

Neumünster

Every second person now registered as a donor

The company Markert participated in a bone marrow campaign courtesy of R.SH and the DKMS / 40 employees registered

Hannes Harding

Fighting against leukaemia in Neumünster: Every second Markert employee is now registered as a bone marrow donor. The company participated in a bone marrow campaign courtesy of R.SH and the DKMS / 40 employees registered.

Every 15 minutes, a person in Germany develops blood cancer. In order to help them conquer this pernicious disease, the DKMS (formerly the German Database of Bone Marrow Donors) regularly calls for donations of money and stem cell matching campaigns. Yesterday, numerous employees from the company Markert on Oderstraße registered as potential bone marrow donors. The company, which specialises in hose and filter technology and employs around 130 employees, took part in the R.SH-hilft-helfen foundation's campaign. R.SH reporter Moritz Maaß arrived



Quick and easy: Kristina Ochs demonstrates the cheek swab.

on Wednesday morning with some colleagues trained by the DKMS in order to register the company located in the South Industrial Estate. Swab in the mouth, details given, done. Five employees were registered every 15 minutes, as Head of HR, Doreen Friese-Müller organised the campaign to take place during working hours. In the end, she was overwhelmed

by the response. "Over 40 colleagues participated. And 20 were already registered. That means: Almost half of our employees are already doing their bit for a good cause." And some colleagues were disappointed not to be able to participate because they exceeded the 55-year limit, according to Friese-Müller. Employee Inken Shakchir had

the idea for the campaign. "When I heard about it on the radio, I thought: what a great idea!" When she got to work, she emailed a request to management and got prompt affirmation. Not even an hour after the company had completed the online registration on the homepage of the radio station, they got the green light. The saliva samples of the



R.SH reporter Moritz Maaß (2nd from left) with Inken Shakchir (from left), Doreen Friese-Müller, Kristina Ochs, Ralf Krähmüller-Schöne and Henning Schütt (all from Markert).

potential bone marrow donors will now be analysed and the tissue characteristics saved for comparison with those of leukaemia patients. Meanwhile, according to DKMS, approximately 10 million donors are registered world-wide, 7500 of whom became stem cell donors, possible life savers, in the past year alone. Because it costs money to examine the

samples, DKMS is reliant on monetary donations as well. For this reason, Markert decided to donate a portion of the company's annual Christmas donation to the DKMS. On the behalf of the DKMS, R.SH reporter Moritz Maaß accepted an oversized donation cheque for 1000 Euro on Wednesday after the campaign.