

## Future IT experts visit BIKAR

BIKAR METALLE GmbH in Bad Berleburg-Raumland was able to welcome special guests. Visiting were the ITT321 and ITT421 school classes of the Berufskolleg Technik in Siegen. The classes, in which application developers are trained, had come with their teachers, Mrs. Franziska Vedder and Mr. Henning Müller, to get an insight into the world of software development and application in a manufacturing company.

The students, who are often trained at pure software companies, were particularly interested in seeing how software solutions are used in operational practice. BIKAR, now a global leader in the trade and production of semi-finished non-ferrous metal products for various industrial sectors with 800 employees, provided perfect examples. Over the past few years, for example, the company's IT staff of more than 40 has developed BIKAR NEXT, a proprietary ERP system that is tailored precisely to the needs of the metal trader. From order entry and material management to customer management and production control, almost all of the company's processes are controlled with its own software. This offers the family-owned company the ideal flexibility to digitally network all departments across national borders. This is very important, as BIKAR is becoming increasingly global as an aviation supplier and production facilities and branches around the globe can be controlled centrally from Bad Berleburg.

The students were given interesting insights into the history, present and future of the company during a presentation and playfully with a Kahoot quiz. Jean Zimmermann, Chief Application Development Officer, presented the IT department. The students were particularly impressed by the variety of programming languages used, the agile way of working and the direct practical relevance.

During a tour of the plant, they then saw how modern software is changing industry. The BIKAR ZONE, the world's first fully automated cutting center, was particularly impressive. Robots, driverless transport systems, intelligent production planning and a computer-controlled high-bay warehouse work together here in a network. The complete control system of the new plant and the interaction of the individual components were developed and programmed by the team of BIKAR software developers. The students were surprised by the variety of possible applications and the modern company that sees digitization as an opportunity for the future. After a group photo, the future application developers left with many new impressions to eat pizza together.