



At BIKAR, they can train to become warehouse logistics specialists, machine and plant operators, wholesale and foreign trade clerks, industrial clerks and IT specialists for application development. Currently, 38 trainees are completing their vocational training at BIKAR; in addition, there are several dual students. "At our company, the dual study program builds on a completed apprenticeship," explains Ali Raad. In training, he says, the principle of encourage and challenge applies. This leads to good and often very good results. It is not without reason that BIKAR has had the best trainee in the chamber district four times in recent years. Great value is placed on in-company training at BIKAR. "The opportunities for advancement are definitely there," says Jan Saßmannshausen.

To start an apprenticeship at BIKAR - this is also what Phillip Dreisbach from Feudingen decided to do. "On the part of the secondary school, there was the offer for career orientation. I found out about BIKAR and liked what I read. Then I applied," says Phillip Dreisbach in an interview with the Wittgensteiner Wochenpost. He still started his training in the old materials warehouse and works in the now completed, state-of-the-art warehouse of BIKAR's Plant 4. "There's no comparison anymore. The work has become much more pleasant," the Feudinger knows to report. He is working independently in the plant in his second year of apprenticeship and is preparing for the exam. State-of-the-art technology is used in Plant 4 to control goods receiving, goods issue and shipping. And despite all the digitalization - for skilled workers in warehouse logistics it is also part of the job to complete the forklift license, something Phillip Dreisbach is looking forward to. "Because forklifts are simply necessary with these weights," emphasizes Ali Raad, looking at long copper bars that are being unpacked and prepared for storage in the modern high-bay warehouse.

Those interested can find more information at [www.bikar.com](http://www.bikar.com). A good opportunity to find out about training at one of the largest companies in Wittgenstein is also offered by the careers fair at the vocational college in Bad Berleburg, which will be held on February 15 and 16. The company BIKAR is represented there with a large information stand and will be happy to provide information!

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