

Field of Study Social Sciences, Business and Administration			
Degree Programme Degree Programme in International Business			
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Title of Thesis Structural Change in Germany's Automotive Supply Industry			
Date	11 April 2016	Pages/Appendices	48/1
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Client Organisation/Partners Ehrlich Werkzeug und Gerätebau GmbH (Königstein, Germany)			
<p>Abstract</p> <p>Ehrlich Werkzeug und Gerätebau GmbH is an enterprise specialized in the production of automotive parts for Germany's automobile industry. Founded as a family business in 1954, in 2013 the company was acquired by The Amphenol Corporation, one of the largest conglomerates in this field of business in the world, for the total sum of €14 Million. As a result of this capital investment the number of employees was increased significantly and a new headquarter for the company is still under construction as of January 2016.</p> <p>The purpose of this thesis was to investigate the macroeconomic importance of the automotive supply industry for the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as the importance of acquisitions and mergers in this branch. In the practical part of the research the main problematic was to project findings from the theoretical part on the specific situation of the partner company. The main focus was directed at changes in the role of the management as well as resulting fluctuations in the sentiment and opinions of the enterprise's workforce.</p> <p>The main tool for evaluating this subject in the theoretical part was the use of scientific literature while the practical part featured a set of quantitative analyses, which especially relied on the company's financial statements as well as two surveys for its employees from 2011 and 2014.</p> <p>Overall the studies discovered that the automotive and automotive supply industries form the industrial backbone of the country and center large portions of funding and research activity on themselves. The resulting economic strain leads to acquisition of SMEs by larger enterprises with higher spending power. This has tremendous effects on the management structure of the acquired companies which in return lead to a total policy realignment and feature large-scale effects on the enterprises' workforce. This thesis may serve as a starting point for further analysis into this matter and a basic guide regarding the results of mergers in this business branch.</p>			
Keywords Automotive Supply Industry, Germany, Acquisition			