

Project in Togo, West Africa,  
successfully under way

## Africa hammer celebrates its second birthday

The Africa hammer forged by Buderus Edelstahl was set in place in Yohonou, Togo, two years ago, on 16 April 2006. This work of art by the forging artist Andreas Rimkus weighs 19 tonnes and is 4.5 metres long; it was brought to this village of 6,000 smiths by hope and effort. One initial order has already been completed – 500 hand forged "good luck hammers" for Buderus Edelstahl.

Buderus Edelstahl donated the unusual hammer head in support of the "Generational artwork – forging the future" sponsored by UNICEF, on the initiative of the artist Andreas Rimkus. The Africa hammer is one of seven gigantic hammerheads to be installed on all the continents of the Earth, with a typical local tree planted in the eye of each hammerhead. The trees will form the handles of the continental hammers when they are fully grown.

This world-spanning project has attracted a lot of attention. For example the television channel Arte has reported four times on the Africa hammer and the village of Yohonou, where the creation myth has it that everyone is born a smith. Buderus Edelstahl also supported Andreas Rimkus in creating the documentary film "The flaming tree" that is available on DVD in German, English, French and Ewe.

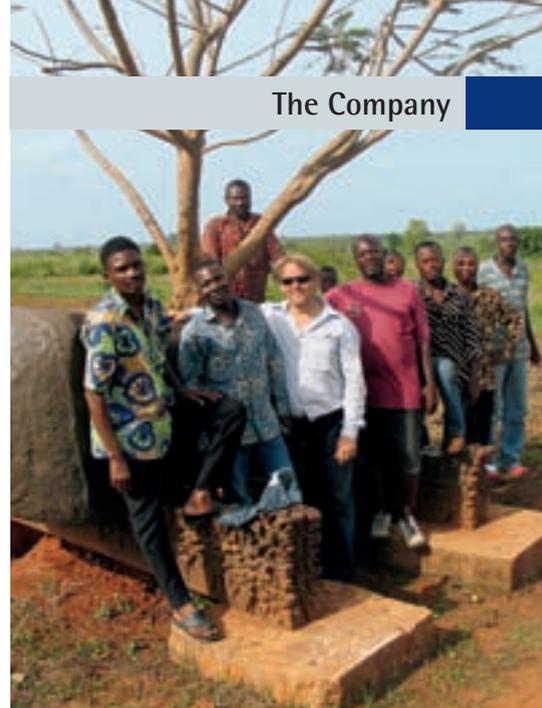
"The Africa hammer has already set sev-

eral things in motion", says Andreas Rimkus with satisfaction. There are plans for a children's house. In 2007 an optician from Düsseldorf spent two weeks in Yohonou examining the residents' eyes to have spectacles made for them in Germany. In March 2008 I am flying back to Togo with him." Andreas Rimkus was particularly pleased about the order placed by Buderus Edelstahl for 500 traditional hand-forged hammerheads. This gave the local population their first opportunity to export goods to Europe. The forged products from Yohonou were a publicity magnet at the Buderus Edelstahl exhibition stand at Euromold 2007 in Frankfurt am Main last December. The good luck hammers with the inscription "Everyone forges his own good luck", are being sold by Buderus Edelstahl for € 10 each to support the project. The proceeds will go to selected master smiths in Yohonou, who will make special forgings for the proposed museum of forging.

### It's about the children's future

Jens Mohr, the Commercial Director of Buderus Edelstahl, comments "The idea that the hammers can give children all around the world a pointer to the future, and stimulate them to forge their own good fortune pleases us so much that we are continuing to support the project. The children of Yohonou now have better prospects thanks to the Africa hammer, and if everything we are planning comes to fruition, they can look to the future with confidence."

Master smiths present their hammers



Andreas Rimkus is pleased how well the tree is growing

The hammerhead with its massive dimensions was forged by the specialists at the Buderus Edelstahl open-die forge on 17 and 18 March 2004 from a 26-tonne ingot. "Not an easy job", smiles Jens Mohr, "but one we were pleased to tackle, as always when required to achieve the almost impossible."

The fire tree growing through the Africa hammer

