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A major German inventor of the modern era / Dr. Rudolf Hell is 100 years old today



Heidelberg, Germany (ots) -

- Cross-reference: photo is available at:
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The major German inventor Dr. Rudolf Hell is celebrating his 100th birthday today. To commemorate this great event, the City of Kiel and Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG (Heidelberg) are honoring Dr. Hell at a ceremony in Kiel City Hall.

Dr. Rudolf Hell is one of the greatest inventors of the modern era. Born in Bavaria, Dr. Hell has worked in both Berlin and Kiel as a scientist, engineer and entrepreneur. His technical achievements and inventions have played a major role in shaping the face of today's media world. He is the inventor of fax technology and a pioneer in the field of telecommunications. He put in place the key pillars needed for mechanizing, rationalizing and enhancing the quality of modern media technology.

Dr. Hell was made a freeman of the City of Kiel in 1981. He has received numerous awards such as the Knight Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Gutenberg Prize awarded by the City of Mainz and the Werner von Siemens Ring. In May 2001, the City of Kiel named a street in his honor - the former Siemenswall leading to the Heidelberg plant now being known as Dr.-Hell-Strasse.

Dr. Rudolf Hell founded his own company in the Babelsberg district of Berlin in 1929. In 1981 Dr.-Ing. Rudolf Hell GmbH was taken over

by Siemens and in 1990 was merged into Linotype AG to become Linotype-Hell AG. Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG took over Linotype-Hell AG in Kiel in 1996 in order to extend its core skills in the prepress sector. The Kiel plant therefore has a key role to play in Heidelberg's repositioning as a solutions provider in the print and media industry. Today, a 1500-strong workforce in Kiel produces scanners, imaging systems and software for supporting the print process. The development and production of the NexPress 2100, a digital color press launched onto the market in September 2001, has further reinforced the plant's operations.

Photos are available on the Internet at www.journalist.heidelberg.com.

Further information:

Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG

Corporate Communications

Christiane Creutzberg

Tel.: 06221 92 50 48

Fax: 06221 92 50 58

E-mail: christiane.creutzberg@de.heidelberg.com

Medieninhalte



Dr.-Ing. Rudolf Hell arrived in a jovial mood for his birthday celebration at the city hall in Kiel. City president Cathy Kietzer (left) and the inventor's first colleague, Christian Sütel, (right) congratulate the honorary citizen of Kiel.

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