# Press release May 09, 2025

Artificial Intelligence

**AI Champions BW 2025: Smart automation for SMEs**

**With the 2D Grasping Kit, SCHUNK has developed an AI-supported solution for a simple introduction to flexible automation - practical, future-oriented and specially tailored to the needs of small and medium-sized companies. The company received the AI Champions BW 2025 award in recognition of this pioneering technology.**

"As a technology pioneer, we focus our innovative strength on the processes and needs of our customers and want to offer SMEs in particular real added value," emphasizes Timo Gessmann, CTO at SCHUNK. "The 2D Grasping Kit shows how we are creating new automation opportunities with intelligent products and services that enable companies to reduce the workload on their skilled workers, while at the same time increasing productivity." The tried-and-tested AI technology, developed by SMEs for SMEs, impressed the expert panel for this year's Baden-Württemberg AI Award. It presented the 2D Grasping Kit with the "AI Champions BW 2025" award, recognizing its contribution to shaping a digital and sustainable economy. The award ceremony took place on May 8, 2025 in Stuttgart as part of the "Virtual Worlds - Experiencing Opportunities in the Metaverse" event. Dr. Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut MdL, Minister of Economics, Labour and Tourism, presented the award to SCHUNK.

**Quick access to automated handling**

The 2D Grasping Kit combines a camera system with lens, an industrial PC with AI software specially developed by SCHUNK and an application-specific gripper to create a ready-to-use handling solution for pick & place processes. All components are optimally tailored to one another and can be combined with any robot and any higher-level control system. The focus was on intuitive operation, flexible application and high process reliability - even with changing lighting conditions and varying component shapes. The intelligent image processing software can be taught in just a few simple steps, thanks to the intuitive user interface, and requires no prior programming or image processing knowledge. Once set up, the AI trains itself and recognizes components on the basis of characteristic features such as form, size and color. Recurring sorting or logistics tasks can thus be reliably automated.

**About the AI Champions BW**

With the "AI Champions BW" competition, the Baden-Württemberg Secretary of Economic Affairs, Labor, and Tourism has been honoring outstanding and successful AI solutions that promise economic potential or social added value since 2020. The aim is to make flagship projects visible and to strengthen Baden-Württemberg as a leading location for AI applications.

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**Captions:**

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|  | A milestone for pioneering AI innovations from Baden-Württemberg - Dr. Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut presents the "AI Champions BW 2025" award to Timo Gessmann (right), CTO SCHUNK, and Henry Kistenmacher (left), Product Sales Automation Cells.  Bildquelle: Ferdinando Iannone |
| *KI-Champions\_BW\_Preisverleihung\_05\_2025\_Ferdinando\_Iannone.jpg* | |
|  | The 2D Grasping Kit makes it easy to get started with AI-supported handling processes for unsorted parts.  Image source: SCHUNK SE & Co. KG |
| *2D\_Grasping-Kit\_EGK\_Anwendungsbild\_06\_2024* | |

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