

# How a Radebeul resident explores the glass market wants to change the whole world

Michael Heidan develops with his company Revisalt extrem solid glass and changes the complete technology of Glass production.

By Ulf Mallek

When he is old enough, he remembers maybe at pubs in the DDR with very special beer glasses. The you could accidentally knock them off the table with your elbow, they would shatter not. They were made of super-strong glass, manufactured from 1980 to 1990 in Kamenz. More precisely: in the VEB Sachsglas Schwepnitz. "There was more of a hole in the floor than the glass broke," says Michael Heidan. Apparently, production was too expensive for the new owners after the fall of the Wall, because it was quickly discontinued. In addition, the market was saturated and people wanted to buy Western products.

**"We are facing a breakthrough innovation"**

Heidan was born in Radebeul. Although you don't really notice it, he is in the age to have already drunk beer in the GDR. And he remembers one

day the high quality of these wonder glasses. That day came when his wife

Open an online shop with glass products wanted. That was around 2017 – and he lived with his family in China and Stuttgart, about sunroofs for the upscale world market. The now 58-year-old Heidan is a mechanical engineer, and his professional life so far has been spent in the tightly timed World of the automotive supply industry. His Sunroofs reached a billion-dollar annual turnover. But the idea of The idea of unbreakable glass never left him alone. Glass yogurt pots are much more aesthetic and sustainable than plastic ones, which destroy the environment.

And indeed, the research urge in Things like glass took up a such strength that he quit his car roofing job and once again started from scratch. Now, as discussed Heidan and his wife, we have the Chance to create something really great. We can cover the entire world market for revolutionize glass, becoming something like Apple in the glass industry. He said to her that he could already see it, the unicorn. Such a unicorn (unicorn) is something rare among the many thousands Start-up companies in Germany. For This title requires a valuation of at least one billion dollars. In Germany is said to have 36 Unicorns last year there were only three The translation tool DeepL is one The solar company Enpal is also said to be Unicorn. FlixBus is well known and Trade Republic, a banking app.

Michael Heidan sought and found allies, very competent ones at that. Weißwasser Glass Museum and a former glass expert from Schwepnitz, he came to the Freiberg Mining Academy. Scientists there told him: "We have something much better." They claimed that what would take 24 hours of production time today, they would be able to do in

half an hour. And the glass is also extremely solid. That sounds like Revolution. And revolutions are on the very conservative glass market rather rarely. "People from the glass companies have often explained to me that they do not want any



Michael Heidan (58) from Radebeul is a managing director and founder of the start-up Revisalt in Freiberg. He wants super strong glass produce economically.

Photos: Claudia Hübschmann



The founders (from left to right): Michael Heidan, Martin Groß, Thomas Voland, Robert Wohlfahrt and Martin Herrmann.



The company Revisalt directly at the entrance of the large commercial area in Freiberg, Ferdinand-Reich-Straße.



Inspecting the glass products: Robert Wohlfahrt, Thomas Voland, Martin Groß and Michael Heidan. (from left to right)

perfect glass," says Heidan. Because then it would not break again and they would sell less. The Freiberg scientists put together a series of experiments to prove their theories. Currently, chemically strengthened glass is used because

It is only used in premium products such as display glass for smartphones because it is so expensive to produce. Water bottle made of this solid glass would be but actually a revolution. The bottle would be thinner, less energy would be required, production would be faster, it would be over 50 percent lighter and nothing would stand in the way of its mass use. In a test, the Freiberg scientists have compared the weight of a normal

0.7l water bottle from 620 grams to 234 grams. Heidan: "We are

"We are facing a breakthrough innovation. Our technology has the potential for this." The Radebeul entrepreneur's new glasses could almost completely replace plastic in the food retail trade.

**Don't put all your eggs in one basket**

But first Heidan secured and his colleagues from the university patented their new technologies. They wanted to proceed step by step, not to place a card. They have already found their first customer, the company Heinz-Glas from Kleintettau near Coburg (Bavaria). She manufacture glasses for the cosmetics industry Heidan and his people developed

a plant for this company and had it installed in Coswig at the company Glamaco (formerly VEB Glasmaschinenbau Coswig).

**New test facility coming soon**

Heidan founded with a friend of him, Martin Herrmann, the owner of a Private equity company from Frankfurt, the company 2MH, today a 100 percent Daughter of Revisalt. Soon the companies merged. "We have money and time into it. I have three years without income," says Heidan. At the same time, the Freiberg team developed a new regeneration material so that the salt needed to harden the glass at 400 degrees Celsius could be used for much longer.

The company Revisalt was founded for this purpose. The five founders still hold 80 percent of the shares, the remaining 20 percent are given to the Technology Founders Fund Saxony, who donated one million euros to of the company. In addition, Re-visalt received a further million euros in credit from the house bank, of which only 55 percent has to be repaid. The rest is supported by the Saxon Development Bank.

Over time, Revisalt has developed several won awards for their technology, so also took second place in the category Start-up by a Saxon entrepreneur of 2024. The Freiberg-based company is currently running a small test facility for rapid solidification of glass.

Next, a larger one will be installed, with which glasses up to 1.1 meters in size can be solidified. A new system for the production of regeneration material has just been put into operation, with the up to 20 tons of the new agent per year can be produced. "For this, we see we have a big market," says Heidan.

Revisalt's business model with currently eight employees and a company valuation (2023) of five million Euro stands on three pillars: Licensing of the process for the super-strong glass, which much faster, more energy efficient and cheaper can be produced, secondly the production and distribution of regeneration material for the salt bath in glass hardening and thirdly on research and development, tests, analyses and consulting.

But if you walk through the halls of the Company in Freiberg's industrial area is running, They are mostly empty or subtle. How can a

Companies with a billion dollar valuation emerge? The global glass market has a volume of 110 billion US dollars per year. Half of the production comes from China, 27 percent from Europe and 15 percent from North America.

Heidan, who has already been very successful with his car sunroofs, firmly believes in success. "We will We will transform the entire glass market." And the super-strong beer glasses from the GDR era will certainly experience a second spring.

## In many municipalities Seats remain in Municipal council empty

Above all, the AfD and once The CDU also have

Meißen district too little Candidates for local elections

The largest There are problems in Nossen.

Staff shortages exist not only in the Gastronomy, hotel business or in the handicrafts sector. Even in local politics, the people. In seven of 28 municipalities in In the district of Meißen, the municipal councils have to be reduced in size because more people were elected as candidates This almost always affects the

AfD, in one case also the CDU. In Hirschstein, the municipal council has only 15 instead of 16 seats. The CDU is awarded two

seats, but has only one Candidates. A similar case in Stauchitz. The municipal council is also reduced from 16 to 15 seats. Here is the reason the AfD, which receives three seats, but only two candidates. In Käbschütz-tal it is about two seats down, from 14 to 12. The AfD receives five seats, but has only three candidates. In Pries-tewitz the council size is reduced from 16 to 15 seats. Here too it is the AfD, which receives two mandates but can only fill one.

In Nünchritz it goes down from 17 to 15 seats. Here again it is the AfD, which receives six seats, but only has four candidates. In Röderau the municipal council shrinks from 12 to eleven seats, the AfD can only win two of its three Fill mandates. Last but not least, Strehla: Here it goes from 16 to 15 seats, as the AfD can only fill one mandate instead of two.

Nossen is hit hardest. According to the provisional

Election results in the next five years four seats are vacant. The reason: AfD candidate Kati Hofmann alone has received 20.7 percent of the votes, which ultimately corresponds to five seats. Since she is alone on the list, she will also represent the AfD alone in Nossen. Overall There will only be 22 councillors in the Nossen town hall instead of 26. In total, 13 council seats will remain empty.

Obviously, the lack of suitable candidates for local politics a big problem especially for the AfD in District of Meißen. (SZ/um)

## 81-year-old depressed

**Radebeul.** An 81-year-old cyclist is on Sunday morning on the Mittlere Bergstrasse by another man. He had to be given severe The senior was admitted to hospital with injuries at around 9:50 a.m. on Sunday on his bicycle in the direction of Coswig. According to initial investigations, he was overtaken by the perpetrator, who was riding an e-bike. An argument broke out, presumably because of the cyclists' riding style, whereupon the perpetrator hit and kicked the 81-year-old. He then drove away. The perpetrator It is about 65 to 70

year old man with grey-white hair. He was about 1.80 meters tall, had a dressed in a grey and white checked shirt and traveling with female company. (SZ)

■ The police are investigating and looking for witnesses. The Dresden Police Department can be reached at 0351 4832233.

## Fatal accident at Meißen train station

A woman was killed on Monday evening by Hit by train and seriously injured She survived the accident not. For the many eyewitnesses there are offers of help.

By Ines Mallek-Klein

The S1 was on its way to the Triebischtal when the accident happened. A 62-year-old woman, who was using walking aids, got caught between the platform and the track bed, was hit by the approaching She was hit by a train and injured so badly that she died at the scene of the accident. Eyewitnesses This tragic accident affected numerous commuters and rail passengers.

To help the victim process what he had experienced, the police called for emergency counselors at around 7 p.m. Mandy K. from the German Red Cross Side mirrors are available on the The Dresden-Land district association was itself Place. She speaks of five first responders and Eyewitnesses who were approached There is a high probability that

but in the rush hour traffic it is still far more people who are dealing with the terrible pictures. That is why they also sent a message via Facebook

Call launched to report to the DRK or the Diakonie Meißen, who sent emergency workers to the scene of the accident on Monday evening. There, twelve hours later, the Unfortunately, nothing is left to see. However, It is a topic of conversation, even at the bakery stand in the station hall. The saleswoman was just about to finish her day on Monday when emergency doctors, ambulances, police and firefighters drove onto the station forecourt. "I am now getting

I still get goosebumps when I think about it," says the saleswoman. She commutes with public transport and has Even before the accident, the question had often been asked how the train drivers could see that no one was on the platform.

The Sächsische Zeitung therefore wanted from Deutsche Bahn what the Train driver because when the train leaves

Unfortunately, there was no answer, but instead the information that the investigations into the accident were still ongoing and that, with consideration for the

Survivors no further information "We are deeply saddened by the accident on Monday evening in Meißen.

We speak to the relatives of the victim our heartfelt condolences," said a spokeswoman for Deutsche Bahn.

Daniela Jander-Vanselow knows that especially the first responders who no longer have anything to do for the Woman could do, need time and often professional support to process impressions. "That is what we are there," says the team leader of the emergency chaplains at the Diakonie Meißen. First contact is about getting people to "talk This way, a lot can be processed. In individual cases, acute medical help is needed, adds Sven Böttger, and in others later therapeutic support. Those who days or weeks after the event that he needs help can contact the accident insurance fund in Saxony directly, says Daniela Jan-



At Meißen station on Monday evening there is a Wife of a Train detected and fatally injured been.

Symbol photo: C. Hübschmann

der-Vanselow. You were recently in the District of Meißen in action, as on the Two people were killed on Federal Highway 6. Here too, first responders and members of the volunteer fire brigades, who shared the impressions with professional Process help.

The station was closed after the fatal accident on Monday evening from 6.30 p.m. clock, travelers and Commuters had to temporarily rely on buses The railway justified the train cancellations in its app with an emergency medical call and had a train between Meißen-Altstadt and Meißen main station will set up a replacement service. Passengers to Wein-

Böhlä, Coswig, Radebeul or Dresden should continue their journey by bus, in Cos-wig the S-Bahn continued again

Towards Dresden. At about 8.10 p.m. Finally, the route of the busy S1 into the Triebischtal will be reopened for the be opened to traffic.

The accident in Meißen occurred not even 24 hours after another train accident in Dresden. on Sunday evening a 20-year-old at Crossing the tracks at the stop Kemnitz was hit by a train and critically injured. The railway line to Coswig was also closed for several hours.