

Because together, we're stronger

AFDT (Association des fabricants de décolletages et de taillages) is a trade association founded over 75 years ago. Today, it has 80 member companies (including Tornos) and covers the whole of French-speaking Switzerland.



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This association was launched as an initiative of several regional screw-cutting companies that, at the time, proved indispensable in defending the interests of the screw-cutting industry - an industry born in the Jura Arc region and linked to the advent of watchmaking.

While the parts making up a watch were manufactured by hand on small bench lathes, the development of the watch market rapidly necessitated the mass production of ever more precise parts. The answer came in 1872 when the first automatic lathe with a 'sliding headstock' was invented to manufacture watch screws. Bar turning was born!

The invention of the screw-cutting machine led to the creation of several screw-cutting companies, which in turn formed a professional association. The AFDT was born! This professional association laid the foundations for the bar-turning profession and all the regulations associated with this new industrial activity.

Over the years, AFDT has evolved and set itself the following objectives:

- *Promote the bar-turning industry as a key industrial player in French-speaking Switzerland*
- *Present the important role of bar turning in the micro-technology production supply chain*

- Provide the region's bar-turning industry with an image that attracts young people's interest in choosing a career in the sector
- To ensure that the training of young professionals in the screw-cutting sector meets the needs of member companies.

To achieve these objectives, AFDT has given itself a more ambitious remit that is needed to carry out such a demanding program of activities. Two years ago, Ms Joëlle Schneider took up her post as Director of the Association. A trilingual personality, she is an expert in the bar turning industry, having worked for Swissmetal Industries SA and Greatbatch Medical. She is also the administrative manager of the CIP Technologie bar turning training center.

A new president has been appointed, Mr. Gregory Affolter

Following a selection process initiated in 2021, the AFDT Committee presented its candidate at the Annual General Meeting on June 20. The candidate, Grégory Affolter is the Managing Director of the Affolter Group in Valbirse. Grégory Affolter, 39, is married with four children. He has a degree in micro-technology from the EPFL. As for his professional background, after 3 years at Stadler Bussnang AG in project management and 3 years at LNS in Japan as an Operational Director, he has been running the Affolter Group company since 2016 with his brother Vincent and brother-in-law Nicolas Curty. Grégory Affolter is very involved in the economy and politics of the Jura Arc region and has shown great enthusiasm in taking on this new challenge. Grégory Affolter took over as President of AFDT on January 1, 2024.

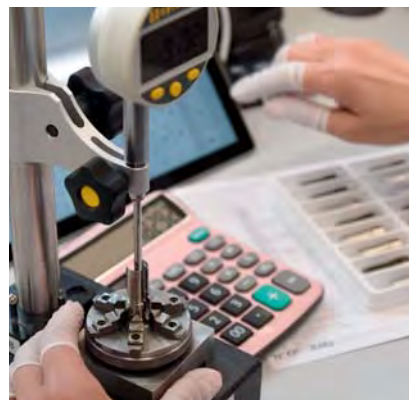
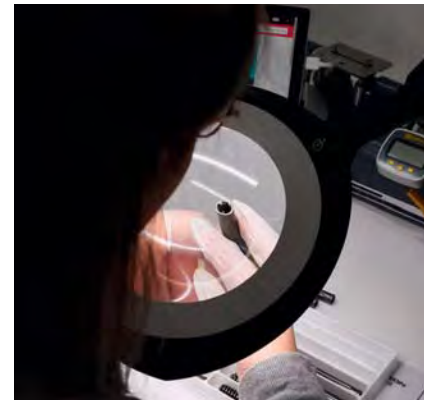
A few examples of recent AFDT activities carried out with its partners:

A bar turning open house

- Organizing a day at a bar turning company for young people and their parents to discover manufacturing as a career

Trade fairs

- Present and promote the bar-turning profession to young people of career-choosing age and their parents, with a stand staffed by young apprentices.





Tornos round table at the AFDT press days

SIAMS TV DAYS

- Organize TV programs with bar-turning company managers to present the bar-turning industry to the general public.

Press days

- Organize company visits for the technical and economic press, radio and television, and the regional press, followed by a discussion reserved for journalists, to promote the industry.

Après-midi du décolletage

- To offer networking opportunities to the management of bar-turning companies, through exclusive meetings. This year: Manufacture de montres OMEGA

Screw-cutting Rendezvous

- Offering technical executives from bar-turning companies networking opportunities at technical conferences in partnership with CIP-Technologie.

AtelierDéfi

- Collaborate in the creation of a connected bar-turning micro workshop using modern hardware and software developed by a dozen regional companies, including Tornos.

Screw-cutting platform at SIAMS

- Provide financial and logistical support for the presence of bar-turning companies. This is conducted in particular through the 'Plateforme décolletage' joint stand.

Technology Rendezvous

- Organize high-tech company visits for bar-turning company managers and executives.

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