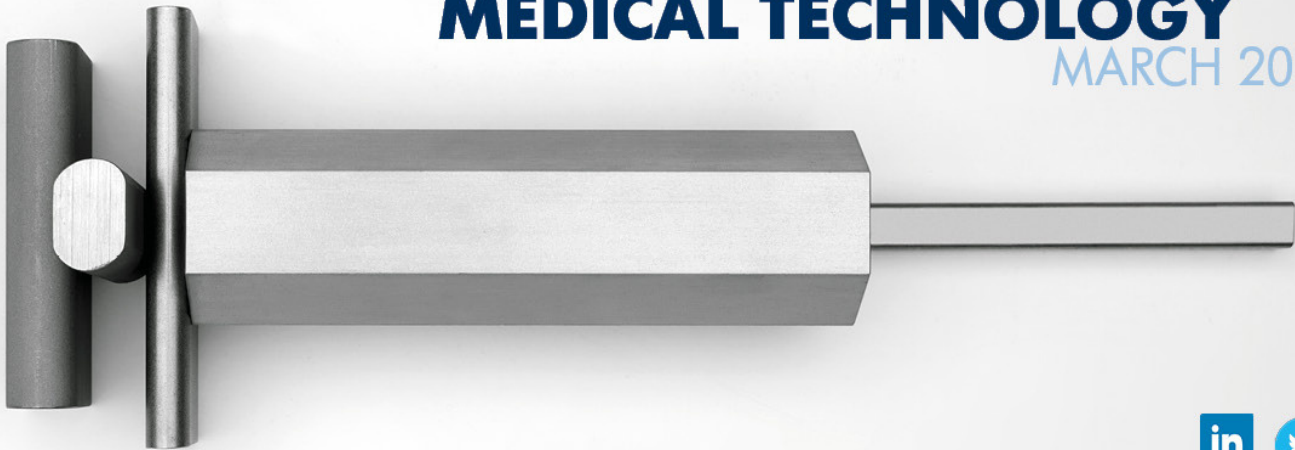


SPECIAL WEEK

# MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

MARCH 2021



## Interview with Sascha Wünschmann, Account Manager at Böllinghaus Steel, on the use of stainless steel in the medical technology sector

### What are the benefits of stainless steel systems for the medical technology sector?



Sascha Wünschmann: Simple handling, long service life and, above all, safe conditions: products for medical use have always been very demanding.

In addition, there are special requirements and regulations for medical devices. Stainless steel is particularly resistant to external surroundings, such as periodic frequent cleaning and sterilization. The stainless steel design and convenient sanitation make it easy to maintain hygiene standards in the healthcare sector.

Moreover, stainless steel is skin-friendly and its ease of handling makes daily work more efficient for users. Stainless steel surfaces can be disinfected more effectively than those made of other materials and a lower concentration of disinfectant is needed to maintain the legal level of hygiene.

In addition, stainless steel convinces in terms of corrosion resistance, antibacterial properties, hygiene, ductility, strength, manufacturing precision and recyclability. The material does not fade and can be produced as chemically inert, safe, smooth and non-absorbent surfaces that can be completely cleaned and disinfected without deterioration or corrosion.



## **What are the typical applications of stainless steel long products in the medical technology sector?**

Sascha Wünschmann: Stainless steel is one of the metal alloys most commonly used in the fabrication of surgical instruments. Indeed, it is a strong metal very resistant to corrosion. Our standard profiles are machined into specific components for the medical industry, including surgical implants, surgical instruments, dental instruments, machine parts (magnetic resonance tomography), and hospital equipment (beds, containers...).

## **What factors are components in the medical technology sector exposed to that stainless steel can withstand?**

Sascha Wünschmann: With the high degree of cleaning required in this area of application, materials used in medical technology must be very resistant to detergents, avoiding contamination or interactions at all costs. Bacteria are usually found in patient environments, including hospital spaces and wards. Some microorganisms can survive for a long period of time and can attack other patients through daily contact and normal occurrences.

In view of the increase in antibiotic resistance, it has never been more critical to make sure that surfaces and objects in all healthcare areas can be easily sanitized and disinfected.

The main requirements in medical technology are thus durable materials resistant to chemicals, abrasion and temperature. In addition, materials used in the field of medical technology must be easy to clean, must comply with strict standards and regulations, and must make a significant contribution to the reliability of the application. Stainless steel meets the highest standards of accuracy and precision. There is no compromise with quality when it comes to the application of stainless steel. The material has played a major role in clinical safety in healthcare facilities for decades.

## **Can Böllinghaus Steel also provide bespoke solutions?**

Sascha Wünschmann: We are aware of our responsibility and produce standard- and tailor-made stainless steel long products for the medical technology sector that are suitable for application in extremely sensitive environments. Especially in the field of medical technology with its very specific requirements, we often design tailor-made solutions to ensure full functionality.

Depending on the specifications, we can generate results that meet, for example, particular regulations and standards. We are happy to help you select the right products that satisfy your requirements and help you to choose the ideal solution from our extensive product range according to your application and industry; alternately we evaluate your exact requirements and produce a tailor-made solution for your ultimate benefit. Our team, with its many years of experience, provides comprehensive service and guidance in the development of standard and tailor-made stainless steel profiles.

Do not hesitate to contact us – we are happy to consult you!