

In Memoriam

HORST WITTUR

Following a serious illness, Horst Wittur died on February 6 at the age of 67. At the age of 26, the native of Plzen, Czechoslovakia founded the company that would eventually bear his name in 1968 after moving to Germany.

Wittur joined the elevator industry in 1962 and worked in construction for Danzer of Munich, eventually becoming assistant manager. During that time, he made contact with Italian suppliers in the field of mechanical engineering. Wittur realized that German suppliers would not be able to meet the demand of medium-sized ele-

vator companies and went into business to import from an Italian door manufacturer. In 1969, he founded a factory of his own to make single-wing elevator doors. In 1972, the company settled in Miesburg near Munich. The new facility had 500 square meters of warehousing and 70 square meters of office space.

The company Wittur headed became Lift Components Manufacturing & Commerce GmbH, then LMC Holding GmbH and was based in Wiedenzhausen. The name changed to Wittur AG in 1998. In 1977, he was one of six shareholders who formed Selcom S.p.A. A consortium of Cerberus, Goldman Sachs and Credit Suisse acquired 100% of Wittur AG shares from the Wittur family and minority shareholders in 2005. At that time, the company maintained 23 production and trading subsidiaries around the world. Horst Wittur remained as a consultant.

Wittur was active in industry groups, particularly the European Lift Components Association (ELCA) and VFA-Interlift e.V. He served these organizations in several capacities, rising to the position of vice president of both ELCA and VFA-Interlift. Wittur also

was awarded numerous elevator-related patents during his career.

Wittur CEO Stephan Rojahn wrote of the company's founder:

"He will be mourned not only by his family but by everyone who knew him, who experienced him and who worked with him. His entire life centered around building up and developing his company into a world market leader in lift components. Horst Wittur was an entrepreneur with all his heart, with a positive, forward-looking mindset and the courage to take risks and hereby experienced the full range of heights and depths over a period of nearly four decades. His expertise, creativity and untiring commitment enabled him to build up a globally renowned company that bears his name. This has earned him appreciation among colleagues and staff and recognition in the lift construction sector."

"We are now saying farewell to a great personality in the business world – someone to whom all of us are greatly indebted. Horst Wittur will therefore be fixed in our minds and will always be remembered with great respect."
Wittur is survived by his wife Rosemarie. 

