

### **Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia visits Flender**

## **Wüst impressed by the apprenticeship and manufacturing quality at Flender**

- **Apprentices, supervisors and design engineers explain the assembly and testing of gearboxes**
- **Minister-President praises the precision and quality in Flender's manufacturing**

On Thursday, 14 September 2023, the Minister-President of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia Hendrik Wüst visited the drive specialist Flender at its plant in Voerde. During his visit the state politician, who grew up only a few kilometers away from Flender's headquarters in Bocholt, showed a strong connection to his homeland: "From my neighborhood, from my circle of friends, many have done an apprenticeship at Flender. And they were all happy at Flender." So, for Wüst, it was almost like a home game. The company is filling 87 apprenticeship and study positions in Germany this year.

### **Wind power made in North Rhine-Westphalia**

Flender is the only manufacturer remaining on the market that manufactures drive systems for wind turbines in Germany and equips every third turbine worldwide with one of its drive components. With roughly 3,000 employees at three locations in NRW, Flender is an important economic factor in Wüst's federal state. The Minister-President was impressed by the modern production and the dimensions of Flender drive systems. Recently, his black-green state government had overturned the previous distance regulation for wind turbines in NRW at the end of August, thus making an important contribution to achieving the expansion targets in Germany.

"We are making good progress in the expansion of renewables," said Wüst. "And the general sentiment among the population is also more positive than it was a few years ago."

The inner workings of a wind gearbox are explained to the Minister-President on a miniature model: "The gearing parts are manufactured with an accuracy of 10 µm, which is less than a tenth of the diameter of a human hair," explains Lars Wiegemann, Vice President for the wind gearbox business at Flender. Later, the Minister-President is presented with a Flender HybridDrive, which is about to be shipped to a customer. The HybridDrive is a Flender in-house development that compactly combines gearbox and generator. This saves valuable space on the top of the wind turbine.

### **Industrial transformation and energy transition go hand in hand**

In addition to the wind energy sector, gearboxes and couplings for industrial applications are the second part of Flender's business. Flender CEO Andreas Evertz made this clear during a tour of the factory halls. "Without the upstream industries, there would be no wind turbine. With our gearboxes, we ensure that our industries continue to supply the basic materials for our daily lives. Raw materials for mobile phones, consumer goods - and indeed for wind turbines. You'll find Flender everywhere," says Evertz. Industry and renewable energies go hand in hand. "One does not work without the other," Evertz continues.

Together with politics, the company wants to drive the industrial transformation from North Rhine-Westphalia, he said. "Flender is the market leader for industrial drive technology and the market leader for wind gearboxes in terms of installed capacity. And we are the only remaining German manufacturer for wind gearboxes. We successfully prove that companies and people from here deliver innovations and quality products that the whole world uses. We want to further strengthen Germany as a business location and for this we also need the support of politics to maintain competitiveness in Germany and NRW," said Flender CEO Andreas Evertz.

During the tour, Flender apprentices, supervisors as well as design engineers showed the Minister-President how the gearboxes, some of which weigh several tons, are assembled, mounted, and also tested. "The test data of the gearboxes only very rarely deviate from the norm," explains apprentice Viktoria Sauret. In the gearbox production, every single component is documented "and thus traceable down to the production batch", Evertz proudly emphasizes.

### **New location on the water needed**

Flender is also looking for a production site on the water for the wind industry's ever-growing offshore drives. "With a total weight of close to 240 tons, we will soon no

longer be able to transport them by road. They will have to be shipped by ship to the wind farms at sea. I hope that we will find a good solution soon," says Flender CEO Evertz.



The delegation around Wüst is guided through the meter-high production halls of Flender in Voerde

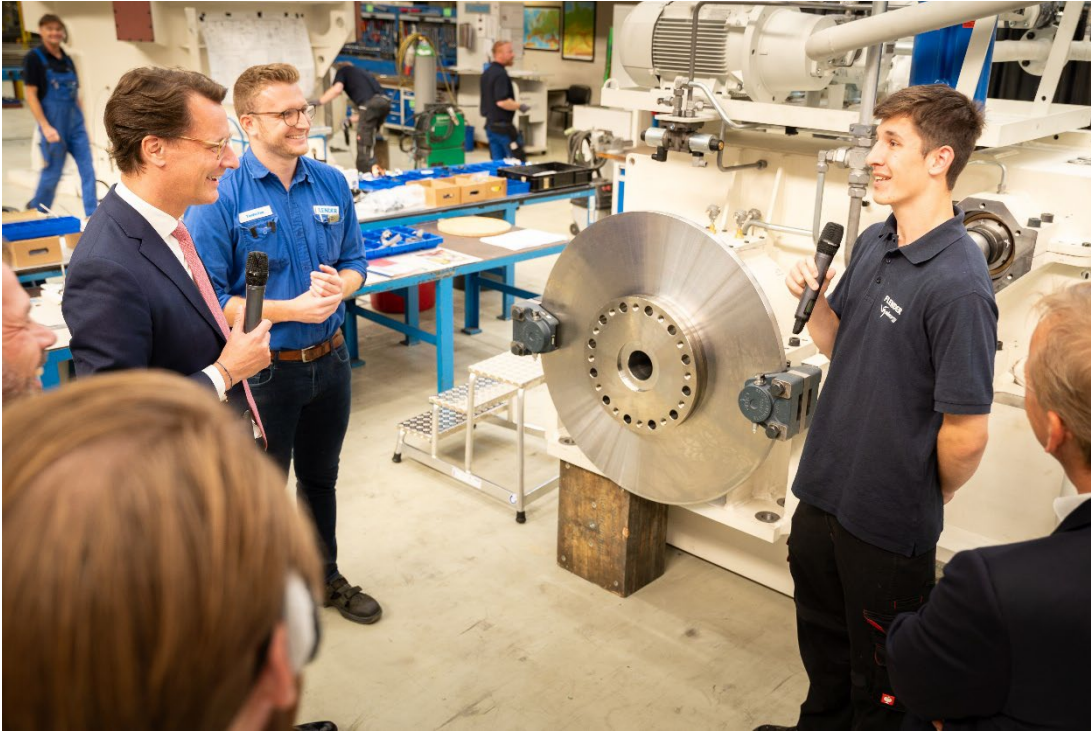


Lars Wiegemann, Vice President for the wind gearbox business (front left), and Andreas Evertz, Flender CEO (front right), illustrate the principle of a wind gearbox for Wüst using a miniature model.



Design engineer Sarah Bröcker explains the several meter high drive train for wind turbines to Wüst





Hendrik Wüst talking to Flender apprentice Noah Tenhagen (right). In the background, a gearbox for industrial ships.



As a special gift, Hendrik Wüst was able to accept a glass plate with an outline of NRW and a miniature wind farm



From left to right: Jürgen Bosse (Chairman of the Flender Works Council), Minister-President Hendrik Wüst and Andreas Evertz (Flender CEO) in front of a Flender HybridDrive wind gearbox.

This press release and press pictures are available at  
[www.flender.com/company/press](http://www.flender.com/company/press).

### Contact for media and press

**Press mailbox:** [press@flender.com](mailto:press@flender.com)

#### **Doris Bush**

Vice President Corporate Development & Communications  
Phone: +49 152 54718127; E-mail: [doris.bush@flender.com](mailto:doris.bush@flender.com)

#### **Tobias van der Linde**

Manager Corporate Communications  
Phone: +49 174 2415434; E-mail: [tobias.vanderlinde@flender.com](mailto:tobias.vanderlinde@flender.com)

**Flender** headquartered in Bocholt, Germany, is a leading global supplier for mechanical and electrical drive systems and has the reputation for highest performance, innovation, quality, and reliability of drive components for more than 120 years. Flender offers a broad variety of gear units, couplings and generators and associated services, with a focus on key industries such as wind power, cement, mining, oil & gas, power generation, water and

wastewater, marine, conveyor and crane technology. Flender products and services combine the latest technology with extremely high quality and have been reliably providing the optimal transmission of power for decades. Flender has around 9,000 employees globally. Further information is available on the Internet at [www.flender.com](http://www.flender.com).