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WELCOME!

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**The Association of the
German Leather Industry (VDL=
Verband der Deutschen
Lederindustrie e.V.) cordially
welcomes you to the**

WORLD LEATHER CONGRESS 2015

**Thomas Strebost
HELLER-LEDER GmbH & Co. KG
President of VDL**



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Among the producers of bovine leather, the German leather industry holds **3rd place in the EU and 12th place worldwide**

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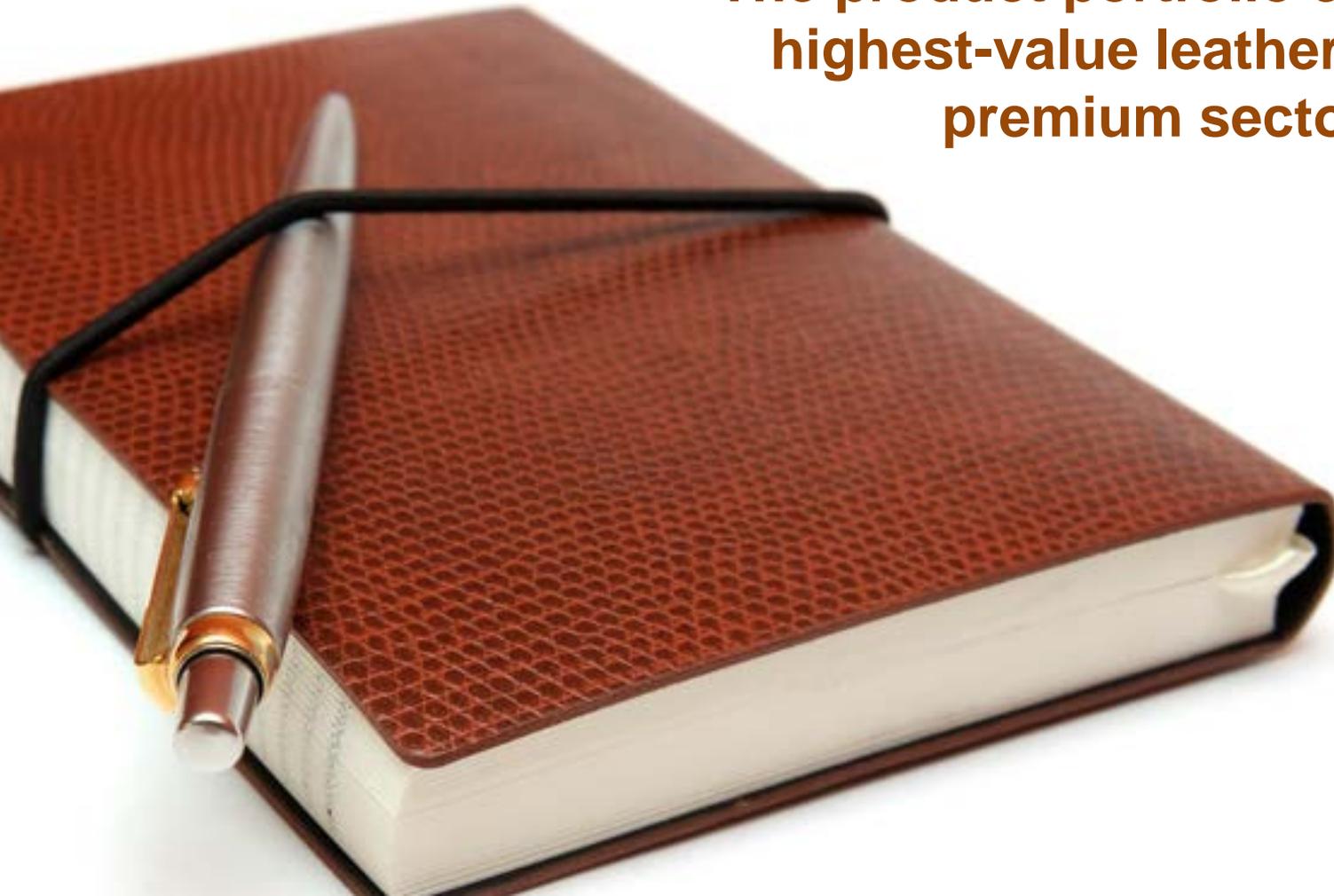
14 enterprises with a total of 2,000 employees form the core of the German leather manufacturing industry.

Global players with subsidiaries in the whole world and locations in Asia, America, South Africa and other EU countries are found among them.



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**The product portfolio comprises
highest-value leathers in the
premium sector**



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**For automotive, aeroplane
and yacht fittings, especially**



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**For upholstered furniture
and the interior design of facilities**



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**But also as upper leathers
for high-quality footwear**

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For luxurious leather goods



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For rustic and elegant horse-riding equipment



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High-quality pit-tanned sole leathers



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**Main success factors
of the German leather industry:**



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**Availability of the world's best
raw hides and skins**



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**High-qualified
employees
based on**



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Professional training school in Reutlingen, providing skilled employees for leather manufacture and tanning technology



**Traditional
tanner's baptism**



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**Advanced skill improvement
to become**

a leather technician (va)

**after successful
achievement of a master's
qualification
passing a technical seminar
at FILK**



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A woman with long dark hair, wearing safety glasses and a dark lab coat, is shown in profile, pouring a dark liquid from a large beaker into a funnel. The funnel is positioned inside a large, cylindrical industrial machine with a perforated metal exterior. The machine is illuminated with a blue light. In the background, there are other pieces of equipment, including a blue container and a wooden board with a label that says "Dose 1". Another label with "Dose 2" is visible on a wooden board to the right. The machine has a large number "2" on its side. The overall scene is set in a laboratory or industrial environment.

**Consequent ecological and
property improvement of leather
quality**

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Support by an own
leather research
community (FGL =
Forschungs-
gemeinschaft
Leder e.V.)
organized by the
leather industry



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Germany has highly qualified research institutions such as the renowned FILK research institute and the Pirmasens Footwear Institute (PFI)



FILK

Forschungsinstitut
Leder und Kunststoffbahnen



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**Highest product quality and supply service
are the outstanding key competitive factors
of the German leather industry.**



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**Consequent orientation towards
a sustainable “green” product and
production policy**



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**The German
tanneries operate
most modern
sewage treatment
plants**



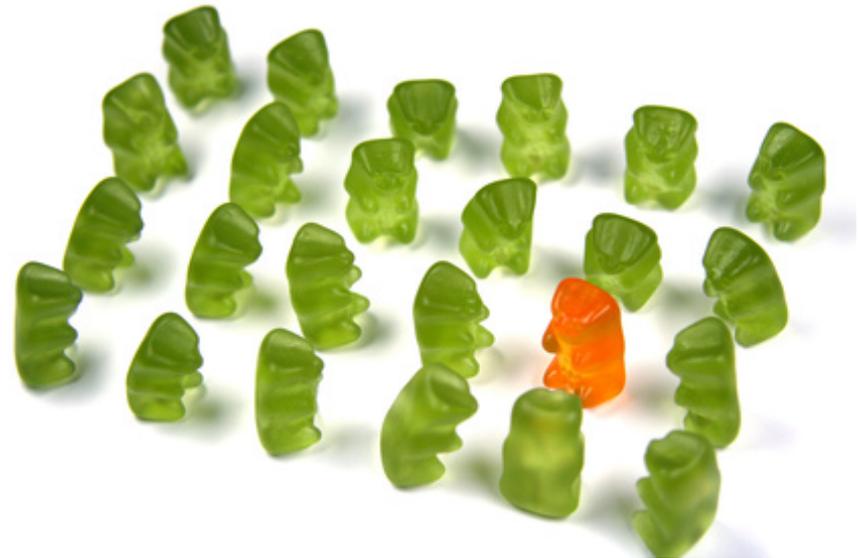
**HELLER-LEDER GmbH
& Co. KG**



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By nearly 100 % all residuals of hides not used for leather manufacture are further refined as valuable raw material or biologically disposed for:

- food applications
- leather board
- fertilizers, fats and pet food...



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**... to generate energy,
e. g. in the worldwide
first bio-energy plant
of SÜDLEDER GmbH
& Co. KG**



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**Many awards already give evidence
of the successful “green leather policy”.**



Improving Environmental Stewardship



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**Most of the German tanneries
are Gold-Rated (LWG award)**



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**Many selections of
leather articles have
been already awarded
the Blue Angel.**



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**In 2013 HELLER-
LEDER GmbH
& Co. KG has
been awarded
with the German
Sustainability
price:**

**“Blue Angel
Winner of the
Year”**



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**All German premium manufacturers achieved
the ECO₂L certificate for their energy-saving and
CO₂-avoiding manufacture**



ECO₂L
Energy
Controlled
Leather

"the worlds first calculation
and auditing model
for determining the energy
efficiency and CO₂
emissions of a tannery"



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**Own labels, such as “terracare”
(Lederfabrik Josef Heinen GmbH & Co. KG),
have been established too.**



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**Several members of
the Association of
German Leather Industry
(VDL) have already been
awarded the title
“Tannery of the Year”:**

- in 2009: Lederfabrik Josef Heinen
GmbH & Co. KG



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- in 2011: HELLER-LEDER GmbH & Co. KG



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- in 2014: Wollsdorf Leder
Schmidt & Co Ges.m.b.H.



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**And another key factor of success:
Collective representation
of the interests of the German leather industry
by one association:
Verband der Deutschen Lederindustrie
(VDL)**

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**Where the term „Leather Industry“
does no longer refer to tanneries only ...**

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**... but applies
to the entire
industry sector**



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The modern VDL has a broad member structure comprising:

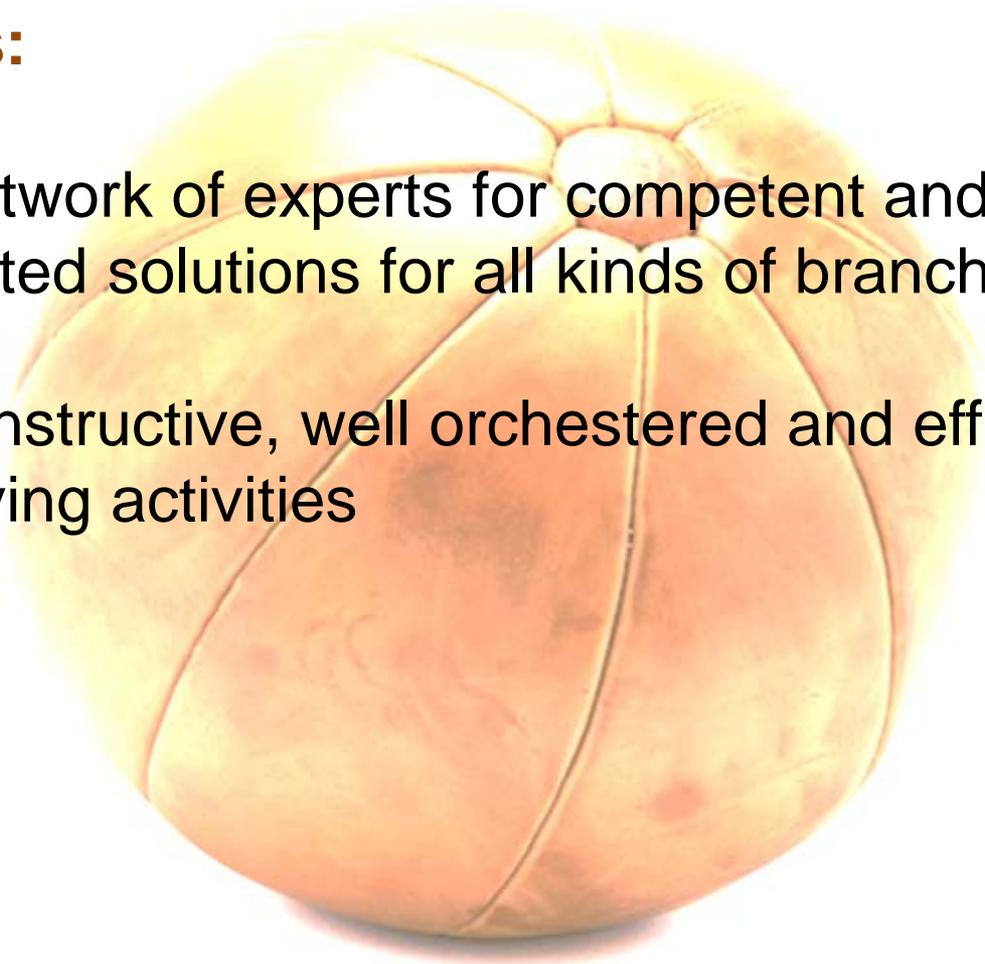
- all big, medium and smaller enterprises of the **local leather industry as well as tanneries in neighbour countries**
- a large number of renowned enterprises of the **chemical supplying industry**
- companies of the **collagen-upgrading industry, leather traders and manufacturers of care products**

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The success:

An unique network of experts for competent and well-coordinated solutions for all kinds of branch issues

as well as constructive, well orchestrated and efficient political lobbying activities



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Joint engagement

- in the field of national and international standardization
- for establishment of quality and eco labels, such as Blue Angel standards
- for broad recognition of young professionals



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VDL is member of

- COTANCE (European Association of Tanners)
- ICT (International Association of Tanners)



International Council of Tanners
the worldwide organisation for producers of leather

- Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e.V.



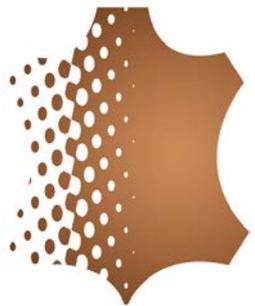
BDI



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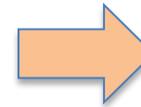
VGCT – Verein für Gerberei-Chemie und –Technik

(German branch of IULTCS) is organizer of the Freiburger Ledertage (Leather Days), one of the largest conference of the leather industry in Europe



VGCT

**Verein für Gerberei-Chemie
und -Technik e.V.**



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Further interest groups:

- Berufsgenossenschaft Rohstoffe und chemische Industrie (BG RCI)
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft industrieller Forschungsvereinigungen (AIF)
- TEGEWA



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Ausstellungs- und Messeausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft (AUMA)



Organizer of German information centres at leading Asian
fairs supported by the German Government



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**In brief,
VDL stands for:**

**ALL TOGETHER FOR
LEATHER**

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**The German leather industry
wishes the World Congress and
the ICT much success ...**

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**... with many new and important
findings!**



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**Thank you for
your attention!**

