

TOBACCO SUPPLY CHAIN DATABASE: CASE STUDY 2

SUPPLY CHAIN PROCESS: SECONDARY PROCESSING/MANUFACTURING

SUPPLY CHAIN PRODUCT: MACHINERY

COMPANY TYPE: INDEPENDENT SUPPLIER TO THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY

Tobacco Control Research Group, University of Bath, 21 October 2021

Beckoff is a firm making electronic systems that control machinery via a PC, for example systems controlling machinery for wind turbines, automotive and entertainment, as well as machinery for the tobacco industry.

Beckoff doesn't mention tobacco as an industry it serves on its website. Our research for the supply chains database shows that:

- Beckoff is headquartered in Germany, a high-income country with many tobacco supply chain firms.
- In 2017, Beckoff had a marketing manager for food beverage and tobacco.
- Also, in 2017 one of its electronic systems was for the control of machines for forming, filling and sealing stand-up pouches for tobacco packaging.
- Beckoff has two subsidiaries identified as being connected to tobacco:
 - A China-based subsidiary, where a large factory manufactures machinery for the tobacco industry among other industries.
 - A UK subsidiary which sells technology to other UK firms which then sell to the tobacco industry.
- British American Tobacco in Russia uses Beckoff machinery.

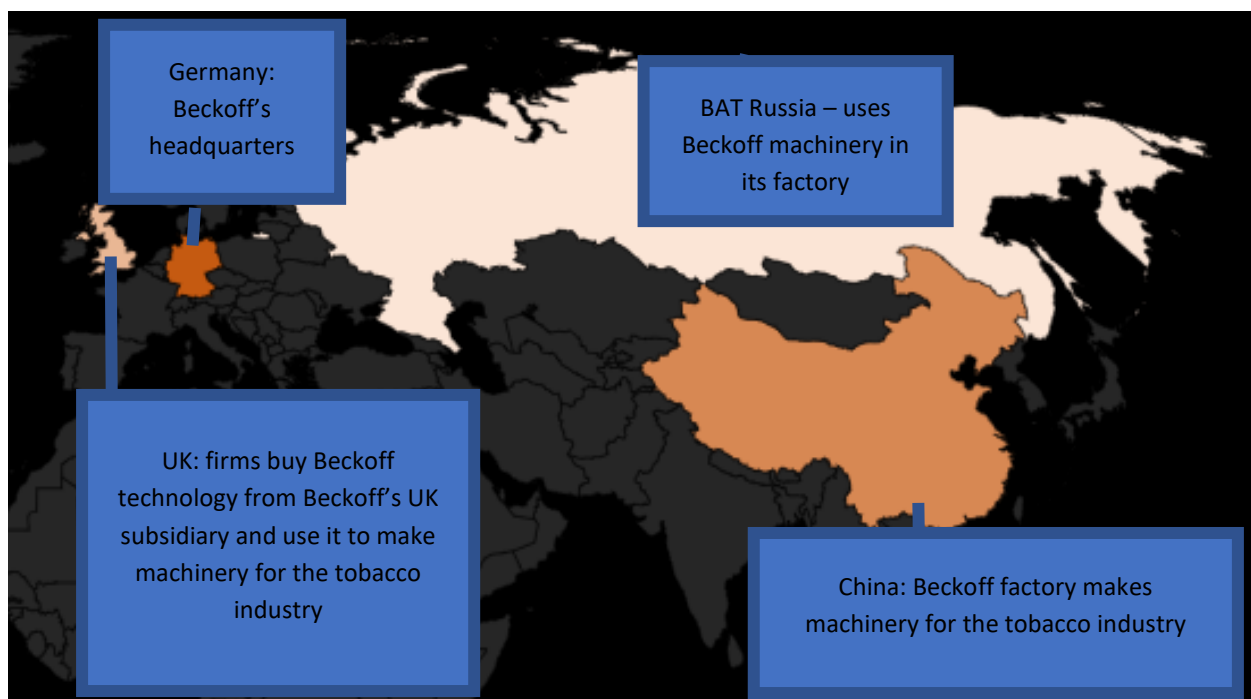


Fig 1: Beckoff and its tobacco supply chain subsidiaries

WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT BECKOFF FROM OUR DATABASE RESEARCH?

Our research for the tobacco supply chain database shows us that:

- Beckoff has German headquarters but the main manufacturing of machinery for the tobacco industry takes place in China.
- There is no clear indication of tobacco supply chain activities on the main pages of its website.
- The tobacco supply chain is complex – Beckoff is involved through making a component needed for automated manufacturing.
- It isn't always easy to trace a company's links with the tobacco industry – in the case of Beckoff this happens through a string of subsidiaries and third parties.

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