



GAWGROUP

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LATEST INFORMATION FROM THE GROUP **imteam**

GAW Group is investing 3.8 million euros in its corporate office



Volume 2 | 2015
limited edition

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Shortcuts

Norske Skog is investing in the Austria office

Norske Skog Bruck is producing LWC paper on the PM4. In order to enhance the quality of the double-sided coating, GAW was commissioned to install a fully automatic fiber discharge mechanism in the circuit of the blade coater and replace the two old coating color vents with our flow-optimized air-vents. The restructuring and the commissioning are scheduled to take place in mid-December.

Chemical dosing systems for Papierfabrik Palm – Eltmann paper mill

GAW Technologies was commissioned to provide the Eltmann office with several chemical dosing systems for the deinking systems STP1 and STP3. The removal of the print colors from the printed recycled fiber is called the deinking process. Deinking is required when recycled fiber is used as raw material in the production, for instance, of newsprint paper. In order to be able to secure high-quality results in the deinking process, an optimal dosing system for the chemicals is necessary, which the GAW equipment can ensure.

Chemical-free preparation using the membrane technology

Owing to the high demand for chemical-free processing plants using membrane technology, Germany's leading membrane producer for ultrafiltration modules has expanded its membrane production. Having expanded its capacity, OSMO Membrane Systems was again commissioned to process wastewater containing solvent substances. In the planned expansion, the main goal is to install a nanofiltration plant to separate the soluble ingredients to relieve the pressure on the ensuing ultra-high pressure reverse osmosis system. The delivery includes not just the planning and shipment of a nanofiltration system, but also the electric and mechanical installation, supervision, the commissioning as well as onsite training programs. The shipment is scheduled to take place in April 2016. This follow-up order demonstrates the trust that OSMO Membrane Systems has placed in us.

Editorial

Has economic growth in Austria become a scarce commodity? Right now, that's how it seems: after a growth rate of 0.2% in 2013 and 0.3% in the previous year, a slight increase is expected for 2015, of up to 0.7%; however, within Europe we still remain in the lower bottom range. And now the International Monetary Fund has taken it up a notch in the assumption that in the next five years Austria will register lower growth rates than the EU average. Now, it is possible to legitimately ask if we really need the growth and I would say that today more and more people would be inclined to answer this question with an energetic No. But even if growth criticism is currently in fashion and in principle we already have everything we basically need, the answer to that is precisely its opposite. For growth, in most cases, does not just mean more-and-more, but rather better-and-better. It is about garnering new knowledge to develop efficient or energy saving manufacturing processes that in turn can generate safe products and facilitate easy handling. It is about change, development and progress, about innovation and prosperity, as it is also about protecting people from the rising trend of unemployment and about keeping the welfare state somewhat financially feasible.

Let us remind ourselves of certain hard truths: unemployment in record numbers, record indebtedness and stagnation. You will probably agree with me that we hereby can now put aside the question of the necessity of growth in Austria. And I very much hope that even our federal government will soon confront the truth. For in order to stop the erosion of the local offices, which has been going on for years, existing growth breaks must finally be resolved by way of a political willingness to reform, just as it is also necessary to create appropriate framework conditions conducive to businesses. The reason for that is that the current formulas for reducing working hours notwithstanding the total wage adjustment, the ongoing demand for a sixth vacation week for all, or for machine tax, cannot be taken seriously by anyone sincerely wanting to re-

move insecurity and conservatism from the investment decisions at the home location.

Let us linger on the topic of investments. For over 60 years, our company has remained true to Austria; and even if the situation both in the domestic economy as well as on the world market now is a difficult one, we will continue to accept our responsibility for our employees and their families, as for the entire society and our environment. Our investments corroborate this commitment.

Thus, as we await the completion of a new office building for AutomationX GmbH, which was

begun two years ago at our expanded corporate office in Graz, Austria, Kresta Industries in Duisburg is preparing for Eickhoff and KWE to move into its large company premises next year. To that end, I wish all the companies of the GAW Group, as well as our readers great success and all the very best for 2016!


Mag. Jochen Pildner-Steinburg

Editorial team for Volume 2 | 2015

Top from left to right: Nina Pildner-Steinburg/GAW, Marc Pildner-Steinburg/GAW, Andreas Mühle/GAW, Nikolaus Brücke/GAW, Josef Mohl/GAW; middle from left to right: Christian Stine/GAW, Magdalena Deisl/ECON, Christian Steiner/OSMO, Rinco Albert/orange clou für UNICOR, Thomas Frühauf/THOMAS; bottom from left to right: Oliver Koroschetz/GAW, Thomas Baumgartner/GAW, Iris Müller-Grabmüller/KRESTA industries, Jörg Severing/ARTEC, Michaela Puntigam/AutomationX



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COMPANY
REPORTGAW Group invests in its
corporate headquarters

The new building, costing about 3.8 million euros, will become the new corporate headquarters of AutomationX GmbH.



1 2 Expansion of our corporate headquarters

In the medium term, according to Bernhard Kodre, managing director of AutomationX, the goal is not just to expand the activities on the existing markets, but also to aspire to increase the level of internationalization. "In addition, AutomationX will benefit from the sales and distribution channels of the GAW group, just as much as from the competences and the company's expertise in providing solutions in the context of Industry 4.0."

3.8 million euros are being directed to the construction of the new office building that is currently being built by the GAW Group directly next to its corporate office in Graz, Austria, and which in the future will function as the new company headquarters of AutomationX GmbH, which was taken over last October at 100%.

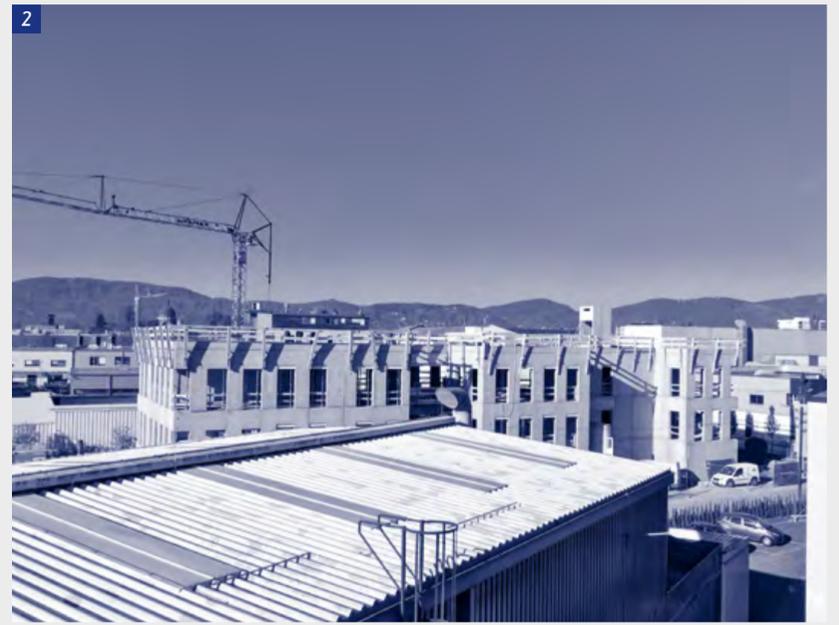
Opening up of new, reciprocally beneficial market opportunities

Having a technology company with worldwide operations for the past 25 years, with an emphasis on integrated comprehensive solutions in the area of automation technology, in immediate vicinity of this holding company will open up new, mutually beneficial market opportunities for both AutomationX as well as for other companies of the GAW Group, making this a logical and necessary step. Apart from a more intensive cooperation in the future with the industrial equipment builder, GAW technologies GmbH, also located at the same location as the corporate headquarters, and in addition to a close partnership that already existed before the founding, AutomationX will benefit in its endeavors towards further interna-

tionalization of existing distribution channels of the GAW-Group. The same applies to other companies of the group and ultimately to their customers in particular, in terms of the added value, especially in light of the capabilities residing in AutomationX and the current expertise for providing solutions in connection with Industry 4.0.

Completion in Spring 2016

The move to the new building, which offers the current employees (65) an effective area of 1418 square meters, is scheduled to take place in March 2016. Within the group of companies, AutomationX, and the other holdings, will continue to be operated as independent companies and entrusted to the managerial care of Bernhard Kodre, who has been the managing director since 2011.

New Kresta Office at
Duisburg Harbor

The Duisburg harbor is the largest domestic harbor in Europe and offers the best traffic connection as well as enhanced flexibility for delivering to the customer.

3 4 Kresta Office at Duisburg Harbor



KRESTA Industries has a new office at the Duisburg harbor location in 2016. The focus is on sustainable and successful company development on the German market. The companies EICKHOFF and KWE moved to the new company headquarters and operate as two competent and service-oriented companies together at one location. The areas of expertise, equipment and piping construction, as well as industrial service and engineering, shall remain at the forefront. The new company premises have a total production area of 5,400 m² with capability for tanks/columns of a maximum of 75 tons and measuring 7 m in diameter. The administrative area extends to 450 m², the expansion of which is currently being planned and which, along with the production area, will secure the most modern fittings.



Contract of Cheng Yang Paper Vietnam

GAW technologies was commissioned to provide Cheng Yang Paper Mill Co., Ltd. with a starch processing system, workstation and a wet end chemical processing system for PM2 at Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. The producer of packaging paper (e.g. kraftliner, testliner and corrugated board) was established in 2003 and is a subsidiary, since 2008, of Nine Dragons Paper (Holdings) Ltd. The new PM2 will have an annual capacity of about 500,000 tones, the width of 6,660 mm and the speed of 1,360 m/min.

Nine Dragons Paper trusts GAW

GAW's scope of delivery is similar to several preliminary orders that were successfully completed in the past for the production locations of the

Nine Dragons Group, which has also included supervision and commissioning. GAW and the Nine Dragons Group, which is listed on the stock exchange, have had a successful partnership extending over a period of 13 years, and although GAW has already made deliveries to many subsidiaries of the Group, this will be the first contract to be completed at its Vietnamese base.

Experience, technical expertise and knowledge derived from past experiences with installing equipment, as well as the new ideas provided by the customers were incorporated into this order, so as to ensure the optimal functioning of the equipment and a smooth production directly after the startup.

A particular highlight at this plant is the integration of GAW's APC systems (advanced process control).

APC Systems

With this application, the level of consumption of all raw materials, chemicals as well as energy will be recorded and archived in a database.

The consumption balances will be assessed with respect to time periods, production units and tambour, and made available through assessment logarithms. They can also be retrieved at the MES (manufacturing execution system) of the customer, which is tethered through an interface. The delivery is scheduled to take place in mid-2016 and the commissioning at the end of 2016.

International Paper Brazilian conversion systems



International Paper – Jaepel Mill, Goiás-Brazil, has placed an order with GAW for the installation of a 700 kg/h enzymatic starch processing and converting system for the Brazilian paper and packaging production. GAW's state-of-the-art technology for starch processing allowed International Paper to create massive reduction in the costs currently incurred toward starch processing for modified starch at R\$ (Brazilian Real) 1,200/ton and with native starch at approx. R\$ 800/ton, using the enzymatic starch processing method, through a short amortization period. International Paper Jaepel, which has a monthly production output of approx. 9,000 tons of board, has since then been able to generate up to R\$ 400/ton in cost savings with the starch processing system.

The Brazilian market will continue to grow in 2016. As Rafael Okubo, managing director, GAW Brazil, puts it, there are further possibilities for using the enzymatic starch processing conversion systems particularly in the packaging industry.



Additional projects entailing the use of the enzymatic starch processing conversions systems in conjunction with International Paper are already in the pipeline:

The Brazilian market will continue to grow even in 2016 – especially in the packaging industry.



International Paper Luis Antonio
Start: November 2015, capacity of 1,500 kg/h
International Paper Mogi Guaçu
Start: December 2015, capacity of 2,500 kg/
International Paper Três Lagoas
Start: January 2016, capacity of 1,200 kg/h



5 6 7 8 The employees of International Paper – Jaepel Mill with the starch preparation equipment.

KRESTA Anlagenbau is building in the Atacama Desert

Already during the construction and installation of the building components of a pulp mill in Uruguay KRESTA Anlagenbau could demonstrate its ability to make comprehensive deliveries. For that reason, the company was again entrusted with a large project. Three flue gas cleaning plants will be installed in the Atacama Desert, close to the small, Chilean industrial city of Huasco, directly overlooking the Pacific Ocean. In light of this industrial equipment, KRESTA is also building a 4,000 t steel structure,

3,000 t metal sheet, 400 t of diverse pipelines and the entire electric, measuring, guiding and control technology [Elektro-, Mess-, Steuer- und Regelungstechnik (EMSR)].

In addition, KRESTA Anlagenbau was commissioned to install an entire desalination plant.

Shipments to customers for individual projects launched in June 2014 have in part already been made. The works concluded in November 2015. During the peak periods, up to 720 KRESTA em-

Pioneering spirit – garner excellent performance also in inhospitable locations.

ployees were present directly onsite, and this aspect was a great challenge. The reason for that was that the entire infrastructure ranging from accommodation, meals, right up to laundry service, etc. had to be set up in advance in the Atacama Desert. Despite the logistically challenging nature of the preliminary works, the project ultimately proved to be successful, demonstrating yet again that the pioneering spirit of the KRESTA employees aid them in striving for excellence even under inhospitable conditions

PROJECTS

9 Final inspection of the customized ARTEC MODULE 750 with thermo-pack

10 Preliminary acceptance at ARTEC

11 Bagging station for two big bags with integrated throughput scale

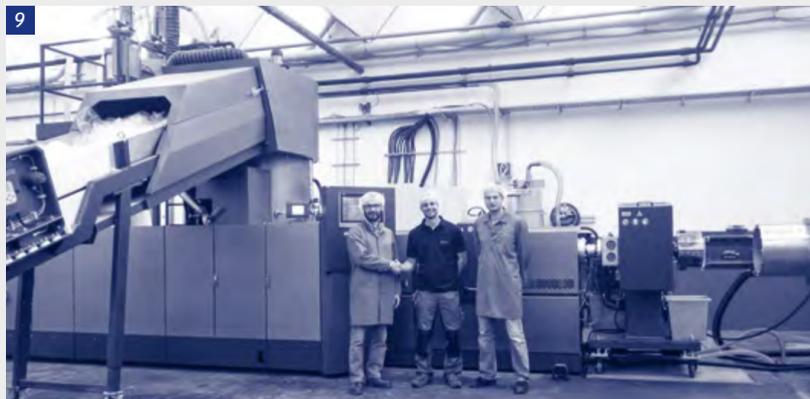
ARTEC recycling machine for customized plastics recycling solutions

The packaging specialist thermo-pack is doubling its throughput capacity with the new recycling machine.

The producer of flexible packaging solutions located in Baden-Wuerttemberg, thermo-pack, a company of the German Hansen Group, has commissioned ARTEC to build a recycling machine of a special type. The doubling of its throughput output, using the new ARTEC recycling machine, will equip thermo-pack for the future and allow it to make huge strides in the direction of its goal to becoming the recycling center of the Hansen Group.

Two applications in a machine

The special task was to use the machine not just as a conventional recycling company, but also for producing master batches. In the master batch company, the cutter compacter is switched off



Focus on minimal noise generation and individuality

A significant contribution to the purchase decision was also the extremely marginal production of noise from the ARTEC machine. This is enabled through a special sound insulation design in the area of the granulate conveyor as well as through the insulation provided by the double-wall design of the cutter compactor. Not just the noise is reduced, the cutter compactor insulation also reduces the time required to attain the process temperature when the machine starts, thus contributing to energy efficiency. In the implementation of the contract, a series of customer requests were taken into consideration. Thus the sidewalls of the conveyor belt were made of stainless steel and the color specified by the customer was incorporated into the machine design. Additionally, the customer also requested the capability to record the energy requirement of the machine. A bagging station, intended for two big bags with integrated throughput scale, as well as the output measurement in the main supply served not only to ensure that the energy consumption and the throughput performance were added up, but also to ascertain and store the ratio between the energy consumption and the granulate (kWh/kg) produced at any given time. A graphic process data analysis allows energy efficiency to be optimized by fine-tuning the process parameters. Since the machine has Internet connectivity, output data can also be retrieved from the office premises or by means of an accompanying tablet display, while service queries can be handled through remote servicing. The customer was obviously very happy with the new machine and personally thanked us for the perfect execution of his wishes. With this equipment, ARTEC again demonstrates its expertise in providing customized solutions in plastics recycling.

and the granulate master batch mix is integrated directly into extruder through the gravimetric dosing device, while the slide is shut, using the cleaning aperture. The barrel extruder is conducted using the detachable screw tip, which, if necessary, can be fitted with a mixing element calibrated to the respective application.

The dosing equipment, fitted to an accessible maintenance platform, can be securely filled from the floor by way of vacuum conveyors and the dosing amount is adjusted via the central control display based on the retrievable prescription.

Preventing "cake building" and avoiding fish eye formation through sudden cooling

Using the existing machine provided by other suppliers, thermo-pack struggled with the problem of cake building despite resorting to water injection, or of melt formation in the cutter compactor owing to temperature increase above the agglomera-

tion point, which resulted in the shutting down of the machine and the cleaning of the cutter compactor for hours. ARTEC is meeting this challenge with the so-called shock cooling system. The technical innovation that was presented for the first time before the broad public in 2015 entails the use of "water bags" that are integrated into the double walled cutter compactor and, if necessary, are filled with cold water to bring down the temperature. The contact point between the synthetic material and the water bags is produced through the centrifugal force during the whirling process. The shock cooling feeds the peak heating by way of heat transfer to the cooling medium and comes out without directly injecting water into the cutter compactor. Apart from performing the protective function in the cutter compactor, the granulates are kept free of water or gas cavities, in order to minimize the risk of specks formation in the manufacturing of the foil.

OSMO water processing plant for functional food

This repeat order again demonstrates the great trust placed in OSMO Membrane Systems GmbH, its excellent quality as well as adherence to schedules.

12 Turnkey reverse osmosis Water processing systems of OSMO



The worldwide largest sugar producer and the largest food producer in Germany commissioned the OSMO Membrane GmbH with the turnkey delivery of a water processing plant, which was successfully put into operation in August of this year.

Highest hygienic standards

The water processing plant was specially conceptualized to meet the requirements of the food industry, for which reason hygienic standards are most highly valued.

Natural water, also available as well water, is always divested of iron and manganese using the gravel filtration method and desalinated through reverse osmosis. In addition, the desalinated water is also used to meet the energy requirement.

One part of the desalinated water is desalinated through a second reverse osmosis for a 3 bar tank and in the process of electro-deionisation (EDI) again desalinated for a full 60 bar tank.

The plant performance for the gravel filtration amounts to 100 m³/h filtrates, the first reverse osmosis phase has a system performance of 50 m³/h permeates, the second reverse osmosis phase has an output of 25 m³/h and the full desalination phase (EDI) 12 m³/h. The equipment is made of pure stainless steel.

A specialty here is that a 100 m³ stainless steel tank is being delivered for interim storage of the permeate, carried out with a roughness of Ra < 0.8 µm and thus met the high quality requirements of the food and pharmaceutical industries. The permeate in the tank was treated to UV radiation in circles in order to avoid contamination of the tank

The scope of delivery includes not just the planning, delivery and installation of the water processing plant, but also the commissioning and a monthly testing operations and on-site training.

Largest heavy-duty KRESTA equipment successfully transported

Equipment of massive proportions was safely transported to customer using heavy-duty truck.



KRESTA Anlagenbau transported the largest ever heavy load, in terms of the size of a fully prefabricated container, since its founding.

A distilled brine tank measuring 6.2 m in diameter, approx. 20 m long and weighing a total of 45 tones had to be transported from the KRESTA premises in St. Andrä to a customer. Owing to the immense size of the tank, three hours were needed to cover a distance of just 14 km.

In the early morning hours of the following day, the old distilled brine tank on the production site of the customer was removed and replaced with the new KRESTA tank.

During the course of the last six months, approx. 45 employees from project management, workshop and installation had been commissioned to perform the project. The pulp mill was closed down until all renovations were completed.

This production stoppage was planned out in detail and was a great challenge to the Kresta Team. The reason for that is that it requires precise planning and preparation to be able to adhere to the schedule for the installation and replacement of the pipelines.

13 14 15 A massive challenge for heavy-duty trucks



New aX-control system at Sappi Lanaken, Belgium

AutomationX installed a Mill Information and Control System (MICS) at Sappi Lanaken. Several Sappi group references and its established standard were implemented in the Lanaken mill.

SAPPI is worldwide one of the largest producers of paper and pulp. Top-quality products are produced on three continents on which high-grade catalogues, magazines, brochures, business reports and illustrated books are printed. At Lanaken, Belgium, the coating color preparation (*Streichfarben-aufarbeitung*, SFA) is controlled via Siemens' teleperm system. AutomationX has been commissioned to replace the entire control system for the coating color preparation.



Fully automated flow control

In the SFA, coating color is produced during the course of batch processes. Coating is carried out on raw paper using coating heads. The specifications, in particular, stipulate that the coated color is produced quickly and in consistent quality. That means that the automation system must be in a position to implement the dosing operations flexibly and with precision. Apart from that, it is important to manage the different recipes and in the case of the project

at Sappi, to integrate a superimposed MICS (Mill Information and Control System) consistently. MICS sends information about the basic recipes and raw material to the automationX-system of the SFA; from that automationX generates control recipes, calculates them and controls all flows completely automatically. Confirmation about all product usage will be fed to the MICS. On the basis of several references of the SAPPI Group, established standards will be adopted for the Lanaken mill and the operation mode

and project structures will be implemented in consultation with the operating team.

Solution aX5.4

The entire automation operates on two redundant servers in the hot-standby mode. Four stations, with two monitors each, aid in the visualization and control. The connectivity to the decentral periphery is facilitated by Profibus-DP (aXlink100 Profibus Master Module). The readings of the flow counters are taken using the counter modules (aXpbc1 module of AutomationX).

The sum of the physical on and off signals amounts to approx. 5,000; they do not include those data that use different interfaces to communicate with the system (ISO on TCP, OPC, Client-Listener procedures).

The application is fully prepared, tested by way of simulation and activated during a short equipment stoppage.

16 New control system at Sappi Lanaken

FOCUS ON

GAW Success story at the Iran-EU conference

GAW Key Account Manager, Raj Venugopal, presented the backstory to GAW's success in Iran before an interested public.

17 Christoph Leitl, President of the Chamber of Commerce in conversation with the Iranian Minister of Commerce, Mohamed Rez Nematzadeh



The highly successful Iran-EU conference on Trade & Investment that took place in Vienna on the 23rd and 24th of July attracted much media attention. More than 300 visitors were treated to talks and discussion rounds with influential government representatives from Iran and the political and industrial leaders from the EU countries.

Even GAW technologies was invited to participate in the special panel "Iran's Economy, Investment & Business Atmosphere" and offer a presentation on its successes with business partners in Iran. Since the late 1990s, GAW has been supplying the paper and cardboard producers in Iran with a processing plant to refined surface treatment of paper.



18 Successful discussion rounds at the Iran-EU conference

19 The Iranian Vice President Sourena Sattari with Raj Venugopal



The business connections have remained intact despite the economic and political challenges, because customer loyalty is a very important criterion for successful business transactions in the Middle East. Key Account Manager, Raj

Venugopal, presented the backstory to GAW's success in Iran to an interested public. Other speakers included Prof. Siegfried Wolf – former Magna Manager and Dr. Werner Faslabend – former defense minister.

Heat recovery system – GAW talk at the PTS excursion

Presentation on heat recovery held at VESTRA.

20 Gerhart Scheithauer explains the technical details of the patented technology

21 PTS excursion



Directly after the PTS coating symposium in Munich in September 2015, an excursion was organized to VESTRA (*Versuchsstreichanlage der Papiertechnischen Stiftung / Technological foundation for the paper pilot coater*) under the motto "Hands-on coating experience".

GAW technologies presented a recently patented heat recovery system (as reported in the last issue of imteam). The starch processing system offers energy savings of up to 50%. But other benefits also include the shortest timeframe for ROI.

The GAW specialist for the starch processing system, Andreas Steinhöfler, and the process engineer, Gerhard Scheithauer, explained the technical details of the patented technology that has already demonstrated its efficacy in several installations in Europe and has received excellent customer reviews.

Savings and optimizations of equipment and process flows of this type are indispensable criteria for all paper and cardboard producers worldwide, in order to successfully rise to the challenge of the industry and of the future, and to successfully manage the business, both economically and ecologically.

With our patented system you can generate the following advantages:

- Massive energy savings
- Minimized hazard area
- No fowling
- Very short payback time
- Modular device
- Possible to install in all continuous starch preparation lines

AutomationX receives the 2015 Clusterland Award

AutomationX receives the Clusterland Award 2015 for BaMa under the category "The best cooperation project in research & development, innovation".

22 Clusterland Award 2015 presentation

Photo: Thule G. Jung



The consortium of the research project BaMa (Balanced Manufacturing), which along with AutomationX also comprises five institutes of the Technical University of Vienna and twelve industry partners, received the Clusterland Award 2015 in the category "Best Cooperation Project in Research & Development, Innovation" in June.

BaMa aspires to facilitate energy-optimized production planning and control, in order to create new cost savings capability for energy-intensive

production centers. AutomationX is a significant development partner in the consortium and within the project framework it will adopt the methods developed by the Technical University of Vienna, implement them in Product ax5 and use them as prototype for selected industry partners.

According to the reasons offered by the panel of judges, the project is unique owing to its interdisciplinary approach on both fronts. Five teams from the university arena cooperate and cover a wide variety of academic research.

Several branches of the industrial complex as well as leading businesses have been systematically integrated. In particular, energy was given much consideration. BaMa was selected as the best project out of a total of 80 submissions.

In a festive event, the prize was presented to the consortium by the Lower Austrian Regional Economic Council Dr Petra Bohuslav and the board director Dr Reinhard Karl of RLB NÖ-Wien [Raiffeisenlandesbank Lower Austria-Vienna].

Rise to the challenge

As a company, we believe that we are and can become successful only if we can continue to set higher goals and standards, and view new challenges as opportunities. This underlying attitude is also firmly prevalent among our staff, who have demonstrated it not just in the context of their daily work, but also beyond that – for instance, in the Chicago marathon.

Better than average

As one of the world's largest marathons, the Chicago marathon is particularly attractive to marathon runners and thus it came to be that as a part of a joint visit of the GAW executives, Josef Eder and Robert Assl-Pildner-Steinburg decided to participate in the 2015 marathon, in particular, with the ambitious goal of surmounting the distance of 42,195 km within 3:30 hours – the average marathon time for men is 4:29:52 hours.

No sooner said than done. After a 10-week intensive training phase, they were all set for Sunday, 11 October, when both athletes as well as the other 50,000 participants set their goals to beat personal, national, and world

records. Starting at the Grant Park on the Columbus Drive, the marathon was being run during late summer along glistening high-rises right up to Belmont Harbor, past the University of Illinois through Little Italy and over the Michigan Avenue back to Columbus Drive. And



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Rise to the challenge – this is GAW's motto, which is also practiced by its employees.

after that, it was clear: both men had not only made it to the finishing line, they had reached their personal goal. And this success was also appropriately celebrated later on with Adam Glowacki, the CEO of Chicago's GAW subsidiary, and his wife, Kasia.



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FOCUS ON

23 24 Josef Eder and Robert Assl-Pildner-Steinburg met their challenge.

25 More than 50,000 athletes started at the Chicago marathon

Pioneering spirit at KRESTA



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Going by the motto of the new KRESTA Industries Vision 2030: "Global leaders in our technologies with a pioneering spirit" KRESTA industries supports a visionary project: The reproduction of imperial and royal "pilot hydroplane" of the worldwide first air cushion hydroplane, which successfully pierced into the sea in 1915.

This ambitious project was initiated by the editor of the magazine "Visionary", Walter Krobath,

who also headed the entire construction works. The replica was made in Klagenfurt am Wörthersee with the cooperation of several companies.

KRESTA industries supported the project as an experienced partner with knowhow in the overall metal industry. The boat was launched on 4.9.2015 at the Seeparkhotel in Klagenfurt am Wörthersee. The "godfather" of the ship was the CEO, Franz Kreuzer, who christened



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the boat "Leadership". The air cushion boat has now found a new home at the pier of the Seepark-Hotel in Klagenfurt am Wörthersee.

With a maximum speed of 35 knots – about 60 km/h – the boat is a point of attraction for companies and at events at Wörthersee. Several media outlets (newspapers, TV and online) extensively covered the project and the event.

26 27 The captain, Franz Kreuzer, at the launch of the ship with his team.

The ECON-Leadership Council

Executives in the company constantly have to choose between conflicting priorities, between daily duties, leading employees, and undertaking organizational restructuring. Thereby the daily duties in particular not only affect the flow of regular, important communication between the heads of departments, they also prevent the possibility of systematically involving the executives in significant company decisions. For the CEO, Gerhard Hehenberger, this was the reason to found the ECON-Leadership Council.

Successfully connected for over a year

The foundation for the leadership council was laid in October 2014 at Attersee. Jointly, it was decided how the meetings would ensure that the goals of ECON were being sustainably supported, and since then the leadership council, i.e. the executives of the first tier, has been meeting regularly once a month outside the regular working hours as well as once approx. every six months for a two-day workshop at an external location. Generally, they are successful in keeping the daily business transactions at bay and dedicating themselves to leadership topics.

Central decisions are made jointly in consideration of the respective departmental interests. This is how Vision 2020 was formulated and the strategy of the company, including the goals and measures for each department for the next five years, was developed and defined.

At the same time, all employees may also contribute to the topics discussed using the anonymised format of the postbox and bring them to the notice of the executives, who discuss them and offer corresponding feedback. Thus the leadership council serves not just as a model for the activities and the communication, but also for a successful and safe work environment.

After well over a year, the new format for remaining connected is still in place. The employees in general have responded extremely positively to the work of the executives, so that, all in all, everybody stands to gain: the company, the shareholders, the staff and the members of the leadership council. The cooperation and the understanding gained across departments were markedly improved and ECON is now very well equipped for the tasks and challenges ahead.

Regular exchanges among the executives to reach a higher level of understanding between the departments.



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28 ECON executive council from left to right: Uwe Neumann (Sales Manager), Andreas Iranek (Head Customer Service Department), Gerhard Hehenberger (CEO), Stefan Schedlik (Head Construction and Development), Christian Förster (head Production and Technology)

FOCUS ON

29 GAW towel being tested for harness application.

30 Embroidering at the *Blinden- und Sehbehindertenförderungswerk* for the blind and visually impaired.



We put people first

For GAW, social responsibility and sustainable development are significant components that contribute to the success of the company. Financial success and social and economic responsibility are inextricably linked to one another.

Lived responsibility

Sponsoring and financially supporting projects seeking funding are important instances of GAW's social commitment.

Exemplifying that is the *Blinden- und Sehbehindertenförderungswerk*, which is the foundation set up in support of the blind and the vision impaired: a vocational training and work center with value added, where visually impaired people learn an appropriate form of employment. Similarly, the learning of a traditional artisanal trade significantly enhances the self-esteem of those suffering from blindness and different forms of visual impairment.

Since its establishment in 2006, the production centers in Vienna/ Breitensee have also been pro-

ducing handmade brooms, wooden toys, candles and soaps as well as embroidered textiles and terry products. Even hand towels for GAW were processed here with the company logo / brand name.



Economic success and social and economic responsibility are inextricably linked to one another.

31 OSMO executive team proudly presents the GE Innovation Award.



GE awards different prizes every year on the Roadshow channel partner, one of them being:

**Innovation Award
Developed New Markets/Business**

- Available for Newer Partners
- Solid Growth, good volume
- somewhat discretionary

OSMO received the "GE Innovation Award" for pursuing research on existing processes as well as for the analysis and exploration of new application areas in which OSMO would also be able to use GE-products – such as in the field of acid recovery.

The "GE Innovation Award" is granted just once per year and region, for which reason we are particularly proud of this award.

OSMO –
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In order to ensure optimum readability, the German version of this text does not make simultaneous use of the female and male forms. It goes without saying that both genders are implied and addressed in the references.

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GAWGROUP



DI Alexander Rinderhofer, MBA,
Head of Business Unit Plastics
Engineering, GAW Group

With the investments made in the last years in the acquisitions of ECON, UNICOR and ARTEC, the GAW Group has laid the foundation for the development of the new business unit dedicated to plastics engineering.

Since September 2015, the responsibility for ensuring consistent improvement of the division has been placed in the expert hands of Mr Alexander Rinderhofer. His education in plastics engineering at Montan University in Leoben, together with his longstanding professional experience in the field of plastics, offers the perfect foundation for this constellation of tasks.

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Michael Forstner
Area Sales Manager
ECON GmbH

Michael Forstner is back in the ECON team since the beginning of August. Previously, he was a service technician, before taking over as Head of Customer Service.

Owing to his experience in the plastics processing industry and based on his previous employment with ECON, he could immediately begin with the management of his sales and distribution area, the entire American continent. In addition, Mr Forstner is also in charge of ECON Inc., the US subsidiary.

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Peter Illecker
Technical Head
ARTEC machinery GmbH

Since September 2014, Peter Illecker has been actively involved in ARTEC and is the Technical Head for the departments of Development/Construction and Project Management.

He brings with him more than ten years of experience in international plants engineering. Most recently, he worked with an international group and was responsible for the development of the Engineering Department at a new location. Apart from the continued advancement in the field of modular design, for Mr Illecker, the future focus of ARTEC lies in the direction of systems solutions, which extends beyond the just recycling machines and thus offers international customers a real added value.

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