Dieter Siempelkamp

Building on a tradition of technological innovation and business leadership established by his father and grandfather, Dieter Siempelkamp made the company that bears his name a global leader in the design and construction of equipment and factories for the wood products and building materials industries. Entering the 21st century, G. Siempelkamp GmbH & Co., Maschinen-und Anlagenbau, known in the U.S. and Canada as the Siempelkamp Group, has operations and customers worldwide, including some of the best-known names in a wide variety of industries.

Dieter Siempelkamp was born on October 11, 1933, in Krefeld, Germany, a city just west of the Rhine in the vicinity of Dusseldorf. The year of his birth marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Siempelkamp machinery factory by Gerhard Siempelkamp, Dieter Siempelkamp’s grandfather. By 1933, Eugen Siempelkamp, son of Gerhard and father to Dieter Siempelkamp, was in his 15th year as President of the company. Eugen Siempelkamp would eventually hold this position for more than 50 years.

Dieter Siempelkamp completed his secondary education in 1951, and then pursued a commercial and technical education in banking and engineering. This dual educational focus helped prepare Mr. Siempelkamp to eventually assume the helm of the family-owned company. In addition to studying in Germany, Mr. Siempelkamp also spent time abroad in England and France.

Mr. Siempelkamp joined the Siempelkamp company in 1958 and became a member of the Board of Directors in 1964. During these years, he played a major role in sales activities around the world, with special emphasis on North America. Mr. Siempelkamp’s fluency in English and experience abroad made him a perfect international ambassador for the company.

In 1970, Mr. Siempelkamp became spokesperson of the Board of Directors and
President of the company. In his first year as
leader of Siempelkamp, the company’s
revenues were $36.3 million; by 2000, the
company reached nearly $500 million.

This remarkable period of growth under Mr.
Siempelkamp’s leadership followed from his
acceleration of a trend that had begun in the
company in the later 1950s. The company’s
original and core focus had been the
construction of hydraulic presses for many
industries. Gerhard Siempelkamp, the
company’s founder, had invented a method
and process to drill holes in steel plates. This
new technology enabled hot platen presses to
maintain uniform temperatures for the first
time.

In the late 19th Century Siempelkamp presses
were provided to the textile industry which
flourished in Krefeld. By the 1920s, Siempelkamp presses were being used for
 glueing and drying veneers, smoothing paper,
manufacturing celluloid products, spreading
and tentering cloth, and more. In time, Siempelkamp presses served manufacturers
of wood products, plastics, laminates and
rubber products, including conveyor belts.
The company was also involved in metal
forging.

While the company had a long history of
developing presses for diverse industries,
only in the late 1950s did it begin to extend
its activities to include the building of
complete manufacturing plants, especially for
the particleboard and fiberboard industries.

Beginning in 1970, under Dieter
Siempelkamp’s leadership, the company
redoubled its commitment to providing
complete and efficient manufacturing
solutions to its customers. The company
introduced a new corporate motto “Bauen
and Wohnen” (“Building and Living”), meant
to signal that the company was providing
comprehensive plant development services
for the building materials and panel
industries. To further extend the company’s
capabilities and to serve its growing global
clientele, Mr. Siempelkamp also spearheaded
the acquisition of numerous equipment
manufacturing and engineering facilities.

In addition to fulfilling a broad set of duties
as President of the company, Mr.
Siempelkamp always remained in close
contact with key customers around the globe.
He also worked as the spiritus rector (the
guiding spirit) of the company’s ongoing
pursuit of innovation. Working with the
company’s research and development facility
at Krefeld, as well as with other research
institutes, Mr. Siempelkamp stressed the
development of new and environmentally
friendly products. For instance, the
company’s investment in filtration and solid-
liquid separation technologies has helped to
minimize the environmental impact of waste
sludge produced in manufacturing processes.

Mr. Siempelkamp’s commitment to the
business community reaches well beyond
the boundaries of his own company. From 1973
to 1981, he was a member of the General
Assembly of the Chamber of Commerce, first
of Krefeld, and later of the Central Low-
Rhine Region. For his work as an honorary
judge of the Regional Court of Krefeld,
sitting on the panel for commercial matters,
he received the Bundesverdienstkreuz am
Bande (the Distinguished Service Cross with
Riband of the Federal Republic of Germany).

Mr. Siempelkamp also served as: a member
of the Regional Board of Advisors of
Deutsche Bank A.G., Dusseldorf; a member
of the Board of Advisors of Gerling-Konzern
Dieter Siempelkamp not only led his family’s company past its 100-year anniversary, but also took it into the third century in which the Siempelkamp name has proudly appeared on state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment. Under Mr. Siempelkamp’s leadership, the strong emphasis on technology and service perfectly positioned the company to continue its growth as a worldwide leader in the planning, assembly, start-up, and optimization of complete manufacturing facilities for a wide variety of industries, including the building product and wood-based materials industries.