



## 19.07.2022 On the Danube: Dana's plant in Neu-Ulm turns 75

The history of Dana's plant in Neu-Ulm began with a signature in 1947. Today, more than 1,300 employees work in 31 buildings on the plant premises right on the bank of the Danube. The days of asbestos gaskets and trainees handing out food from carts during lunch break are long over.

### Milestones in the company's 75-year history

Rudolf Rzehulka rented the 40,000m<sup>2</sup> former combat engineer training grounds in Neu-Ulm 75 years ago. Production was up and running by the end of 1948 and the plant was already shipping out its first gaskets. By the time the Federal Republic of Germany was established in 1949, the company had already become the exclusive supplier for Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen. By the 1950s, the Neu-Ulm production plant already offered 1,000 gasket sets for cars and trucks in its product range. From 1962, the engineers had the new research and development center, the cornerstone for countless innovative Victor Reinz® brand products. By the end of the 1970s, turnover had surpassed the 100 million DM mark for the first time. Twelve years

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**Publisher**

Dana Power Technologies  
REINZ-Dichtungs-GmbH  
Reinzstraße 3-7 | 89233 Neu-Ulm  
Phone +49 731 7046-0  
Fax +49 731 719089  
[www.reinz.com](http://www.reinz.com)

**Contact**

Carolin Sailer  
Team Manager  
Communication & Marketing  
Phone +49 731 7046-407  
Fax +49 731 7046-400  
[carolin.sailer@dana.com](mailto:carolin.sailer@dana.com)



before asbestos was finally prohibited in 1993, Dana Neu-Ulm switches to the first asbestos-free material, an aramid fiber base with tanged metal core: a revolution for cylinder head and exhaust system gaskets.

### Pioneers in gasket technology

“Willingness and ability to change are our company’s strengths. And we have always succeeded in foresightedly preparing for new challenges the markets and customers may pose. Examples include the development of the multi-layer steel gasket or the recent metallic bipolar plate. We are always one step ahead of the changes,” explains Olivier Lassurguère, Managing Director of Dana Neu-Ulm.

### Dana takes over

Since 1993, Dana Neu-Ulm has belonged to the US-based Dana Incorporated, which ranks among the world’s largest independent component manufacturers for cars and trucks with over 40,000 employees in 31 countries on six continents. The same year, Dana Neu-Ulm revolutionized gasket technology once again with its multi-layer steel technology (MLS).

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[carolin.sailer@dana.com](mailto:carolin.sailer@dana.com)



## Transformation is the key

The end of the combustion engine has been heralded. This has prompted Dana Neu-Ulm to start transforming its product portfolio. The existing production and product know-how will be sustainably oriented towards electromobility: The focus is on metallic bipolar plates for fuel cell stacks as well as gaskets, heat shields and compensation plates for high-voltage batteries. This way, Dana is creating the condition for securing the Neu-Ulm plant with over 1,300 jobs. Dana will also be investing tens of millions in the production of metallic bipolar plates at the Neu-Ulm plant in the next two years. These plates make up the heart of fuel cell stacks, the most important building blocks of fuel cell technology.

## Being old is different

"We have a company history of over 100 years and 75 years in Neu-Ulm to look back on with pride, but we have never grown old. On the contrary: every day, our employees, products and developments show us that Dana Neu-Ulm is one of the leading and most capable companies in the gasket industry. We in Neu-Ulm are all set for the future," says Frank Bader, Managing Director of Dana Neu-Ulm.

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