

INTERVIEW with Victor Kyburz AG

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Synergies as the basis for successful cooperation

René Gerber AG interview with Mr Kyburz, Managing Director of the company Victor Kyburz AG, based in CH-Safnern. Kyburz Sapphire is a specialist, when it comes to optical components and the processing of sapphire, ceramics and other hard materials. The company delivers precision down to the nanoscale and its wide range of processes allows a great deal of flexibility in the design and prototyping of sophisticated optical components. Gerber installations have accompanied the technical course of the company for 60 years and are in daily use for precision machining in Safnern.

Tradition, experience and innovation are the things that unite the Kyburz and Gerber companies. They both have more than six decades of company history and know the challenge of cultivating a long-standing cooperation and creating synergies for both parties. The focus is always on the joint pursuit of innovative further development. The double-winning strategy pursues the objective of achieving sustainable benefits from the innovative strength and for all local stakeholders.

laser machining processes and Gerber's efficient polishing method.



The positive balance of interests is noticeable in the conversation with Mr Kyburz. For him, it is on his daily agenda to respect his partner and take his interests into account. Because this is exactly how a strategy manifests itself that is geared towards sustainable success and long-term cooperation.

In the past years over three generations, the Kyburz company has been intensively involved in the development of new technologies for the processing of sapphire. Its core competence is the development of customised optical components. In doing so, it accesses a wide range of machining technologies, efficient

In the Swiss watchmaking industry, particularly high demands are placed on dimensional accuracy and surface quality in relation to the precision mechanical components in the movement. The Gerber company has always been a supplier to the Swiss watchmaking industry and developed and sold machines for polishing small watch parts, but also for sapphire machining and other ultra-hard materials at an early stage. This closes the circle as Kyburz Sapphire became aware of Gerber's products years ago through the machining of sapphire components for the watchmaking industry.

DIE RENÉ GERBER AG Mechanical Engineering

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In which area and for what tasks do you use Gerber machines at Kyburz Sapphire and where do the installations bring success for you?

René Gerber AG's installations are used at Kyburz for edge processing and face polishing on sapphires, carbides and ceramics.

The Kyburz company uses brush and polishing machines of the types PP400 and the modern BP-MX as well as the PowerPolish face polishing machine.

The PowerPolish face polishing machine is the newly established solution on the market for polishing hard and ultra-hard materials and as described below by Mr Kyburz, it has the advantages of robust and reliable availability, good configuration options, simple operation, high efficiency and low maintenance costs. The user-friendliness of the machine is characterised by the practical sensor equipment and the solid mechanical construction. Gerber's versatile range of products, the good price-performance ratio, fast response times and short decision-making processes round off the positive assessment.

Mr Kyburz, how would you describe the Gerber's product /service in one sentence?

"Multiple options in the application of machine configuration and infinite possibilities for process design - precision without compromise."

Polishing of hard to super hard material is special and requires a mastery of the process in terms of high-precision evenness and uniformity. At the Kyburz company, the focus is always on the implementation of evenness in nanometre precision. Peter Kyburz (father of Gregor Kyburz) recognised the potential of using sapphire in optical applications in



the 1970s with the feasibility of realising such evenness on sapphire. In the meantime, this realisation has become a success story that will continue to offer unlimited opportunities for innovation in the future.

There are many parameters that influence the interaction between polishing tool, polishing medium and the workpiece. However, the know-how consists of knowing variety of influencing factors, stabilising them and reproducing them in the long term.

This requires attentive personnel and machines that guarantee a maximum degree of reproducibility. In mechanical engineering, this starts with a simple, smart and stable design. Therein lies Gerber's strength.

The two companies combine their many years of joint experience, which builds on the knowledge acquired on both sides, with innovative solutions and in this way achieve the industrialisation required for series production.

The objective is always the reproducibility and suitability of the prototype for serial production as well as the application of suitable measuring methods.

Pooling combined knowledge and using it always leads to a notable success story, such as the expansion of processing options at Sapphire for edge radii from a remarkable 20 up to 250 micrometres.

Dear Mr Kyburz, thank you very much for the interview and the insight into the cooperation between Victor Kyburz AG and René Gerber AG.

