

## 40 years of Voith in São Paulo – a reason to celebrate

The celebration starts with a press conference on September 16, 2004.

Mrs. Martina Mann (left), a daughter of Hans Voith, and her niece Ofelia Nick (right) visit the school Friedrich von Voith.



**In September, Voith celebrated 40 years of the Brazilian subsidiary company. Even before its establishment here, Voith already took part in crucial projects for the Brazilian market through its partnership with Bardella.**



**Guilherme Nogueira**

Voith São Paulo  
guilherme.nogueira@voith.com

The prediction of Mr. Hugo Rupf, Voith AG president at the time could not be more correct. Today, Voith Brazil is the center of competence and manufacture for several products, exporting not only capital assets but also technology and know-how. The events related to the celebration of 40 years of Voith Brazil were attended by distinguished visitors, including customers, members of the Voith family, Voith AG directors, Brazilian authorities and foreign authorities, stressing the importance of Voith Brazil and its cooperators to the Brazilian society, as well as to the Voith Group.

### Press Conference

The conference was attended by Voith AG representatives Dr. Hermut Kormann, President and CEO of the Corporate Man-

agement Board, Dr. Michael Rogowski, Chairman of the Supervisory Board and Mr. Friedrich-Karl Finck, Corporate Communications, as well as by the directors of the four Voith companies in Brazil. They offered to the Brazilian and foreign journalists an optimistic and enriching scenario about the new plans and business foreseen for the country. The journalists left the event very impressed, not only by the corporation history, but also by the figures related to investments, production and orders.

### An unforgettable night

One of the events for the celebrities was the gala dinner held at the Credicard Hall Theater on September 16th. The highlight of the evening came from Mrs. Martina Mann, who, in a touching speech, told



the story of her involvement with Brazil, including the occasion when she first came to the country on a trip with her parents in the 1950's. Fifteen years later, she became involved in meeting the children of the school named after her grand-father, Friedrich von Voith, assisted by the Labor Project, sponsored by Voith.

The governor of the São Paulo state, Mr. Geraldo Alckmin, was also present at Credicard Hall. He mentioned in his speech the importance of Voith to the development of Brazil, creating employment, income, wealth, and playing a great social role.

### **Tropical sun and samba rhythm**

Besides the gala dinner, the guests were invited to visit the Voith São Paulo facilities, where a special meeting place, including a presentation hall, was built, to meet the tour guides and enjoy a special lunch.

The employees of the Brazilian subsidiary had their celebration day too. On September 18th, Voith offered an Open Doors party to the employees and their families. Around 10,000 people attended the event. There was music, raffles, live performance of samba dancers, souvenirs, playing activities for children, barbecue

and a lot of beer. Joy and excitement contagiously involved all the participants.

Affected by the samba school rhythm, the grand-daughter of Hans Voith, Ofelia Nick, described Brazil and the Voith subsidiary: everything is very different, beautiful, and everybody is happy and receptive, and she also would like to learn how to dance samba.

In a speech to the employees, Mr. Johannes Hammacher, representing the Voith family, said in Portuguese: *"Always remember that Voith cannot exist without you. Brazil will always have a special place in the hearts of the Voith family."*