

magazine

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Words of the C.E.O.

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Dear Partners,

In an environment of ongoing uncertainty, we have chosen to remain focused on action, innovation, and staying close to the field.

This new issue of LEFORT® Mag reflects that mindset: it highlights the people who design, manufacture, deliver, and maintain your machines every day around the world. In this issue, you will find a feature on exceptional commissioning in Taiwan, user experiences, and our latest product innovation – the TRAX 1250 with hydraulic loading table.

Speaking of innovation: what does it truly mean at LEFORT®? How can we make it useful, robust, and tailored to your realities? Our Chief Product Officer shares insights into these questions in a must-read in-depth interview.

This issue also marks an important milestone for our Gosselies site, with the inauguration of a new paint booth – a symbol of our commitment to investing in quality and safety, both for our teams and our clients.

Our sincere thanks go to all those, inside and outside the company, who help drive this momentum forward each day.

Enjoy the read – we look forward to engaging with you again soon.

Alexandre Henkens
C.E.O.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Come and Meet Us !

SCRAP
EXPO

Scrap Expo
Louisville, Kentucky, USA

16-17
September

pollutec
LE OÙ SE RENCONTENT LE MONDE DURABLE

Pollutec
Lyon Eurexpo, France

7-10
October

ECOMONDO
THE GREEN TECHNOLOGY EXPO

Ecomondo
Rimini, Italy

4-7
November

VAKBEURS
RECYCLING
RECYCLINGTECHNIEK & AFVALMANAGEMENT

Vakbeurs Recycling
Gorinchem, The Netherlands

11-13
November

BMR

BMR
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

17-18
November

IFAT

IFAT SAUDI ARABIA
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

26-28
January 2026

ReMA

ReMa Convention
Las Vegas, NV, USA

13-16
April 2026

IFAT

IFAT
Munich, Germany

4-7
May 2026



The LIDEX 1300 achieves a record output of 15,000 tons/month



Lionel Le Mentec and the Feng Hsin assembly team

Feng Hsin Steel:

First LEFORT® Scrap Shear in Taiwan

LEFORT® installed its first scrap shear in Houli, Taichung on the “beautiful island”: a LIDEX 1300, tailored to meet the demands of Taiwan’s steel industry.

Taiwan: A Strong Player in the Global Steel Market

In 2024, Taiwan ranked as the 13th largest crude steel producer in the world, with 19.1 million tonnes. The island holds a stable 1.1% share of the global market, supported by powerful groups such as China Steel Corporation (CSC), Dragon Steel, Tung Ho Steel, Wei Chih Steel, and Feng Hsin Steel where the LEFORT® LIDEX 1300 was recently commissioned.

About Feng Hsin Steel

Founded in 1969 in Taichung, Feng Hsin Steel Co., Ltd. is a major player in Taiwan’s steel industry. The company employs nearly 1,000 people and produces 1.6 million tonnes of molten steel annually via two electric arc furnaces (EAFs), generating about 1.4 billion USD in annual revenue. Certified JIS, ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 and IATF16949, Feng Hsin supplies a variety of steel products for construction, automotive, shipbuilding, and machinery manufacturing.

LIDEX 1300: A High-Performance Machine

After six months of operation, the 1,300-ton LIDEX has exceeded expectations. “The fully automated cycle optimizes pro-

ductivity and reduces manual intervention. The integrated cleaning system significantly improves scrap quality after shearing. Our target was 12,000 tonnes per month, and we are averaging 15,000 – with a controlled energy consumption of just 6.0 kWh/tonne. LEFORT®’s hydraulic technology provides consistent power and reliability, even under intensive use,” explains Chien-Ting Chien, Chief Mechanic at Feng Hsin Steel. The machine primarily processes heavy and secondary scrap.

A Globally Managed Project

The project began with site visits in Europe, followed by customized installation planning and complex logistics. On-site, Lionel Le Mentec, commissioning manager at LEFORT® for KOLOSS and LIDEX multi-block machines, supervised the entire installation over several weeks. He recalls: “The client and our agent Steve Yang gave us a warm welcome. The local teams were very skilled and efficient. This project was intense but rewarding – both professionally and personally.”

A Demanding Yet Promising Market

Given the geographical distance, machine reliability and local autonomy were essential. Feng Hsin Steel’s teams received in-depth training. A stock of critical spare

A Strong Partnership with CHHM

This project came to life thanks to CHHM and Steve Yang, a former engineer and expert in the local industrial landscape. As LEFORT®’s official distributor in Taiwan, CHHM benefits from a strong technical network. The company is now targeting the recycling sector, with several projects already underway and eyes set on South Korea, another strategic market. A second LEFORT® shear baler has already been delivered to another local steelmaker.

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parts (including hydraulic cylinders) was delivered, and remote maintenance ensures ongoing support from LEFORT®.

This success confirms LEFORT®’s ability to meet the demands of distant markets through robust technology, strong customer support, and reliable local partnerships.

Innovation at the Core

An Interview with Jordan Plichard,
Chief Product Officer

At LEFORT®, innovation is a culture, a method, and a driver of growth. Jordan Plichard, Chief Product Officer, shares his vision, his career path, and the group's flagship projects.

Jordan, can you briefly introduce yourself?

I have been with LEFORT® for 16 years. Today, I oversee machine engineering — mechanical, hydraulic, electrical, and automation. I started out as an engineer and gradually moved into innovation management. My background is deeply rooted in industry. I began at 16 through an apprenticeship program, a format I have always preferred. Before joining LEFORT®, I worked in the glass sector. I was immediately drawn to recycling: it is concrete, technical, and constantly evolving. I also appreciate the company culture here: human-sized, where ideas circulate freely, decisions are made quickly, and technical expertise is truly valued. From the start, I worked alongside Mr. Christian Lefort, who has always had a strong focus on innovation. That collaboration allowed us to envision and create the machines of tomorrow.

How do you define innovation?

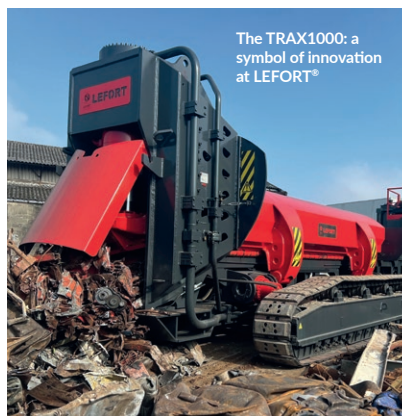
Innovation is not just about inventing something entirely new. It is about bringing a fresh solution to an existing problem or to a need that has not yet been expressed. It might involve improving performance, safety, ease of use, or sustainability. It is a balance between creativity, practicality, and a deep understanding of real-world needs. For me, meaningful innovation is the kind that addresses a genuine necessity.

What are the key ingredients of innovation?

It all starts with mindset. You have to listen to customers, technicians, sales teams, operators. Innovation often arises from small details. Solid technical skills and powerful tools (3D CAD, simulation, prototyping) are essential. What really makes the difference is the ability to test, fail, adjust, and try again. Innovation also means accepting failure as a necessary step on the path to success.

Which project best embodies LEFORT®'s commitment to innovation?

Without hesitation: the TRAX. It is a breakthrough innovation: a mobile shear on tracks, delivering the same performance as our fixed models. It redefines how we think about machinery, its use, and its place in the operational workflow. It transforms how work is done on-site. This ability to anticipate market needs and break new ground shows that LEFORT® does not innovate to follow trends, but to set them.



Other notable innovations?

Our strength lies in working on multiple fronts simultaneously. The LIDEX 1500, the result of our strategic alliance with former COPEX, combines technical expertise from both companies to create a powerful machine designed for high-volume operations — featuring the best of both worlds. We also developed a mobile shredder to complement the TRAX. On the digital side, the Web Visu system is a major step forward: real-time visualization, cycle adjustment, production monitoring, alarm management, access to technical manuals. It connects users to their machines in a smart, user-friendly way and supports remote assistance.

We have also redesigned our maintenance tools for greater ease and safety, and we



launched the KAR5200 baler: compact, mobile, and efficient, designed specifically for smaller scrap yards.

What innovation directions do you see for the future?

I believe sometimes we need to go back to basics. Some machines have become unnecessarily complex, losing sight of their primary purpose: to produce, cut, press, shred.

For me, the future of innovation lies in:

- Simplifying the user experience with streamlined interfaces and automated settings
- Making maintenance easier with direct component access, clear documentation, and built-in support tools
- Improving energy efficiency, exploring hybrid solutions, and intelligently connecting machines

Not for the sake of being “digital,” but to create real value.

Any current R&D updates?

We are developing new solutions across our shredders and shears, as well as very specialized projects, like a machine for the nuclear sector. Our focus remains on simplification, energy efficiency, and strengthening our industrial capabilities, so we stay relevant, competitive, and aligned with the recyclers of tomorrow.

A closing word?

At LEFORT® innovation is not an end in itself. It is a means to better serve our customers. It is built on a 360° global vision, a deep understanding of field realities, and a shared commitment. This blend of technical expertise, pragmatism, and passion is, in my opinion, what makes us strong.

Thank you for your insights.



TRAX 1250 (1375 US) with loading table and 7-meter-long box

A LEFORT® TRAX 1250 (TRAX 1375 US)

with Loading Table at OmniSource

Fort Wayne, Indiana — OmniSource, LLC, a North American giant in metal recycling, has taken a major strategic step by adding a big LEFORT® TRAX mobile shear baler with integrated loading table to its fleet. A first for both the company and the European manufacturer, this marks a move toward operational optimization and enhanced processing capabilities.

A Major Player in Metal Recycling

Founded in 1943 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, OmniSource is now a leading name in metal recycling across North America. Acquired by Steel Dynamics, Inc. in 2017, it operates as an independent subsidiary. The company collects, processes, and resells a wide variety of scrap materials — shipping over 5 million gross tons of recycled steel and more than a billion pounds of non-ferrous and stainless scrap annually.

“Our main operations are located in the Midwest, South, and Mid-Atlantic regions, but our reach extends across North America thanks to a vast fleet of trucks, containers, railcars, and barges. We continue to grow through new processing equipment, additional sites, and targeted acquisitions. We have also built strategic partnerships with industrial scrap generators and installed customized recycling programs for manufacturers throughout the United States,” explains Alex Richmond, plant manager and third-generation representative of OmniSource experts.

Beyond the numbers, OmniSource sees itself as much more than a recycler. The company embraces a clear vision: scrap is not waste — it is a resource, and their facilities are viewed as “open-pit mines” serving the circular economy.

The TRAX 1250: A Productivity-Oriented Solution

The arrival of the TRAX marks a strategic shift for OmniSource. Installed at the company’s historic Fort Wayne site, this internationally patented, track-mounted mobile shear baler is the first of its kind in OmniSource’s operations. What sets it apart: an integrated loading table, allowing for continuous feeding and significant time savings.

“We chose this model for its mobility in the yard, its efficiency, and its ability to match our volume demands. The integrated loading table gives us an immediate productivity

boost, without the need for costly and complex infrastructure,” says Alex Richmond, who also emphasizes the machine’s safety features — an essential factor for the company.

Capable of processing a wide range of materials (railcars, mandrel balls, P&S), the machine was commissioned in early summer and praised for the high-quality installation and professionalism of the teams involved.

“We expect gains in productivity, reduced logistics costs, and improved energy efficiency over the long term,” Richmond concludes.



Team pride in front of their new equipment



Mobility Meets Demolition:

LEFORT® TRAX at Baier Autokrane

At the helm of Baier Autokrane, Peter Baier is not a traditional scrap dealer. He is a recognized expert in mobile crane rental. Founded in 1985 in Mantel, Bavaria, his family-run business has evolved over the decades to become a key player in industrial lifting throughout Germany.

With 85 employees and an impressive fleet of 170 vehicles spread across Mantel / Weiden (Bavaria) and Rothenstein / Jena (Thuringia), Baier Autokrane generates an annual turnover of €10 million. The company offers cranes ranging from 30 to 250 tonnes, always operated by qualified personnel, serving clients nationwide for even the most demanding jobs.

But Peter Baier recently made headlines in a completely different field: the renewal and dismantling of a 110+ km long natural gas pipeline. The challenge? Cutting on-site old 900 mm diameter steel pipes, a task requiring both raw power and mobility.

"We needed a solution that was both robust and easy to move from site to site," explains Peter Baier. Initial trials took place in August 2022 in Winterswijk, Netherlands, using a stationary 1,000-ton shear. It soon became clear that an even more powerful and mobile solution was needed.

This marked the beginning of a collaboration with LEFORT®, the renowned Belgian manufacturer of industrial shear balers. Not long after, Baier Autokrane ordered a TRAX 1250, a track-mounted model combining shear power and unmatched mobility.

"The TRAX 1250 has far exceeded our expectations," says Baier, who also praises the quality of service from LEFORT®: *"Whether it is technical support or help from the factory, there is always someone available – even on weekends. That is a real strength."*

The current pipeline dismantling project is nearing completion, but Peter Baier is already eyeing similar upcoming opportunities, once again with LEFORT® as a trusted partner. Through this successful diversification, Baier Autokrane proves that innovation, reliability, and close customer relationships are the pillars of long-term success, whether lifting, transporting, or now... cutting.



Our New Team for Germany, Switzerland & Austria: Jörg Richter & Fabien Reho

To meet the technical and operational demands of the German-speaking markets, LEFORT® is offering innovative equipment tailored to the evolving recycling sector. To ensure proximity and responsiveness, a dedicated two-person sales team is now at your service.

Jörg Richter,

Sales Manager, Western, Eastern & Northern Germany



Since February 2022, I have been growing LEFORT®'s presence in German-speaking markets. Active in recycling since 1999, I spent 18 years at Schmachtenberg before specializing in machinery technology. As Sales Manager, my role goes beyond sales. I support each client from project planning through to commissioning. After-sales service is provided directly from Belgium, in close coordination with local partners. All LEFORT® machines feature a remote maintenance system, allowing real-time diagnostics and intervention directly from our factory.



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Fabien Reho,

Sales Manager, Southern Germany, Switzerland & Austria



With over 30 years of experience, I have held technical roles across various industrial sectors and managed numerous projects involving high-tech products. My approach is centred on active listening and understanding client needs to deliver the most suitable solution. Passionate about heavy machinery and hydraulics, I have a constant curiosity and strive to bridge the gap between technology and operational performance. Having worked extensively in German-speaking regions, I have developed a strong inter-cultural sensitivity.



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LEFORT® Unveils

High-Performance Paint Booth in Gosselies

In March 2025, LEFORT® officially inaugurated its new high-performance paint booth at its Gosselies site, marking the completion of a large-scale factory modernization program launched in 2022. Following the installation of a SORALUCE machining center in 2023, this new infrastructure boosts production capacity, improves working conditions, and raises the company's quality standards even higher.

A Facility Designed for Performance

The paint booth occupies a building 55 meters long, 15 meters wide, and 9 meters high, divided into three main zones:

- **Hydraulic pipework cleaning:** pipe kits are placed on racks, cleaned, dried, and sealed to prevent contamination.
- **Thorough machine cleaning** prior to painting.
- **A 30-meter-long paint zone**, which can be divided into two sections to allow painting and preparation simultaneously.

Cutting-Edge Technology and Optimized Ergonomics

Pascal Benoit, Chief Technical Officer at LEFORT®, oversaw the project: *"The building was constructed by Mahieu, and the booth was supplied by SIMA, a Belgian company and part of the European SACA Group, specialized in large-scale installations for the transportation industry. SIMA's standard booths are typically designed for 10- to 15-ton road trailers, so they had to be adapted for our machines, which exceed 100 tonnes. The structure's design and dimensions were developed entirely by our in-house engineering team."*

Key features include:

- 2,250 kW heating capacity via three natural gas boilers, allowing fast temperature rise and drying in just one hour, significantly speeding up paint curing,



The ultra-modern paint booth measures 30 meters in length

- Integrated ventilation from both floor and ceiling, minimizing paint mist and ensuring healthier air quality,
- ATEX certification, ensuring safety in explosive atmospheres.

Two motorized side platforms, sliding across 30 meters, allow operators to paint at different heights without ladders. These systems, along with advanced operator and maintenance team training, greatly improve both ergonomics and safety at the workstation.

A Strong Environmental Commitment

In line with its CSR strategy, LEFORT® has incorporated several sustainable solutions into the project:

- Natural gas-powered boilers,
- Rooftop solar panels (the third solar installation on-site),
- Rainwater recovery system for cleaning,
- Water filtration system that removes hydrocarbons and particles before discharging to the sewer.

The inauguration ceremony took place in March 2025, in the presence of the painting, maintenance, and management teams, reflecting a shared commitment behind this achievement. With this new facility, LEFORT® continues its industrial development by combining innovation, safety, performance, and sustainability: another milestone in building the future.



Inauguration of the new facility in March 2025

#News in brief



LIDEX 1000 COMMISSIONED IN CAUDAN

Commings Métaux Services (CMS), a family-run scrap company rooted in the Occitan region of France, has recently commissioned its new LIDEX 1,000-ton shear (3 x 110 kW) at the Caudan facility. Based in the southwest of France, the company processes nearly 30,000 tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metals annually. With this new equipment, CMS now aims for a production capacity of up to 40 tons per hour.



A 1,300-TON LIDEX AT A BELGIAN NEIGHBOUR

LEFORT® teams have commissioned a side-compression shear for Van Hoef Metaalrecycling, a Belgian recycling company located in Dilsen-Stokkem, Flanders. The machine features a cutting force of 1,300 tons and a cutting width of 1,000 mm. It is equipped with a compression box measuring 8 meters by 2.6 meters, and a powerful hydraulic system of 5 x 110 kW, allowing for a processing rate of up to 70 tonnes per hour. A portion of the processed materials is shipped via inland waterways using large barges.



KONKEROR 650 DELIVERED TO GREECE

As part of its recycling expansion, TECHNOMET SA, a company specializing in the sale of steel products primarily for the construction industry, is preparing to receive a fixed-wing KONKEROR 650 shear baler at its site in Schimatari, Greece. This powerful machine features a cutting force of 650 tons, a 6-meter-long box, and two compression wings of 240 tons press force each. The shear can reach production rates of up to 11 tons per hour. The deal was managed by BTC Recycling Machinery, LEFORT®'s official agent and one of the leading suppliers of recycling equipment in Greece.

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LEFORT® US STRENGTHENS ITS SALES TEAM

LEFORT® North America, the American subsidiary of the LEFORT® Group, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2024, continues its strategic growth by welcoming new team members to its sales team. Trey Huntsinger and Tom Jansen have joined the company, as Regional Sales Managers for the Southeast region (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Virginia, Maryland) and for the South-Central region (Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado), respectively. Since its inception, LEFORT® North America has established itself as a key player in the sales, technical support, and after-sales service of LEFORT® scrap shears in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



KONKEROR 1000 HEADS TO AUSTRALIA

Founded in 2007 by Mathew and Melissa Sinclair, Minesite Recycling in Australia is committed to reducing the environmental impact of the mining industry by recycling industrial waste such as scrap metal, plastics, hydrocarbons, tires, and used oils. To boost its processing capabilities, the company has chosen LEFORT®'s KONKEROR 1000T shear baler. Recently offloaded at the Port of Fremantle, the machine features a 7-meter compression box and two powerful 350-tonne compression wings — a major boost for recycling operations in the Goldfields region!



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