

## / Background: Sieglinde Vollmer

### **Sieglinde Vollmer was the lady of the Vollmer family**

**As an entrepreneur with heart and mind, Sieglinde Vollmer had a decisive influence on Vollmer Werke in Biberach and gave the company a face. As the daughter of company founder Heinrich Vollmer, she steered the fortunes of the company for decades - initially as Managing Director, later as a long-standing member of the Supervisory Board and as a trustee of the Sieglinde Vollmer Foundation. In an industry dominated by men, she set strong accents and became an inspiring personality in mechanical engineering. In January 2025, the honorary citizen of Biberach passed away at the proud age of 100.**

When Sieglinde Vollmer - affectionately known in the company as 'Fräulein Vollmer' - looked back on her life, she automatically looked back on the history of Vollmer Werke. At the beginning of her life, this was not even a thought. 'As a child, I had no clear idea of my father's company,' said Sieglinde Vollmer. She was born in Biberach in 1924, 15 years after her father Heinrich Vollmer founded the machine company. 'My father sent me to a secondary school for girls and prepared me to run a larger household as a wife and mother,' she said, describing her youth. However, things turned out differently for her during the Second World War. Months of labour service in Slovenia were followed by commercial training and attendance at an interpreting school in Munich. Sieglinde Vollmer became fluent in English and Spanish as well as French, Italian and Russian - and discovered her love of travelling.

She wore the title 'Fräulein' with pride all her life and instead of becoming a wife and mother, things turned out differently than originally planned. After the death of her father in 1961, she was needed at Vollmer a year later because of her foreign language skills in export. As early as 1964, she took over the management of the company alongside her brother Udo Vollmer and has played a key role in managing the fortunes of the medium-sized company since 1987. This is how she came to know and love Vollmer Werke, her father's life's work. Her multilingualism opened doors, her cordiality was often the beginning and her expertise the basis of long-standing business relationships. As a strong woman in the mechanical engineering industry, Sieglinde Vollmer developed the traditional company into the world market leader for grinding and eroding machines. 'I feel committed to my father's legacy. The company is my family,' she said proudly.

D This was also felt by the employees of Vollmer Werke, who worked with her to lead the company into the future and overcome numerous times of crisis. 'For me, it's all about people. Whether it's the porter or the managing director,' said Sieglinde Vollmer. The lady was characterised by her warm nature and sense of family - she gave Vollmer Werke a profile. In 2003, she handed over the operational management of the company to the next Managing Directors, but remained closely associated with the company as a member of the Supervisory Board until her death. She made a groundbreaking decision in 2013 when she established the Sieglinde Vollmer Foundation. This ensured that the company would continue to be run in her spirit and that of company founder Heinrich Vollmer. The foundation provides the framework for the continued existence of the mechanical engineering company and ensures its economic independence.

Sieglinde Vollmer's lifetime achievements were also honoured by the city of Biberach in October 2022: the mayor of Biberach, Norbert Zeidler, made her an honorary citizen of the city of Biberach an der Riß for her services as an entrepreneur and committed citizen. 'For grinding and sharpening, you need diamonds,' Norbert Zeidler summarised on one of her birthdays. 'But the jewel in the company's crown is you.'

Sieglinde Vollmer passed away on 29 January 2025 at the age of 100. She leaves behind a lasting legacy that not only shaped the family business, but also the many people she inspired with her warmth and clever mind. Her life and her commitment will be remembered.

(approx. 4,500 characters)

#### Press image



**Caption:** Sieglinde Vollmer, who died in January 2025, was made an honorary citizen of the city of Biberach in 2022 for her life's work.

#### About the VOLLMER Group

With its comprehensive range of machinery, the VOLLMER Group – which has sites in Germany, Austria, Great Britain, France, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the USA, Brazil, Japan, China, South Korea, India and Thailand, as well as representative offices in Taiwan and Indonesia – enjoys global success as a tool machining specialist in the areas of both production and service. The technological leader's range of products includes the most advanced grinding, eroding, laser and machining tools for rotary tools and circular saws in the woodworking and metalworking industries, as well as for metal-cutting band saws. In offering this, VOLLMER draws heavily on the company's long-standing expertise and its strengths: Local contacts for efficient communication channels, quick decisions and rapid action by a family-run company. The VOLLMER Group currently employs approximately 800 workers worldwide, with around 580 of these at the headquarters in Biberach alone, including more than 75 trainees. The company invests around eight to ten per cent of its turnover in the research and development of new technologies and products. The VOLLMER Group is a reliable partner and provider of technology and services to its customers.

Further information and relevant images are available at: <https://www.vollmer-group.com/en-uk/company/press/press-releases.html>

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