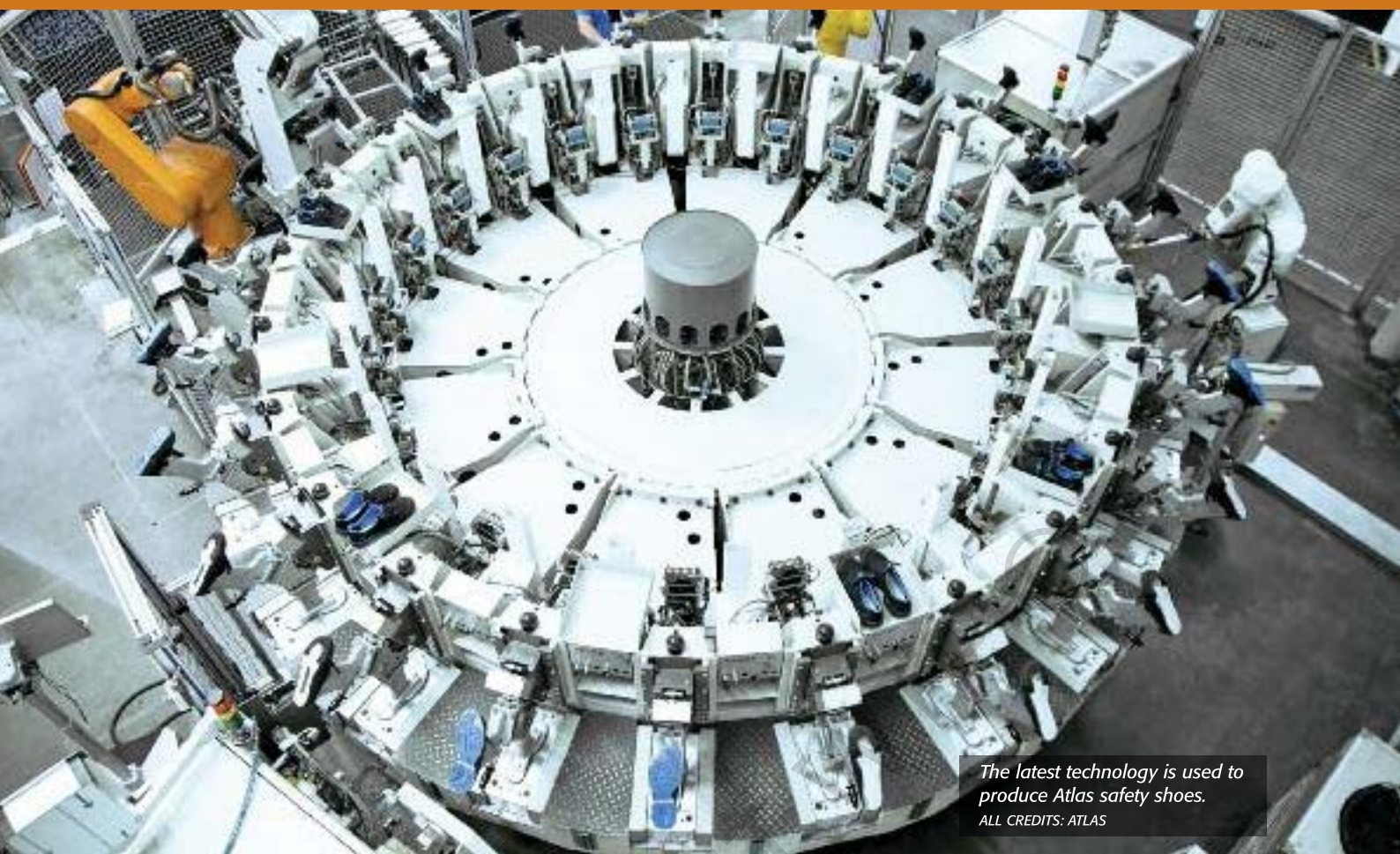




The latest technology is used to produce Atlas safety shoes.
ALL CREDITS: ATLAS

The power of lightness

Fagus-GreCon has been designing and producing shoe lasts in Afeld, Germany, since 1911. Today, it develops overall concepts for the manufacture of tailor-made footwear solutions in cooperation with industrial footwear manufacturers. Everything can be bought from the one source, including the design of lasts and soles via the production of prototype lasts through to the final ones needed for bulk production of footwear and the moulds for producing the soles.

A good example of this is its cooperation with Atlas, one of the leading manufacturers of safety shoes in Europe. Atlas can also look back on a long history of more than 100 years in the industry. Today the safety shoe producer has 1,450 employees and 12,000 pairs of shoes come off the production line each day at its ultra modern production site located in Dortmund, Germany.

Every two years, the A+A International Trade Fair for Occupational Safety attracts industry professionals for operational safety, personal protection and health at work to the Düsseldorf exhibition ground. This important trade fair is therefore an ideal platform to present new ideas and innovations in the safety shoes sector. Every Atlas safety shoe is a quality product and exactly tailored to the needs of the



A combination of modern materials and safety standards make Atlas shoes lightweight and safe.

target group. The complete range has been redesigned for 2018 and no less than 15 new models were presented to the public this October.

The modern safety shoe – lightweight, flexible and, of course, safe

New materials, precise workmanship and modern production techniques have led to numerous developments in the safety shoe industry over the past few years. The times of chunky, heavy and uncomfortable safety shoes are now a part of history. Innovative trends from the sports shoe industry are increasingly finding their way into the safety shoe sector as well.

Lightweight materials, flexible soles and the ability to breathe rank foremost among these trends. Hendrik Schabsky, Managing Partner of Atlas, describes the development as follows: "Nowadays, the customers' wishes are very close to the wishes of the sports shoe industry - chunky safety boots are a thing of the past." The products must of course also meet current safety standards such as EN ISO 20435, besides the modern trends of the industry.

Fagus-GreCon has assisted Atlas in meeting this demanding challenge. The company has been able to use its vast knowledge of last design coupled with its high tech engineering abilities to provide Atlas with all it requires in terms of state-of-the-art lasts and moulds. This also includes innovative solutions for direct soling, a process that makes possible the fast and extremely efficient production of the high performance safety shoe output the company achieves.

The first joint project involved the development of a lightweight, sporty PU sole for the new 'Lady Business' women's safety shoe range, where the design parameters called for fine materials and light weight to be combined with a safe anti-slip sole. The success of this project led to further cooperation in the development of the new ultramodern 'Sporty' range of safety shoes.

In this instance, the upper consists of a high-tech mesh material. The ability to 'breathe', a snug fit, seamless workmanship and extremely light weight are matched with the necessary safety shoe standards. Accordingly a sole that harmonised with the upper had to be specially developed. The outcome has been a very lightweight



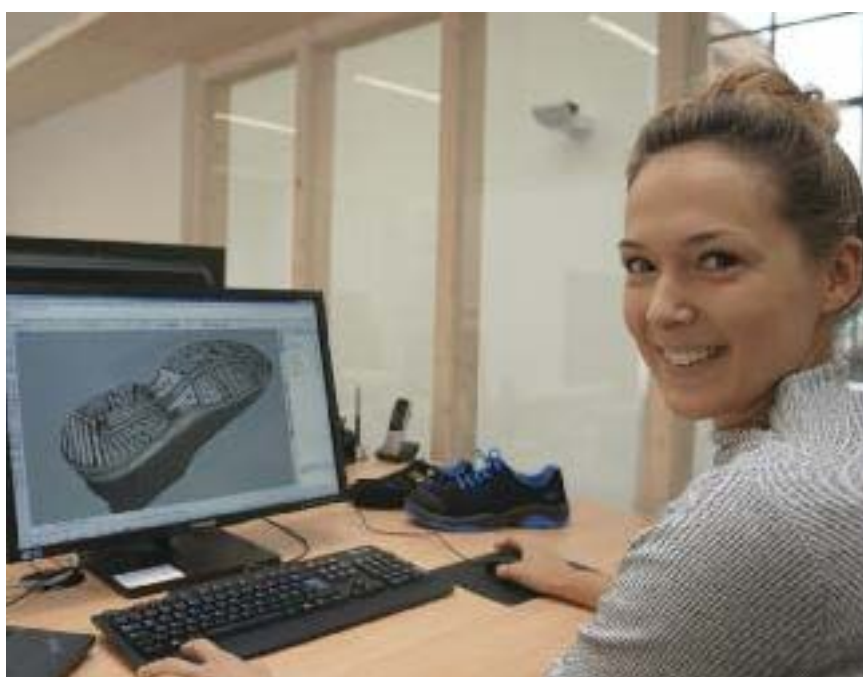
Collaborative discussion between Hendrik Schabsky of Atlas and Ronja-Julie Mispagel and Marvin Göke of Fagus-GreCon.

and flexible sole which has resulted in a shoe with a high comfort factor even under prolonged use.

Atlas is very satisfied with the cooperation. "We were able to find a very good solution to our challenges. Our needs and requests were implemented in a perfect way," Hendrik Schabsky says. The company intends to continue this cooperative partnership in the future as it clearly works well.

To supply the great demand for

modern safety footwear, Atlas is expanding its production capacity with another fully automatic production line where Fagus-GreCon will be the full service supplier for the new AMIR system supplied by DESMA. This automatic-material-integrated-robot system with direct PU soling and using Fagus-GreCon's precision-made plastic lasts, offers great advantages in terms of output of high quality safety shoes in a demanding market. 🧡



Development of a sole in 3D.