

KIRCHDORFER NEWS

For employees, customers and
partners of Kirchdorfer Group



LEADING IN PERFORMANCE. EXPLORATIVE. OPEN-MINDED.

Kirchdorfer Group's internal „LEO“ value campaign
not only makes sense, but also fun.

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CONSEQUENT

Cement plant and quarry increase future
fitness in further steps.

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POWERFUL

A floating grab dredger now digs deeper
in Krivina gravel plant in Bulgaria.

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HARMONIOUS

MABA delivers elegant noise protection
for new ÖBB expansion projects.

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Foto: © Sissi Furgler

EDITORIAL

INWARD AND OUTWARD GROWTH

A well-established company that is constantly growing and is financially sound is a clear „success story“ – highly visible to the outside world. Kirchdorfer Group is, of course, in this fortunate position – in fact, better than ever before. Of course, we thank the many motivated, productive and well-trained employees who use their energy and dedication „in the sign of the lion“ every single day.

A company can do even better if it continues to grow consistently in many dimensions that are not superficially comparable in terms of numbers, data and facts. For this reason, I am particularly pleased to be able to introduce you to our internal „LEO“ value project for the first time. In this project, we promote our defined corporate values and the cohesion and the attractiveness of our activities with creative measures. Thus we strengthen the power and spirit of the Kirchdorfer Lion from within. Ultimately, this dynamic also manifests itself in the many external successes that we would like to inform you about in this issue.

I wish all employees, customers and partners a contemplative pre-Christmas time and an excellent reading pleasure.

Yours Sincerely
Mag. Erich Frommwald



SPOTLIGHT ON CORPORATE VALUES

KIRCHDORFER GOES „LEO“!

Winner image of the Kirchdorfer LEO photo contest 2019, submitted by TIBA Austria GmbH.

In most cases, corporate values exist purely on paper: Everyone has them, but rarely does anyone seriously deal with them. Not so with Kirchdorfer. There is a new lion in town ...

Roaring lion instead of resting paper tiger

In order to sustainably anchor a set of corporate values within a company and bring them to life, the whole topic must not only be properly communicated, but also have an attractive, emotional added value for employees. In other words, a value campaign with a high degree of coolness should be communicated comprehensively and creatively as well as motivate employees to participate actively.

In the spring of 2018 it was time: Kirchdorfer Group's corporate values were newly summarized in compact sections and compressed into a lion of Latin provenance: Now LEO, the lion, stands quite simply for the following character-traits, promoted throughout the group: **Leading in performance, Explorative and Open-minded.**



Added to this was a cool and elegant emblem that symbolizes the value structure defined below as a "key visual": a lion's head reminiscent of a sphinx with a long mane and strands in Kirchdorfer Group colors.

Well-planned roll-out

With a teaser campaign under the motto „The Lion Awakens“, the employees had already familiarized themselves with the LEO emblem over the summer of last year – arousing curiosity and interest for the first time in the autumn of 2018 through a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign.

Suddenly, the new lion was present everywhere - on screens in meeting rooms, on staircases or central meeting places and in the form of posters, roll-ups and stickers.

In a professionally produced video, LEO and what it stands for was explained for all to see. Following that, almost every week new LEO devotional items were rolled out to employees: from the value T-shirt to LEO drinks, the value campaign was no longer overlooked and daily contact was almost guaranteed.

But the many „gadgets“ and visual souvenirs are just the tip of the iceberg: the LEO concept is meanwhile present throughout a comprehensive „value discourse“: in personnel selection procedures, employee appraisals, congratulatory and thank-you cards. Everybody's creativity was recently in demand for a large-scale photo competition. With the result that LEO is now already firmly anchored in the Kirchdorfer group of companies.



Who conveys values, makes sense.



Viktor E. Frankl (1905-1997)
Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist



LEO in action: The mouse circles around the Lion and what it stands for. Occasionally, it „clicks“ at a desired value.

LEO FOTO CONTEST

AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

1ST PLACE - TIBA AUSTRIA ...



... with two submissions



2ND - KIRCHDORFER ZEMENTWERK



3RD - KÁMEN A PÍSEK



The first Kirchdorfer LEO photo competition has successfully concluded. The Winners are in Styria, Upper Austria as well as in Southern Bohemia. Congratulations to the many great submissions!

With a strong sign of life, the internal value campaign of the Kirchdorfer Group took aim at an emotional highlight in 2019: Employees across Europe were invited to capture their most exciting „LEO team moments.“ In the ensuing voting, the Kirchdorf community chose four winning fotos. The winners were rewarded with cinema tickets for the new Disney movie release „The Lion King“.



WORK SATISFACTION IN KIRCHDORFER GROUP



QUITE LEO: EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN SURVEYED

At the beginning of the year another employee survey took place in the companies of the Kirchdorfer Group. Although it is still too early for a specific evaluation of the value campaign, some questions and answers nevertheless came up in terms of corporate values. Essentially, it was about raising employee satisfaction, as well as to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the Kirchdorfer company culture.

With a total of 50 questions on the general work situation, the relationship with customers, the internal processes and processes in the respective departments as well as the corporate culture, management situation and future prospects, the questionnaire was a decent piece of work. Nevertheless, of the 1,600 questionnaires issued, almost 1,000 were returned - a very significant response rate of about 60 %.

Overall, the satisfaction scores are good and have improved over the last survey. There are no significant differences between the individual companies or divisions. Particularly positive is the fact that satisfaction in dealing with colleagues is enormously high - one of the most important binding factors in a company.

In particular, positive responses are acknowledged in the open responses and linked to a request to continue along the successful common path.



LEO fits well: Employees feel essentially comfortable in their skin and already identify with the company values.

SECURING RAW MATERIALS IN THE QUARRY



SINCE GENERATIONS. FOR GENERATIONS.

The Micheldorf Quarry near Kirchdorf has always been an integral part of the Kirchdorfer Cement Plant. Even though nowadays, the increased use of substitute raw materials leads to a somewhat decreased quantity of rock material from the quarry used in the cement production, it is still an important and indispensable raw material resource.

Reason enough to think and plan ahead regarding the future of the quarry and to secure the extraction of raw materials for future generations with the necessary measures and investments. Apart from that, it is also necessary to recultivate parts of the mining area accordingly.

In addition to the purchase of a new wheel loader, the „quarry focus 2019“ was above all a hedge: a quarry block model was drawn up on the basis of prospecting boreholes. With the mission to find out in advance what kinds of materials are to be expected over the coming years. The reason is simple: as in the case of a marble cake, existing layers of dolomite, which is not suitable for cement production, will become more challenging over the next few years.

With these prospective measures, necessary investments and a newly approved storage pit for the dolomite, the Micheldorf Quarry is in perfect shape for the years to come.

ONGOING OPTIMIZATION AT „KIRCHDORFER ZEMENTWERK“

CEMENT PLANT REMAINS FIT FOR THE FUTURE

The ambitious construction and conversion program at „Kirchdorfer Zementwerk“ is entering the next round: In 2019, the completion of the multi-year mill project included, among other things, the extraction of heat from the cement grinding process. As always, other optimization projects are also in quick succession ...

The heat extraction and subsequent contribution to the public district heating network has a long tradition in Kirchdorf: Already in the year 1972, the cement plant began to make use of the waste heat from the rotary kiln - an absolute pioneering achievement at the time. The use of waste heat has been steadily increasing in recent years - with the effect that meanwhile, approximately half of the heating and hot water needs in and around Kirchdorf are already being fed from the cement works into the more than 50 km long district heating network.

Recently, the latest achievement has been the extraction of waste heat from the cement grinding process: The cement mills must be cooled continuously with cold air, because a large part of the electrical drive energy is converted into heat by the friction in the mill. The heated air is dedusted and then provided as district heating. Even though these are much smaller dimensions than the kiln exhaust gas or the DeCONOX plant, another 300 households can now be supplied solely from the cement mill. This completes the revitalization of the cement mills and the installation of state-of-the-art fourth-generation classifier systems, while the next construction projects are already underway.

New optimizations and extensions

The next significant project on the to-do list of the plant management is the installation of a „Flash Dryer“ for the drying of wet substitute fuels next year.

It is the next step in a long list of accomplished optimization projects, such as the building of new partition walls for special clinker types and other components. In addition, the construction of a new laboratory was accelerated in line with the future market strategy with a focus on the expansion of special products. The representative building will soon be equipped with a concrete, mortar and chemical laboratory in close coordination with quality monitoring in the cement plant. Kirchdorfer News is going to have a look into the new lab in the next issue.



Continuing Optimization: Plant manager Christian Breitenbaumer has a lot of future-oriented measures in the pipeline.



Traditional Symbiosis: Not just the city, but also the district heating supply has grown along with the cement plant.



LION-POWERED EMPLOYER BRANDING

A job in the cement plant is basically a very attractive and desirable position: Stable jobs that have been largely resilient to economic downturns for 130 years, above-average pay, good social benefits and outstanding camaraderie - unfortunately, hardly anyone knows that today. But that's now changing rapidly ...

An „old-fashioned“ cement plant does not necessarily come to mind with today's youth when it comes to finding an „attractive“, future-proof job. But it should - because on closer inspection, the Kirchdorfer cement plant is actually a unique provider of top jobs! In order for this to become more widely known, so-called „employer branding“ measures come into play: this refers to the long-term and strategic development of an interesting, unique and consistent employer brand geared to corporate success.

The Kirchdorfer cement plant thus presents itself as that great and attractive company that it really is. So that if word gets out, new workers and employees may come and - if everything works out fine - also remain in the services of the cement plant.

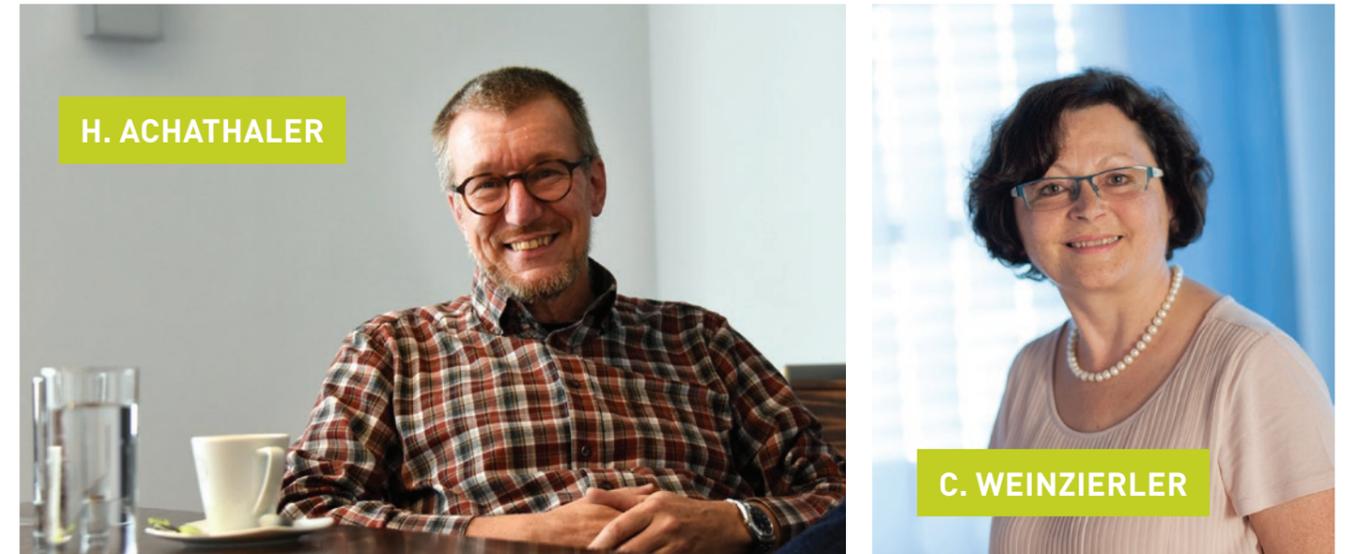
Who is strong like concrete?

Future apprentices are currently a main focus of the company. Therefore, there is also an interesting apprentice challenge at this year's local job information fair at the Kirchdorfer booth: For the young fair visitors, the in-house electrical and metal construction technicians have developed their own mechatronic system for „measuring strength“.

The aim of the new employer branding is also to make one's own employees proud ambassadors for the company. Full of self-confidence, one encounters the Kirchdorfer lions now at every turn: On ads with brisk slogans, posters and last but not least on a new and appealing redecoration of the plant's employee garage - so that in the future, enough junior staff will ultimately be parking there.



A new Apprentice Brochure explains everything that needs to be known.



H. ACHATHALER

C. WEINZIERLER

ATTACHMENT TO COLLEAGUES

The social cohesion in a company can be measured by how much colleagues are missed after they retire. Right now, two long-serving employees, who have each spent decades of service in Kirchdorf, are starting into their well-deserved retirement. Which is wonderful for them - but also a great loss.

Anyone who, like Helmut Achathaler, already starts as an apprentice in the company and has found his place in life with many different and interesting occupational activities, can look back on an unbelievable 45 (!) years of service. If you take it exactly, Helmut Achathaler has lived through more than a third of the 130-year history of Kirchdorfer Zementwerk. Born in Kirchdorf from a father who has been working himself as a carpenter in the cement plant for 36 years, he accepted an apprenticeship in the chemistry laboratory after just one year in the commercial school. In the lab, he was trained with great enthusiasm under the aegis of the laboratory manager Laskovits - „a top expert and a real sir“, as Achathaler tells us. Back then, it was a very different time when the so-called „gentlemen“ still had their offices in Linz and only occasionally visited their plant in the countryside.

The last years of this period were also witnessed by Christine Weinzierler. She joined the cement works in 2002 as Assistant to Plant Manager Secklehner. When, a few years later, the corporate headquarters moved from Linz to the cement plant in Kirchdorf, she was finally appointed to the position she had so confidently completed by the end of November 2019, when she retired: as an assistant to the management. While Kirchdorfer CEO Erich Frommwald expanded the group step by step in Austria and internationally, Christine Weinzierler held the position at - as she puts it - the Homepage: „Just like at the airport, the captain also has

a tower to assist him with starting and landing“. Without a doubt, our captain and his crew have always ensured a smooth, varied and challenging process.

Variety was also a feature of Helmut Achathaler's career in Kirchdorf: As the computer age dawned in the cement plant, Achathaler was the first who taught himself a number of programming languages and first hooked up the laboratory PCs into a network. He has also set up the first laboratory database. At the time, his varied interests and competencies ultimately also flowed into the „Measurement and Control Technology Group“, in which he co-programmed on the first control system with his colleagues Lungenschmidt, Kerbl and Hirschmugl. Many things were set in motion and accomplished at that time - and that was a long time to come. It was hardly the end of his many-sided activities, because as well-known tinkerer and „book worm“, Achathaler was, of course, predestined to spend his later years intensely examining the legal aspects of waste management, the chemicals ordinance or emissions legislation.

As they assure us, our two former colleagues will manage to do without the work. They will, however, miss their colleagues. And so will we. Luckily, the local coffee house stands ready for professional and private exchange in the years to come.

OWNERS ON TOUR



POSTCARD FROM HUNGARY ...

A TRIP TO THE GRAVEL PIT

As a family business, the Kirchdorfer Group has been owned by the two founding families for over 130 years. So it has been a long tradition that the majority owner Eva Hofmann and the successors of the former Dierzer family meet regularly to personally get a picture of the widely branched subsidiaries, accompanied by CEO Erich Frommwald, division leaders and the local managers. This year, a trip to Hungary was on the program.

The starting point of the shareholder trip at the end of September 2019 was the administrative center in Wöllersdorf. A two-hour bus trip led to the first station of the densely crowded sightseeing program: Joachim Gruber, in addition to his function as CFO of Kirchdorfer Zementwerk, is also managing director of the Hungarian Kő és Homok. In this capacity, he had the honor and duty to guide the visitors through the gravel plant Babót.

The quarry, which Gruber manages as a joint venture with the Burgenland-based Schraufstädter Group, was secured in 2019 with a new floating grab dredger and the approval of additional mining

areas for the future. So the company is now well prepared for the numerous construction projects and the expansion of the road networks in the booming region between Sopron and Győr.

Well equipped not only for its customers, but also for the visitors, the staff put up a tent on the site, in which the visitors were entertained with original Hungarian Goulash after their long walk through the grounds. Well-fortified, the journey then continued in the afternoon to Budapest, where after the check-in at the hotel another walk was taken. This time not along gravel pits and mountains of stone, but through the charming center of the Hungarian capital.

Owner excursion 2019:

Two works, a city and a closing session

In addition to the visit to the gravel pit in Babót and the inspection of the MABA Hungaria plant in Várpalota, a professional tour guide took the owners on a sightseeing trip through Budapest. After the two-day trip to Hungary with many impressive walks, a few hours of sitting down were on the program the following day: Before the trip home, the formal shareholder meeting took place in Wöllersdorf.



Hungarian hospitality in many different aspects: The goulash soup lunch at the gravel pit in Babót was perfectly fine and equally as impressive as dinner at Hungary's most famous restaurant "Gundel", where kings, popes and presidents are regularly served.



KRIVINA GRAVEL PIT WITH FLOATING GRAB DREDGER

Since the Kirchdorfer raw materials division has taken over the gravel plant Krivina on the outskirts of the Bulgarian capital, several million tons of material have already been extracted from the gravel-bearing groundwater body. In order to use the existing resources for decades to come, the mining process now has to be switched to a hydraulically operated floating grab dredger. In a complex major project, second-hand equipment was dismantled, brought to the state of the art and subsequently installed in Krivina.

The proverbial „end of the flagpole“ is far from being reached in the Krivina gravel deposit. It's just the suction dredger, that has been in use since the beginning of the 1990s, which is increasingly reaching its physical limits: at least 10 million tons of gravel are still waiting in the depths of the huge gravel pond near the capital



The suction dredger in the gravel plant Krivina (see picture above) will be replaced by the new floating grab.

city of Sofia with its 1.2 million inhabitants. In order to reach the approved mining depth of 50 meters and cut through the sometimes extremely compact clay layers, a powerful floating platform had to be commissioned: a hydraulically operated grab attached to ropes can soon lift up to 16 tonnes of mining material in a single operation and separate it from oversize material and water directly on the floating platform.

The highly automated „new workhorse“ protruding twelve meters out of the water is a refurbished plant that was dismantled by the German manufacturer in Romania and rebuilt with the latest technology and sensors at the Krivina site of the Bulgarian Transkomplekt Engineering EOOD (TKE). For this, the technical key elements (such as the so-called „trolley“ and the lifting and chassis) were overhauled by the manufacturer in Mannheim and tested with completely newly installed engines.

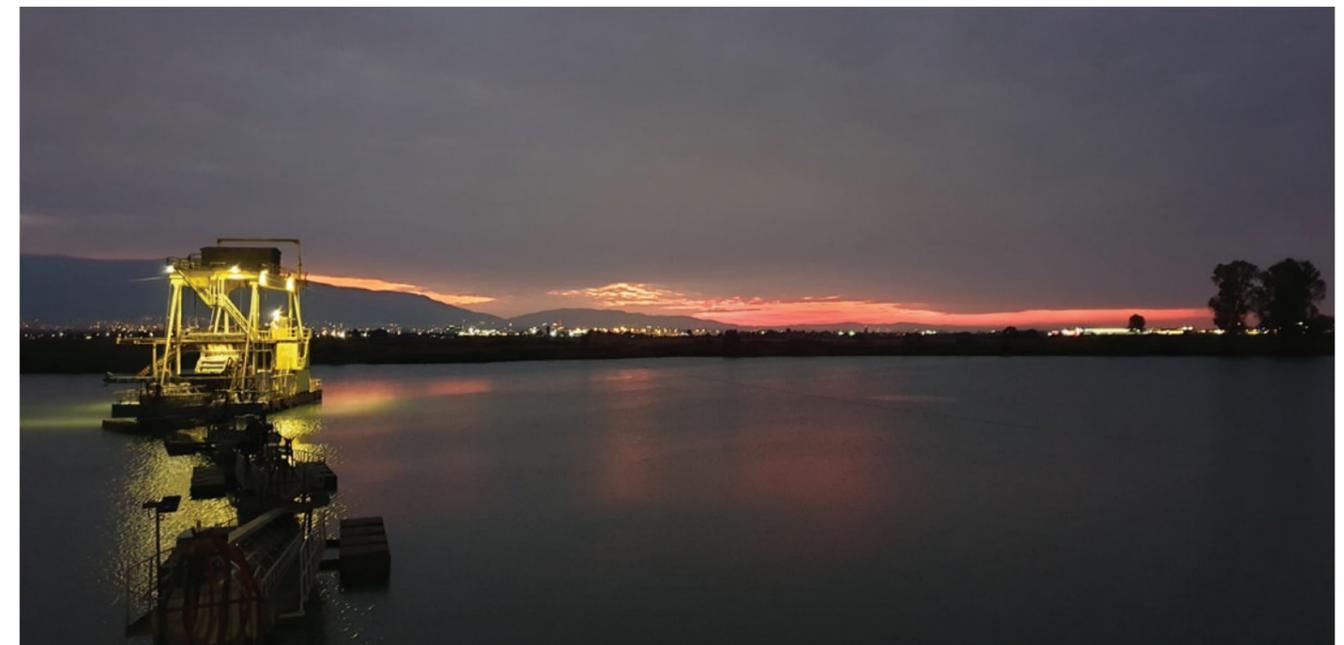
Complex project, complicated technology

Reinhard Pönisch, the responsible specialist for the Kirchdorfer raw materials holding company, realized the complex project together with the Bulgarian project team and the technicians of the exporting companies. The heavy steel components were sandblasted on site within just eight weeks, repainted and mounted on the water with a total of four cranes. It was a great planning and logistical challenge to position the cranes steadily in the bank area - taking into account the topology of the lake, in order to coordinate the necessary installation depths and the required cantilever lengths.

The steel construction of the floating grab dredger and the floating conveyor belts turned out to be in surprisingly good condition. Only the programming of the newly installed control technology proved as yet insufficient during trial operation and will delay the final commissioning of the system.



The project team celebrates the first batch of mining material, which was tested in the fall of 2019. Reinhard Pönisch (middle picture, 1st from right) is proud of the work of the international project team, including the two excavator drivers of the gravel plant Krivina. Right: TKE employee Angelika Sofronieva has been in constant use for weeks as a project interpreter for all meetings and events.



As soon as the last security-relevant software gaps are closed and a safe operation of the system is guaranteed, the new floating grab dredger will replace the previously used suction dredger and will pick up the gravel extraction to a depth of 50 meters.



HIGH-TECH OPTICAL SORTING IN KRITY QUARRY

The quarry Krty consists of limestone of variable thickness and biotite gneiss. In addition to the classic building block, white limestone is also obtained there for various decorative construction or industrial applications. To sort the stones by color, Kámen a Písek now uses cameras, computers and compressed air.

In order to sort out the popular and decorative white stone for terrace paving, white concrete elements or for micro-flooded limestone out of the remaining gray rock material, the team in the Krty quarry had to selectively dismantle it with the excavator and sort according to human judgment by the different colors. This process was becoming more and more expensive and inaccurate. For this reason, Kámen a Písek was looking for suitable technology to increase the efficiency of the mining operation, to keep the quality constant and to use the reserves of white limestone with the highest possible added value.

The optical sorter MikroSort AT of the German company Mogensen GmbH, represented in the Czech Republic by the AL-MO s.r.o. fulfilled exactly these criteria. The special machine named „MikroSort AT“ classifies the stone by its color. Before the actual optical sorting, the already shredded material comes into a spray sorter, where it is first washed clean and already separated from the undersize.

Moistened and in a uniform layer, the stones then fall into the illuminated space of the sorter. While the stones are still falling, they are pictured by two high-resolution cameras and continuously evaluated for color, size and, if necessary, even for specific color mixtures.

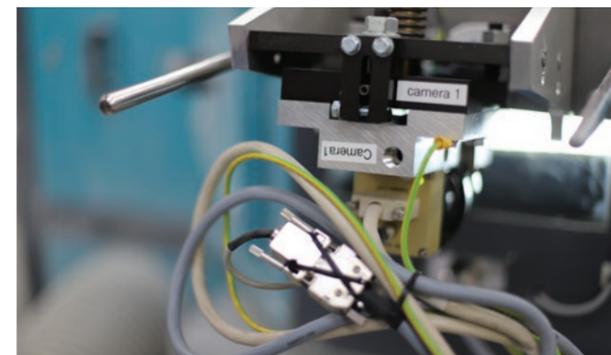
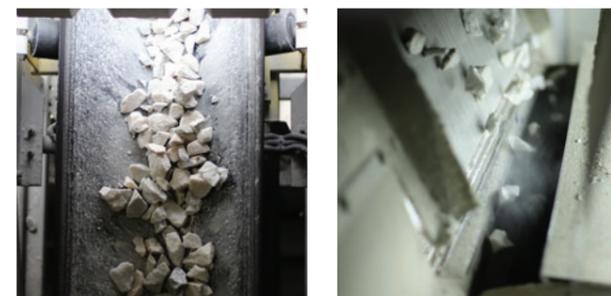
About 5 cm below this area is a series of air nozzles controlled by microvalves that operate in response to the evaluation of the image captured by the camera software. The nozzles then blow individual stones from the falling material into a own chute, with lightning speed and a pressure of approx. 8 bar. In the Krty quarry, the grader currently sorts two aggregates (32/63 mm) with an output of up to 60 tons of input material per hour.

Sorting allows 30 % more value added

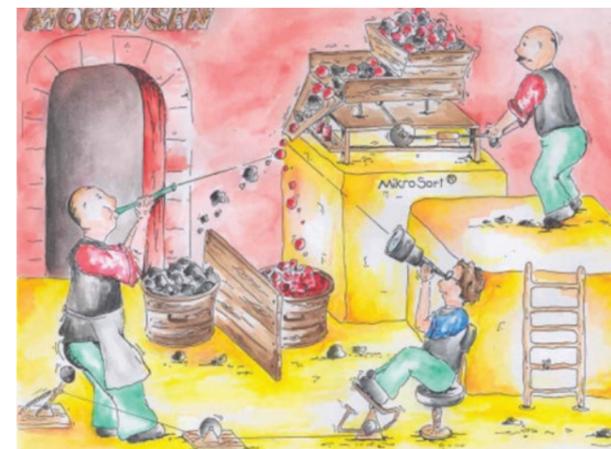
White limestone is very much in demand because of its color. By the year 2009, it was mainly exported to Germany in the form of a 50/300 mm Granulation. In Germany, it was further shredded and sorted by

the customers themselves. Since 2009, instead of 20,000 tonnes of limestone, 10,000 tonnes of white and quarry stone have been exported separately. As a result, additional export markets were opened up in Poland and Slovakia and new customers gained on the domestic market. With the investment in computer-aided sorting technology, KAP is now able to produce already crushed 32/63 mm material, providing those aggregates in consistent and perfect quality for further processing.

At the same time, a wide range of shredded white "Teraco" granules in fractions 0/1, 1/3, 3/5 and 5/8 mm can now also be offered. Attractive white tumbled stones as well as 32/63 mm boulders for decoration purposes for gardens and terraces are also produced.



Optical sorting: High-resolution cameras register the specific color tones and trigger air vents that selectively blow individual stones into another chute.



The principle of optical sorting can also be explained in less technical terms ... (© Mogensen GmbH)



Kámen a písek Managing Director **Pavel Fučík** (3rd from the left) was once again able to receive an important award.

EXTRAORDINARY AWARD FOR KÁMEN A PÍSEK

This year, for the twelfth time, the competition „The best manufacturer of building materials“ took place for all manufacturers of building materials within the Czech Republic. In the course of this, the Kirchdorfer subsidiary Kámen a písek, spol. s r.o., based in Český Krumlov, was awarded the "Special Prize of the Jury".

The ceremony took place on September 25th, 2019 in the Benedictine-Emmaus monastery in Prague. Pavel Malinsky, chairman of the jury, presented the award to Managing Director Pavel Fučík and paid tribute to the company: „Kámen a písek is one of the five largest producers of stone chippings in the Czech Republic and is considered a model representative of the extractive industry. Thanks to the operability and customer orientation, the company is able to meet the market's push requirements, especially in major infrastructure projects. "



For Kámen a písek this is another tribute to the long-term, reliable and innovative work. The expert jury assessed the registered plants and operations in particular according to the achieved quality and their productivity, the economic success and their position on the market,

the improvement of the environment and solutions for waste management.

Last year, the Kirchdorfer subsidiary sold 2.5 million tons of chippings. More than 600 thousand tons were produced and delivered in the Ševětín quarry for the construction of the D3 motorway from Veselí nad Lužnicí to České Budějovice. The newly built bypass of Ševětín removes all traffic from the quarry outside the village and protects both citizens and the center of Ševětín.



MABA SUPPLIES ÖBB

NOISE PROTECTION IS WELL ON TRACK

With the approval of PHONOBLOC® noise protection walls for railway tracks with speeds up to 250 km/h, the Kirchdorfer Group has become an important and reliable provider for various expansion projects of the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB). Its long-lasting and highly absorbent wood-concrete systems feature in a series of attractive noise protection projects across Austria, also underlining the elegant design of the noise protection solutions - for residents and travelers alike.

With noise barriers along railway lines, there is usually a catch: If you don't want to hear much, you might not like what you see. However, as in so many areas of our built infrastructure, even former „compromise solutions“ are becoming more and more attractive due to technical progress - not only in terms of effectiveness and longevity, but also in terms of aesthetics. There is now hardly a rail upgrade project without elegant and visually appealing noise barriers that fit perfectly into the surrounding landscape.

In particular, massive concrete walls, which are already factory-equipped with highly absorbent, almost indestructible and very nice-looking wood-concrete panels, are enjoying growing popularity. Not only with railway operators, but also with manufacturers - because the market for noise protection installations is growing and growing. No wonder, then, that this business segment is becoming more and more important for the traditional railway supplier „MABA Fertigteilsysteme“.

“

„Three years of planning are necessary in a complex construction project such as Münchendorf station, so that the work can proceed smoothly. With perfect punctuality and convincing quality, MABA has also made a decisive contribution to its success.“

•••••

Eng. Yolanda Usart-Sanchez

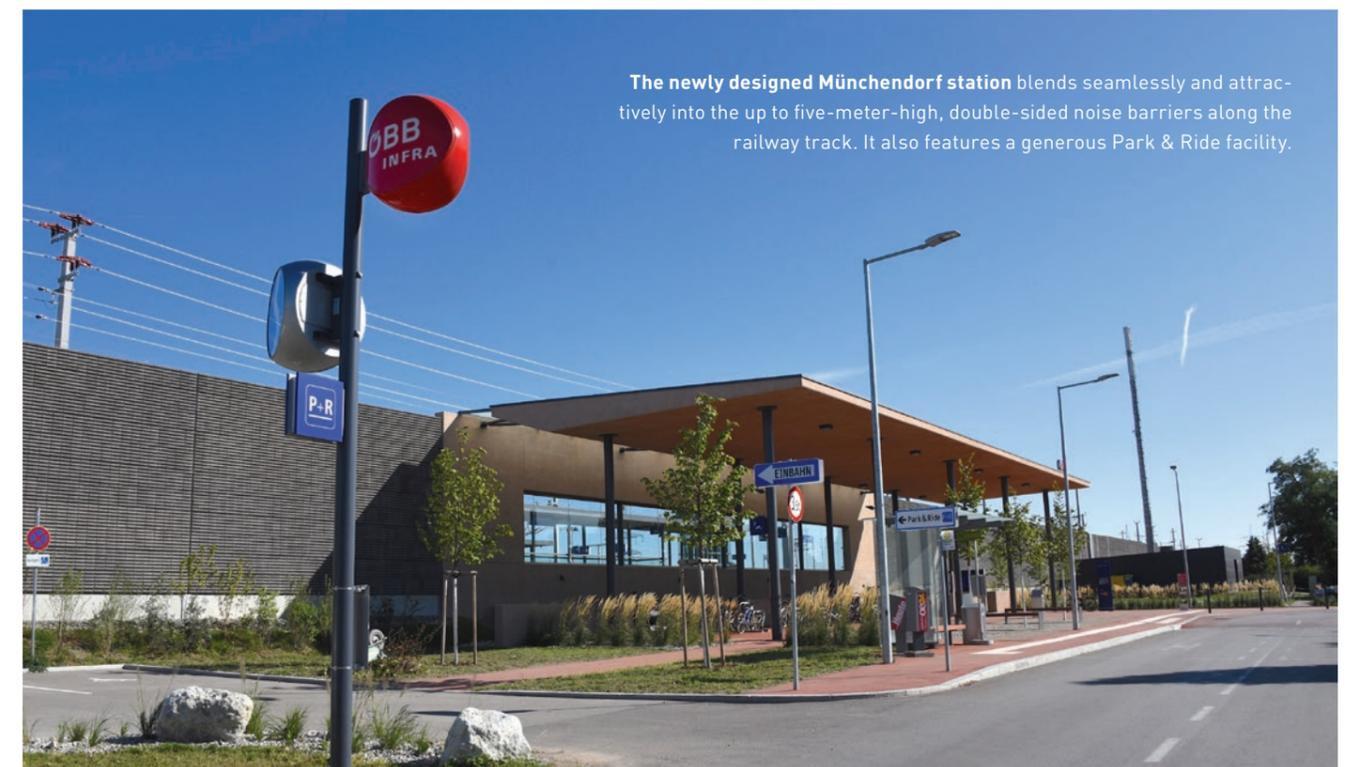
Construction Manager Münchendorf Railway Station
ÖBB-Infrastruktur AG / Project Directorate Wien-Süd



MABA "home game" Pottendorfer line

With a total investment of over half a billion euros, the double-track expansion of the Pottendorfer line, which runs from Wien-Meidling on a 50-kilometer route through the southern industrial area to Wiener Neustadt, is one of ÖBB's most important projects. Until the completion of the project in 2023, the existing suburban line will be upgraded to a high-performance section in order to be able to also relieve the south line to Wiener Neustadt in the future.

As a result, this busy section of the trans-european „Baltic-Adriatic Axis“ will be available in four tracks in the near future. Not far from the MABA headquarters in Wöllersdorf, noise reduction walls for a 13 km section around the newly designed Münchendorf station have been produced. A lot of the 13,500 m² of noise barriers were delivered directly by rail – a logistics and planning challenge, which could only be tackled in tight cooperation between MABA and ÖBB.



The newly designed Münchendorf station blends seamlessly and attractively into the up to five-meter-high, double-sided noise barriers along the railway track. It also features a generous Park & Ride facility.



„The expansion project in Wernstein am Inn is a good example for the success of an ecologically and aesthetically sensitive challenge through attractively designed noise protection solutions.“



Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Fruhmann
New and Expansion Projects, Project Manager
Project Management 002, ÖBB-Infrastruktur AG

Luckily, ÖBB's project and manager Yolanda Usart-Sanchez, who is responsible for the construction of this section, was able to provide her excellent expertise to the complex undertaking. The native Catalan engineer, who joined ÖBB more than ten years ago after studying in Berlin and working for Deutsche Bahn, knows only too well what is possible and feasible, from the tender phase to the planning stage and the construction work. Therefore, she was also an important source of know-how for MABA, which is still one

of ÖBB's newer suppliers in the field of noise protection. Mrs. Usart-Sanchez is now looking back with pride on the soon to be completed, complex work in and around Münchendorf - with the giant MABA wooden concrete walls realized with elegant pole coverings throughout the station area. Those wall don't just look good, they will also stay in perfect shape for decades to come, despite the dynamic load from passing trains and the usual weathering effects.



The installation of the noise protection walls near Wernstein station could be carried out while the train service was running.

Topographic challenge at the Upper Austrian Inn

Another special project is currently being realized in Wernstein am Inn. Located in the middle of the wildly romantic area between Schärding and Passau, the community of Wernstein has been divided into two parts for a long time by the railway line cutting right through the middle of the town. Thus, the particularly long planning phase for the double-track expansion of the heavily used high-performance route was a double-edged affair: The direct residents on the hillside feared for their free views of the massive and beautiful Inn river, while the majority of residents alongside the river shore were in favour of the construction of Noise barriers from the outset.

Through years of cooperation with the community and a planning committee, which has been set up for the purpose, an attractive and sensibly integrated overall solution was developed which ultimately convinced a majority of the residents. Of course, this project is about much more than just architecturally designed noise barriers and a second railroad track.

As project manager Thomas Fruhmann and the project co-ordinator Friedrich Loidl from the ÖBB Infrastructure AG in Linz put it, „the Wernstein project is a real challenge in terms of the variety of measures“: Instead of the existing railway station, a new, barrier-free stop is being built closer to the town center and at the same time three local railway junctions were dissolved and replaced by several underpasses – a security measure that also pleases the local population, especially since the waiting times at the barriers are now a thing of the past.

As a result, not only noise barriers and tracks will be installed in Wernstein, but also a series of underpasses and bridge structures. Even the diversion and renaturation of streams, as well as the construction of flood protection structures are part of the complex project. Already, up to 180 trains per day are being operated on the Wels-Passau route - with an upward trend, especially freight trains.

With the attractive, double-sided noise protection walls made of wood concrete, the quality of life of the residents is now protected and improved for decades. Not only in Wernstein, but also in many other places in Austria where MABA Fertigteileindustrie GmbH is already working on projects in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Railways.



The railway track, which leads through the middle of the picturesque community, is now enclosed by noise barriers.



Thomas Hauer / Sales Division Railways:
The Lower Austrian has 25 years of production experience with MABA. Since 2018 he has been responsible for technical sales to railway providers in Austria.

KIRCHDORFER CONCRETE SOLUTIONS: RAILWAYS BY LONG TRADITION

The equipping of train stations and railway lines has a long tradition in the companies of Kirchdorfer Concrete Solutions: Since the beginning of the production of railway sleepers at the MABA Sollenau location in 1990, the Kirchdorfer Group enjoys an excellent reputation for top international quality. In addition to track and turnout sleepers, catenary masts and platform edges are also produced. The entry into the noise protection segment opens up new sales markets in Austria and beyond.



NEW PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN WÖLLERSDORF

MABA WITH MAJOR PLANT EXTENTION

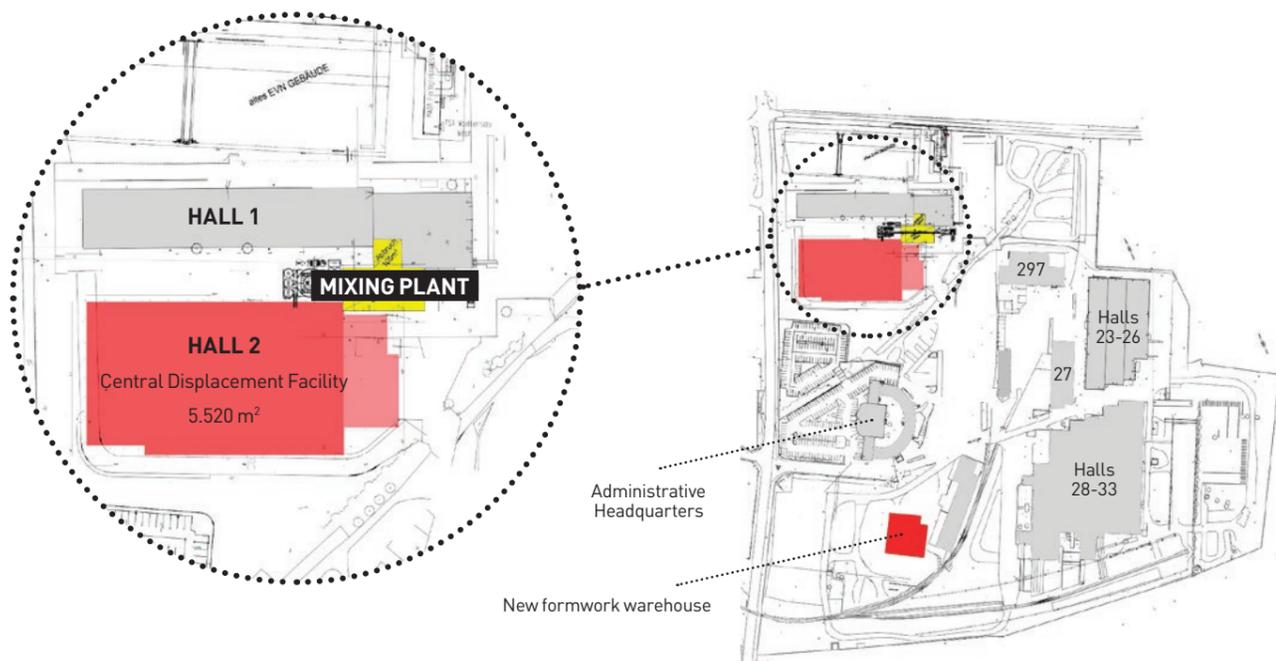
As a serial manufacturer of highly complex precast concrete parts, MABA Fertigteilindustrie GmbH holds a leading market position nationwide. Therefore, the plant at the MABA headquarters in Wöllersdorf is currently upgrading its production technologies with the construction of a central displacement plant, its own mat welding plant as well as a state-of-the-art concrete mixing facility.

The gigantic industrial area north of Wiener Neustadt once used to host the central munitions production for the entire Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Therefore, the large plot of land on which the MABA headquarters are located, is still affectionately called „Feuerwerksanstalt“ (fireworks facility). Currently, however, the fireworks on display are all related to extensive demolition and construction work: The comprehensive expansion of the production facilities, which began in the fall of 2019, is long overdue. Business is good and the production of the best-selling floor and wall elements, as well as the increasing demand for noise protection walls require a significant expansion of capacity. MABA also has the temporary tubbing production industrial halls from the Bofler Tunnel project in Germany at its disposal. Last, but not least, Franz Buschmüller, who has just recently been appointed to MABA's management board, is the perfect fit for such a complex extension project.

Quantum leap into the 21st century

For quite some time, no major modernization push was made in the Wöllersdorf plant. Finally, however, the shareholders decided to invest proper money gave the green light for the construction of a new, highly automated production plant that is technologically equipped with all the modern refinements. For over a year, technical director Gernot Koisser and his colleagues have designed a production facility that will be one of a kind in the entire country.

As a warm-up for the mega-project, a central shuttering warehouse was installed this fall with the construction of the new Hall 3. Many formworks, which were previously stored at different locations all around the factory premises, are now housed there. At the same time, the site is being prepared for the heart of the project - the new 5,500 m² hall 2 including the central displacement facility and a concrete mixing plant.



From Circulation to Central Displacement Area

A state-of-the-art central displacement and shifting station will be erected between the so-called „wind power hall“ (Hall 1) and the headquarters of the group administration in 2020. Up to 11 x 4 meter pallets will be moved in a star-shaped and computer-controlled manner via a central platform in circulation in front of the individual stations, thus achieving the highest level of efficiency for the new MABA central shifting station (ZVA).

An integral part of the new production infrastructure is a fully automated mat welding machine, which will produce up to 200 m² of two- and three-dimensional (bent) reinforcement mesh per hour, depending on the complexity. Due to the geometry, which is specifically tailored to the individual products, a corresponding increase in efficiency is expected in the future. Based on the produced mat size, the plant is the largest in Austria and will be able to cover additional demand for the remaining MABA production facilities outside the ZVA operating times.

Powerful and environmentally friendly mixing plant

As of January 2021, a new concrete mixing plant with a capacity of 200 m³ / h will serve not only the new central moving plant, but also the neighboring hall 1, which houses the production of transformer stations.

The two separate mixing units and dosage units with 1.5 and 3 m³ batch volumes correspond to the state of the art. Thus, the Wöllersdorf site not only gets an efficient and environmentally friendly mixing plant, but in combination with the new central displacement system and the ambitious expansion of the factory, catapults itself into the top tier technological league among the precast manufacturers.



The central MABA formwork warehouse in the new hall 3 was put into operation in the autumn of 2019.



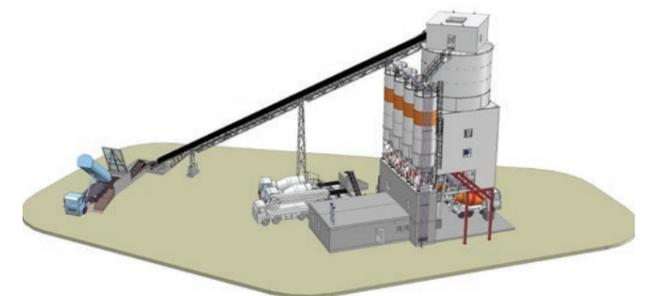
Traditional ground-breaking ceremony:
Division Manager Mag. Michael Wardian and Managing Director Dipl.-Ing. Franz Strobl lead the way.

CONSTRUCTION START FOR HIGH-TECH CONCRETE MIXING SYSTEM AT KAMMEL

In September 2019, the ground-breaking ceremony for a new concrete mixing plant took place on the company premises of KAMMEL Ges.m.b.H. in Grafendorf near Hartberg. "After more than 40 years, it is time to bring our production up to date with a unique, new mixing plant," explained Franz Strobl, Managing Director of the leading East Styrian company.

To date, a single mixer has provided both for the production of ready-mixed concrete and the supply of in-house precast concrete part production. In the future, two mixers will be combined in the new, 30-meter tower complex: one part is purely for ready-mixed concrete, the second for factory concrete for the production of precast parts. This setup ensures efficient distribution management for the respective concrete requirements so that downtimes can be avoided. The new mixing plant will be commissioned in January 2020.

It is designed for a service life of at least 30 years and will reduce fuel consumption by up to 80 %. State-of-the-art filter systems and the closed storage of aggregates also minimize the environmental impact significantly. With a new residual concrete recycling plant, substantial savings are realized through a closed material cycle. Thus, KAMMEL will soon have the most modern and environmentally friendly mixing plant in Styria.



STEELBLOC® HANDS-ON

SECURED IN A MATTER OF HOURS

Since the Kirchdorfer Road & Traffic division first introduced its revolutionary steel safety barrier concept in the spring of 2019, STEELBLOC® sales are in full swing. Soon, the first installation teams will be amazed by how fast and easy the slim guard rail system can be installed ...

Inquiries from all over Europe are pouring in for this completely new guard rail system. Comprising only a few standardized system components, low production costs and a time- and cost-saving assembly process, the innovative system already outshines its competition.

Just in time for its roll-out, STEELBLOC® Area Sales Manager Ender Bülbül and Chief Executive Developer Steffen Lehmann rolled up their sleeves and demonstrated in the "hands-on" test how easy it is to install the system.



STEELBLOC® Installation test in Slovenia:

The project managers are located at Kirchdorfer Road & Traffic not only behind the desk, but also tackle, in order to make the connection to reality itself and to make obvious any weaknesses on the ground.

WARM-UP

An "All-Stars" project team is forming: (left to right) Miran Klemar, head of the Slovenia branch, is providing the unsecured stretch of road. Ender Bülbül (Area Sales Manager) and Steffen Lehmann (Development) bring the parts. And a colleague from a partner company contributes additional muscle power. Unload and get started!



STEP 1

PLAN, MEASURE & PREPARE.

Some planning never hurts. Luckily, the project team can fully concentrate on the preparatory work, since there are only standardized planks, posts and screws: No confusion at all!

STEP 2

PLACING POSTS AND RAMMING THEM INTO THE GROUND!

Now it's time to get down to business: The universal posts are placed and brought into the required depth with the help of a small, ordinary rammer.



STEP 3

JUST A FEW MORE SCREWS ...

The necessary screwing is reduced to a minimum, without compromising the safety in the event of a severe impact. In a jiffy, the planks are mounted!

GRANDE FINALE!

It went so fast that the final inspection as well as the necessary documentation and paperwork can be done stress-free. The newly secured road is released again for traffic.



DELATABLOC STEEL: BY THE TONS AND „JUST IN TIME“

Not only since the launch of STEELBLOC® is the Kirchdorfer Road & Traffic division hungry for metal. With 1,000 km of vehicle restraint systems a year, it is not surprising that reinforcement components and tension bars alone already keep half a steel production plant busy. But that's not all ...

As a classic manufacturer of concrete vehicle restraint systems, DELATABLOC®, PHONOBLOC® and CITYBLOC® do not necessarily evoke any large scale steel usage. But last year alone, the company purchased nearly 15,000 tons of steel from its entire supplier network. For the most part, this comprises the components provided centrally to the respective production partners, such as reinforcing baskets and the continuous tension bars. But also the enormous amount of production equipment (especially formwork and turning equipment) consumes a lot of steel every year.

Customer Care is crucial

The company philosophy of providing its production partners in over 45 countries with a complete „turn key“ production system also includes current steel requirements, which is why at the DELATABLOC headquarters in Sollenau, a lot of thought is given to the entire supply chain: From material sourcing and production to efficient warehousing, customer care is at the heart of the effort.

For DELATABLOC® licensees and production partners all around the world, that's what ultimately makes the difference: a faster, better, and more cost effective production process than their competitors. A process, in which centrally sourced steel plays a major role.

Steel as far as the eye can see: For production components. JIT delivery is standard. The steel requirements for production equipment are quite enormous.



„As in the automotive industry, we also care a lot about process, optimization and of course just-in-time delivery.“



Wolfgang Ganster, MBA
COO / DELATABLOC International



SLOVENIA LEADS THE WAY

OUR ROAD & TRAFFIC CHAMPIONS

In terms of infrastructure for vehicle restraint systems and noise barriers, small Slovenia is a very big player. Their state-of-the-art motorway and expressway network is considered a model for the whole of Europe. And within the DELATABLOC group, Slovenia stands out in many different ways ...

The small country on the Adriatic with two million inhabitants has only a few beaches, but attractive mountains and hills - and an even more impressive road network! This is not least thanks to Miran Klemar and his Slovenian DELATABLOC® Branch. This year alone, about 3 euros per capita will be invested on average in products of the Kirchdorfer Road & Traffic division in Slovenia. How does this special position come about? Miran Klemar explains: "I have been doing this with great enthusiasm for 15 years now. And my clients

always get the latest developments first. Slovenia is a great open-air showroom for the entire product range!" With a total of 50 km of installations, Slovenia is also leading the way in the installation of highly secure H4b restraint systems and is already implementing the first projects of the latest generation of „Zero Debris Concrete“. So do not forget to look with awe along the roadside when driving to your next holiday in Croatia. By the way: the diligent Slovenes are also already active in Croatia ...



Picture left: The guidelines of the DARS d.d. Motorway Company require H4b concrete restraint systems (designed for 38 ton trucks) in the median strip on Slovenian highways. Picture center: Highest security is also a priority with noise protection installations such as the new NBF system (Noise Barrier Foundation). Miran Klemar (pictured right) is not going for half-measures in Slovenia!

EVA HOFMANN: A PORTRAIT



IN LOVE OF NATURE OVER GENERATIONS

The bond with nature is everything for Eva Hofmann, majority owner of the Kirchdorfer group. Not just a hobby. For almost four decades, she has been responsible for the estate of her ancestors and has developed it into a showpiece for organic farming and animal welfare.

For Eva Hofmann, the vocation to put her life at the service of agriculture and forestry, has been in her blood since the day she was born: For long before her great-grandfather Adolf Hofmann together with Emil Dierzer laid the foundation for the cement plant in Kirchdorf, he already bought the family property on the edge of the Sauwald in the Upper Austrian district of Grieskirchen and built a romantic forester's lodge there. As a mill owner and foodstuff manufacturer, the proximity to nature and its treasures was obviously nothing foreign to the prolific business pioneer - and something that continues to this day like a red (or rather "green") thread through the family. Her grandfather Egon, the famous painter, not only expanded the estate, but also kept dairy cows and horses.

At the age of eighteen, Eva Hofmann took sole responsibility for the family estate. Over decades, she has expanded it not only into a stately farm and an idyllic jewel, but also built a species-appropriate

animal husbandry with rare breeds on the "Hörzingerwald", of a kind which is unrivaled in Austria. A role model was nobody lesser than the Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall: Prince Charles had been developing his famous „Duchy Home Farm" since the mid-1980s in order to cultivate and refine ecological principles - a model farm that Eva Hofmann carefully examined and that inspired her to transform her estate into an operation entirely devoted to organic farming.

Daily responsibility and challenge

The landlady, who also literally holds the „lion's share" of the Kirchdorfer Group of companies, could as well lie on a yacht in the Caribbean. But that's not her cup of tea at all - instead she rummages through the straw, takes care of hundreds of rare and precious domestic animals every day and without break, and -together with her staff in the Hofmann forestry administration - rolls up her sleeves wherever possible. Most important to her is the preservation of



„Gut Hofmann" in Hörzingerwald, which is family-owned in 5th generation already, is a paradise for animals. Rare livestock breeds and a farm shop are also part of the estate, such as 600 hectares of forestry and two stately hunting grounds.

the many endangered animal species that she continues to breed on her farm. She regards herself as a "species collector", as she recently told a reporter of the Upper Austrian News: The work with endangered breeds is absolutely rewarding, because these animals and thus the original and near-natural quality of the meat would otherwise be irretrievable.

The animals spend a wonderful and appropriate life, right up to and including a completely stress-free end of life in a slaughterhouse directly at the manor. The result is incomparable meat from Angus cattle or delicious bacon from the Mangaliza pigs. Meat, bacon and sausages are processed by the house butcher directly at the farm and sold in their own farm shop.

This year, Eva Hofmann also planted a variety of heirloom tomatoes and 15 different varieties of potatoes - from the "Blue Swede to the Pink Pine Cone" on her estate, which works as a partner with Austria's Noah's Ark Association, an institution dedicated to the preservation and breeding of heirloom plant species. Eva Hofmann puts much work and a lot of effort behind it - but the reward is an incomparable variety of flavors, something which is also very much appreciated by the many loyal customers from the region, who regularly shop in Hofmann's farm shop.

Forestry under pressure

But the "purest idyll", which the lovingly crafted organic farm looks like at first glance, also faces a lot of pressure from nature itself, especially in the forestry: Like so many foresters in our latitudes, Eva Hofmann's estate is fighting the bark beetle, which eats its way through the many spruce stands that she recently acquired from the Dreihann-Holenia family in Schloss Aschach - an additional 400 hectares of forested areas, including the 12th-century castle ruins of Stauf.

Although she and her daughter Maria Christina very much want to realize near-natural mixed stands forestry with single tree removal and natural rejuvenation instead of conventional reforestation, unfortunately there is no way around clear cuts in many places at the moment. Which of course led to further trouble down the road: This year, vast stretches of reforested oak forests simply withered away

because of the dry summer. "It's all gone", sighs the landowner.

Of course, as the custodian of such a lovely and natural jewel, one must not hide from the challenges of climate change and the problems that monocultures from past eras bring with them.

Her daughter Maria Christina agrees. Equipped with six generations of the Hofmann family agricultural genes, she already studies forestry at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, with great zeal. The future of the Hofmann family tradition thus seems secured - and the preservation of the forestry administration, which she will take over one day, remains in good hands.



The bark beetle, which threatens spruce stands in low altitudes, poses a major problem for the forestry. Because of that, there is often no way past clearcuts at the moment.

A SPECIAL GLANCE ASIDE

HONORARY AWARD FOR KAMMEL

An impressive company history, a far-reaching vision into the future and lived regional solidarity are the ingredients for one of the highest awards, which the Land of Styria awards to its most important flagship companies with a long tradition: the right to bear the official Styrian coat of arms (the silver panter including the so-called „Herzogshut“, reserved to the sovereign) in correspondence and public communication is, so to speak, a privilege granted by the highest authority.

Governor Hermann Schützenhöfer emphasized in his laudatory speech: "The company is always state-of-the-art and, as one of the largest employers, also an essential economic factor for the region." The Governor paid great tribute both to the management and to the entire 150-strong team in Grafendorf near Hartberg and emphasized the "outstanding work, the spirit of innovation, the sustainable work and the exemplary lived employee culture".



KCS Division Manager Michael Wardian as well as KAMMEL Managing Director Franz Strobl and the company founder Ernst Kammel receive the certificate from the hands of the Styrian Governor Hermann Schützenhöfer.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO
YOUR FEEDBACK ON
THIS ISSUE OF „KN“:
KirchdorferNews@kirchdorfer.eu



KIRCHDORFER
INDUSTRIES

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