SECURELY PROTECTED AROUND THE WORLD
A hermetic outer packaging for inhaler

FLAGSHIP PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABILITY
Med Campus Graz

TEAM TOOL
Building Information Modeling
INHALT

EDITORIAL

DEAR VALUED PARTNERS,

As the CEO of the Hermann WALDNER GmbH & Co. KG I cordially welcome you – also on behalf of my management colleagues from the other corporations of our group – to the second edition of our customer magazine WALDNER World in its fully new design.

We start this year with joy and confidence. Because in 2017 you, our customers, have showed us more than ever that you trust in our core competencies: efficiency, quality, on-schedule handling, technological process and expert advice. So thank you very much!

But therefore sit back and take things easy? Quite the contrary! Globalisation, digitalisation and flexibilisation make high demands on us. To that effect we continue expanding our competencies to be able to offer you full service from one source – more than ever.

As a consequence, the planning office eretec Laborplanung GmbH & Co. KG from Gummersbach, Germany is from now on part of our business group. eretec is one of the biggest planning offices in Germany’s laboratory sector. With its several unique selling propositions the company performs successfully not only in the German market but worldwide. So as of now, we are able to offer you global one-stop integral and interdisciplinary planning.

Another part of our „full service from one source“-mentality is to consciously look at the challenges and opportunities flexibilisation brings. Such as planning by means of building information modeling (BIM), which demands flexible ways of thinking and acting throughout the entire process, in parts of public tenders and projects abroad (see page 06.).

As an example for this stands the article on page 16: There we inform you about how the modular structure of the multifunctional isolator offers various ways of usage.

And even when it comes to the new edition of WALDNER World we present you various opportunities of reading it. You can either enjoy our magazine in its printed version as well as online or you just download the WALDNER App.

We wish you a lot of fun with our magazine!

Sincerely yours

Karl Angele
CEO Hermann WALDNER GmbH & Co. KG

LEGAL NOTICES

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Anton-Waldner-Straße 10–16 | 88239 Wangen im Allgäu, Germany | Tel. +49 7522 986-0 | info@waldner.de | www.waldner.de

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STRATEGICALLY WELL POSITIONED

WALDNER BECOMES A FULL-RANGE SUPPLIER WITH ERETEC

WALDNER continues to expand its expertise as a full-range supplier in the laboratory sector: the Group is expanding its global laboratory design expertise with eretec.

Whether with complete constructions or “only” laboratory furniture – clients are increasingly confronted with more regulations and different specialist companies, which they need to understand and coordinate. WALDNER is able to offer its customers comprehensive support in this: “For some time now we have been offering comprehensive solutions rather than solely providing products. We regard ourselves as a system supplier,” explains Stephan Schaale, CEO of WALDNER Holding.

Advanced laboratory design expertise

WALDNER is now positioning itself to be more broad-based on the design side: with the purchase of Gummersbach-based eretec Laborplanung GmbH & Co. KG, one of the leading design and consulting companies for overall technical design, specialising in laboratory, medical and media technology on the German and international market now belongs to the WALDNER Group. The companies have known each other for many years from working on joint projects. “We have been on the market for 37 years and are one of Germany’s largest laboratory design offices with a range of different USPs,” explains Klaus Söhngen, CEO of eretec. “For example, eretec is currently the only company in Germany to have the expertise to design BSL 4 level high-security laboratories for work with human pathogens. What is more, our designs have had success abroad for many years.” And it is precisely this which is to be increasingly expanded in future.

Additional internationalisation potential

It is particularly this aspect that makes eretec attractive to WALDNER: “Our increasing operations abroad demand that we offer additional design expertise. Unlike in the majority of European countries, outside of Europe the system provider supplies the entire design – and we are now able to offer this at a very high level with eretec,” reports Joerg Hoffmann, CEO of WALDNER Laboreinrichtungen. “We are therefore not just strengthening our position abroad, but also as a complete provider on the market. We offer clients interdisciplinary and integrated design from a single company.” We have already been able to successfully complete the first projects in Southeast Asia based on this integrated concept.

Increasingly broad-based offering

On the other hand, eretec continues to offer vendor-independent design. Admittedly the company acts under the umbrella of WALDNER Holding but remains a stand-alone, independent company and is neither financially nor organisationally linked to other companies within the WALDNER Group nor is it dependent on them. “We are pleased to be able to offer our customers a wider range of services, design and state-of-the-art laboratory furniture. We are therefore very well positioned for the future,” concludes Stephan Schaale.

www.waldner-lab.com
www.eretec.de
TEAM TOOL

BUILDING INFORMATION MODELING

For some, building information modeling (BIM) is already an indispensable tool in the creation process of a building, whereas for others it is nothing more than hype. Does BIM seem to have become stuck in the pilot phase in Germany? One thing is certain: the Federal Ministry for Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) is promoting BIM and, from 2020, it will execute all its construction projects using it. When presenting its master plan “Construction 4.0” in Berlin in January 2017, Alexander Dobrindt, the then Federal Minister for Transport and Digital Infrastructure, commented: “BIM enables us to significantly reduce the duration, cost and risks of major construction projects by 2020.”

Improving information flows
BIM is a useful tool for reducing risks throughout all phases of a project and increasing efficiency, particularly with complex buildings. Germany is far from being the innovation leader when it comes to digital construction, as the latest figures confirm: according to the 2016 NBS International BIM Report, Denmark, with 78%, is the clear frontrunner in the use of the building management system, followed by Canada, Great Britain and Japan. In these countries BIM has become an integral part of everyday construction work. However, it is no wonder, as Denmark made the use of BIM in public construction projects a legal requirement as far back as 2007.

According to the Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering IAO, only every third company in Germany used BIM on projects costing over 25 million in 2015. Someone who with his colleagues has already intensively looked at and worked with BIM is the architect Markus Hammes of Stuttgart-based architects hammeskrause architekten, partnerschaftsgesellschaft freier architekten mbB. He explains: “Design planning and execution is complex due to the different technical disciplines and trades who cooperate on a construction project. We cannot reduce this complexity with BIM tools, but we can make it easier for clients, specialist designers and contractors to understand it more easily using 3D models.” A further important output: “BIM enables us to optimise information flows and identify and remedy error sources earlier.”

Promoting collaborative approaches
Michael De Martin, Managing Director of Aicher, De Martin, Zweng AG – energy and building services engineers has had the same experience: “For instance, it’s also useful for heating engineers if they can see the electrical data in the 3D model as well. BIM promotes collaborative thinking, as the visible third dimensions enables everyone involved in the process to understand what the other departments are currently working on.”

Making changes transparent
BIM works with a central database. Architect Markus Hammes explains: “All models that are part of the building process are linked to each other in the central database. Everyone is notified as soon as a status changes. That way revisions and corrections are transparent and comprehensible. They also have an immediate impact on parts lists and delivery dates,” Markus Hammes continues: “BIM promotes and demands disciplined cooperation and forces people to consider things at the earliest planning phase.”

When BIM is used as a higher-level management system, targets need to be defined very early and responsibilities specified. Who needs what information at what stage? Who inputs this into the system? Who inputs this into the system? Michael De Martin also confirms this: „A little more time is needed for design planning with BIM during the initial phases of a construction project. These phases therefore become more intensive, something that pays for itself twice or three times over, as errors can be avoided.”
Markus Hammes adds: “Of course it needs someone to take responsibility for this process. Admittedly the architect is responsible for coordinating the professionals involved, however not all architects can or want to apply BIM methodology.”

Plug-ins for design software
But what does BIM mean for manufacturers? “The idea behind BIM goes beyond the construction per se – indeed the entire life cycle of a building can be tracked in this manner,” explains Dipl. Ing. Architect Hagen Schmidt-Bleker, CEO of Aachen-based formitas AG. The company specialises in BIM and advises all the stakeholders involved in construction projects. “As information about, say, the selected laboratory fume cupboard needs to be available above a certain level of detail, it makes total sense for manufacturers to make their product catalogue available as a BIM-compatible plug-in.” When BIM becomes more commonplace, facilities management can effortlessly determine from the stored data which part needs to be ordered from which manufacturer – for instance when a drawer has broken through everyday use.

Perfect for virtual reality
“With BIM you only generate the data once and can then use it for all possible presentations, from Excel tables or 3D models to virtual or augmented reality,” explains Hagen Schmidt-Bleker. “For example, you could show a customer your products through virtual reality glasses and then directly order them and have them manufactured.”

An interview with Miguel Diez, Project Engineer DIMENSIONS at WALDNER Laboreinrichtungen GmbH & Co. KG

What experiences has WALDNER already had with BIM?
In the laboratory division, we have had experience with BIM in the past on various levels, which has enabled us to become aware of the different global requirements. WALDNER is currently very involved with BIM on behalf of its clients to meet their different requirements in this respect as well.

What challenges do companies like WALDNER face in relation to BIM?
The claim that we “first have to plan virtually and then build for real,” initially has to be practically implemented in every project. We need standardized BIM rules, data standards and processes for this... The extensive work involved, for instance with cost-intensive work on the digital model, shifts to the pre-planning phase. This also involves new requirements in terms of qualification, knowledge and experience within WALDNER. Employees also need to be involved in this process. Although the aim of BIM is the use of modern technology, the cultural shift begins offline. BIM continually requires disciplined and structured work, coupled with more in-depth specialist knowledge and greater openness to new technologies. If project teams succeed in working together, then we have taken a significant step forward.

What opportunities does BIM present for WALDNER?
It offers a wealth of different opportunities, for instance the visualisation and simulation of different versions and scenarios to enhance decision-making. This reduces planning errors, as well as lost information and redundandt work. We can identify clashes and problems at an earlier stage. Model-based deductions provide us with better cost control and thus also greater and earlier reliability of costs and deadlines. Overall, planning is more transparent and comprehensible. We have full documentation and the data can be directly transferred to the Life Cycle Management system. Once the building is complete, BIM optimises facilities management.

BUILDING INFORMATION MODELING
is a design planning method, which involves the generation and administration of digital, virtual representations – including the physical and functional properties of a building. The 3D models of the building are based on a comprehensive database of information, which can ideally be accessed throughout the entire life cycle, from planning to decommissioning.

Oben: Aus der Sicht von Walshner.

CULTURAL SHIFT STARTS OFFLINE

Will workflows, processes or anything else at WALDNER change in future through BIM? BIM is certainly a major challenge for the entire construction industry. However, laboratory planning and design should not shy away from it or fear it. Our high level of prefabrication and automation works well with the BIM approach. BIM represents more of an opportunity than a risk for WALDNER. WALDNER will enable the company to make cost-savings. However, costs are also shifted: there are now higher costs at the start of a project, which we then save later on. This factor needs to be understood and implemented by all parties involved. BIM can only be successfully implemented when it is correctly applied. There has to be investment in the training of existing personnel, and BIM experts need to be brought in to reinforce the team. It’s the same with other automated processes – the machine is only as good as its user. BIM is a powerful tool but only when it is in the right hands.
It is now the only annual Laboratory Experts’ Symposium: the company looks back with pride and gratitude over 20 years of the WALDNER Symposium – and announces the topics for this year.

**SYMPOSIUM 2018**

**Ergonomics and demographics in laboratory construction**

There’s an opportunity for another inspiring discussion and exchange of ideas this year: from 11 to 12 October 2018, WALDNER will once again be holding its Laboratory Experts’ Symposium in Isny. This year the subject of the symposium will be: ergonomics and demographics in laboratory construction. It will consider questions, such as: Is there such a thing as a personally equipped laboratory workstation and, if so, what does it look like? Are ergonomics and well-being in the workplace defined differently for different age groups? On what do we base “being old” and “being young”? The “old” and “young”, theoreticians and practitioners, designers and users will discuss these and other questions. Completed projects, as well as those still on the drawing board, will provide illustrative inspiration. Interested parties can register now.

symposium@waldner.de

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**ESTABLISHED AND SUCCESSFUL**

20 YEARS OF LABORATORY EXPERTS’ SYMPOSIUM

"The Experts’ Symposium would never have become what it is today – an established and sought-after industry event – without its high-calibre speakers and technically competent participants from different countries and specialist fields;," clarifies Stefan Holler of WALDNER Marketing, adding: “From the very outset we wanted to focus on in-depth discussions of forward-looking topics, rather than this becoming a sales event or similar.” Researchers, planners, architects, facilities managers and suppliers have been tracking new trends together for 20 years. Many of them have now become everyday, self-evident requirements or have even developed into stand-alone company divisions, rather like WALDNER DIMENSIONS.

**Discussion promotes innovation**

To mark the company’s anniversary year in 2017, some 130 participants and nine speakers at the Laboratory Experts’ Symposium dedicated themselves to the subject “A laboratory for life – Life for the laboratory” – and the question: What challenges and opportunities await us with increasing digitalisation and flexibility? Apart from specific spatial solutions for work and communication, the discussions also centred on virtual spaces, for instance those linked to BIM—Building Information Modelling – databases and design tools (see also pages 06 to 09). The speakers and participants were once again in complete unison: it needs inter-departmental discussion to develop meaningful solutions. This applies to innovations as well as to specific building projects – one reason why the Laboratory Experts’ Symposium is so inspiring for speakers and participants alike.

The panel discussion – an integral part of the Laboratory Experts’ Symposium. The photo shows the 2017 panel discussion.

*The image shows the 2017 panel discussion.*
How can an inhaler, vital for life, the size of a mobile phone, be securely packaged and at the same time easy to open? WALDNER mastered this challenge for a global pharmaceutical company with an ingenious filling and sealing machine.

Medical products are sold in many countries around the globe where they are faced by the most diverse climate conditions, whether extremely high air humidity or, by contrast, extremely dry air. There is lower air pressure at sea level than in the Andes or in a plane. From the Equator to the polar regions – the same quality of medication must emerge from the packaging everywhere. This is not a problem for small tablets in blister packs, but presents a more challenging development task for a two-component drug, in an inhaler, which is almost the same size as a mobile phone.

This was the specific task faced by WALDNER: “We were asked to securely package a handy inhaler device for asthma patients for one of the world’s largest pharmaceutical companies. At the same time, this packaging also needed to be easy to open by physically weakened people,” reports Ralph Krauß, Packaging Machine Sales at WALDNER. It was therefore a kind of outer packaging that can be done by secondary packaging machines.

High output, integrated in an existing line
But that was not the only requirement. The following prerequisites also applied to the packaging and sealing machines to be supplied: an output of 10,000 packages per hour – and dual control of all workflows, standard in the pharmaceutical industry.

The machines required could not be “stand-alone” solutions, but had to be fully integrated into the existing production environment and linked to the pharmaceutical manufacturer’s regulation and control functions. This involved, for instance, signal and functional connectivity to the upstream and downstream components of the line, including laser coders, boxing systems, cartoners and palleting machines.
98% efficiency in a highly-sensitive working environment

Functions, including active recipe and program management (active directory), as well as batch data selection and tracking by the higher-level line control, are now standard with the latest DOSOMATS for secondary packaging. Not a single parameter of the machine or recipe data can be changed without the person’s access authorisation, as well as a time stamp, being recorded and saved. In these highly sensitive working conditions, a minimum efficiency of 98% was also a prerequisite.

WALDNER was awarded the contract for this challenging task as the DOSOMAT department has several hundred references for 15 of the 15 required machine functions (including clocking, cutting and inserting the drying bag, pick & place, high pressure sealing, cup marking and flap-folding), and WALDNER was able to build and show the customer a flawless test unit for the fifteenth function.

Lines 8 and 9 are now set up in the assembly building in Wangen and will first undergo a thorough FAT (factory acceptance test) before they can be delivered. “We are proud that we were also able to successfully realise this difficult application, thanks to the enormous diversity of the functions of our DOSOMATS and our targeted adaptation developments,” states Ralph Krauß.

Securely closed and easily opened

The inhaler, measuring approximately the size of a mobile phone, is placed by a robot onto the in-feed belt and then inserted into the aluminium cups after multiple presence checks. Dessicant sachets have been previously placed in these aluminium cups, which are cut, checked for damage and then correctly positioned from a belt by a pick & place system in the base of the cup. The filled cups are then sealed with a strong-walled aluminium plate by a servo-controlled high-pressure sealing system (with 50 bar and over 1 tonne sealing force per cup for only 0.3 seconds).

The cups containing the inhaler, thus sealed, will withstand a bursting pressure of +/- 700 mbar within an hour, for instance if they are transported by plane from sea level to approx. 4,500 m above sea level. At the same time, they should be capable of being opened with a defined tear-off force of only 12 N (Easy-Peel). This equates to very little force – to ensure that even weaker patients are able to access their medication. “A person weighing 100 kg could therefore stand on the cup without it bursting, and the very next moment even an elderly person could open the packaging,” explains Ralph Krauß.

To achieve optimum sealing parameters, state-of-the-art water bath vacuum control equipment is installed in the WALDNER assembly hall for bursting pressure measurement, and so-called Zwick® testers are used for the peeling tests (removal tests).

ralph.krauss@waldner.de
The shape of the Med Campus, which is built on a slope, is also sustainable: differently-sized layers of the building, arranged according to the primary wind direction, ensure that the important supply of fresh air to the city in the valley is not significantly impaired on account of this new building.

FLAGSHIP PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

MED CAMPUS GRAZ

The Med Campus in Graz represents a flagship project for sustainability and an environment that fosters research. WALDNER equipped large parts of the massive building complex.
The medical University of Graz approached the construction of its new Med Campus with an impressive claim: the healthy indoor climate was to inspire students and researchers, promote communication, foster networking and, at the same time, save costs, including energy. This was a claim about sustainability and the promotion of research, which no other Austrian laboratory building had made in this form to date, and which is expected to be rewarded with Austrian Society for Sustainable Real Estate (ÖGNI) certification, similar to German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB)/Assessment System for Sustainable Building (BNB) certification.

**Qualitative quantum leap as an aim**

The new building houses institutes and administrative units of the Medical University of Graz, previously scattered locally around the city, which are now in the immediate vicinity of Graz’s LKH University Hospital. organisationally there has also been a shift: the 16 institutes have been combined into 4 centres; there are central units, core facilities and certain areas are allocated research-dependently. The ambitious aim is to achieve a qualitative quantum leap in the University’s core areas of teaching and research with the construction of the MED CAMPUS.

**Openness – in architecture and mentality**

What does that mean in specific terms? “Connectivity is reflected in the architecture, the room layout,” explains engineer Wolfgang Pfusterer, Assistant Project Manager, Med Campus. Whereas the historical institutions had a rigidly delineated structure and tended to promote “inward-looking thinking,” we now rely on connected structures that are intended to promote communication and cooperation. This ‘openness’ is also manifested in the architecture: for instance, we have consciously designed space as communication hubs at intersections.”

**Gaining new resources for research**

Of course, there are still rigidly delimited areas in the new Med Campus, for instance the Institute for Histology – with all its laboratory, office and social areas. “However, to save resources and space there are also centrally located core facilities, such as Scanning Electron Microscopy, which is symbiotically jointly used by several institutes,” explains Wolfgang Pfusterer. Isn’t that going to lead to treading on toes and double-bookings? “Of course this needs organisation and disciplined reconciliation – as well as change management – an end to the “all mine” approach.”

**Freely available research space**

Another example of this openness of space and thinking is that the entire 6th floor of the Centre for Medical Research (ZMF), covering some 4,000 m², is a freely available resource, an open research space. An area which elsewhere would be given over to entire institutional buildings. Temporary innovative research teams, which have landed a research application, can use the laboratories and office here. The space therefore has multiple uses.

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**FACTS & FIGURES**

- Total floor area: 4.3 ha, 2 modules, the first of which is already built
- Usable floor area: module 1: approx. 21,000 m², total approx. 42,000 m²
- Teaching areas: for up to 1,200 students in Human Medicine, Dentistry and Health and Nursing Science
- Workplaces: for approx. 900 employees of the Medical University of Graz (lecturers, researchers and administration personnel)
- http://medcampus.medunigraz.at/

The Austrian Society for Sustainable Real Estate (ÖGNI) is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation that promotes the sustainable design, construction and use of buildings in Austria. It is the counterpart to the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) and certifies sustainability with a quality seal. www.ogni.at
Open laboratory concept implemented
This openness is naturally only possible with an equally open laboratory concept. “We have maximum flexibility when it comes to space design due to the room height of 3.80 m. We are working with laboratory modules which, in turn, are zoned into documentation and laboratory areas, as well as adjoining spaces,” explains Dr Christoph Heinekamp, Managing Director of dr. heinekamp Labor- und Institutsplanung GmbH, who was responsible for the design of the technical and scientific laboratory furniture. “This space can therefore be easily adapted to almost any future use,” explains Wolfgang Pfusterer, adding: “This flexible lab concept runs through the entire building complex, which has given us a campus that lives and grows with us. The less reworking time and costs we have, the greater the sustainability.”

Sustainability right down to the materials
This sustainable thinking in the design of the Med Campus extends as far as the materials of the laboratory furniture and the supply and disposal of toxic substances. “More than just the architecture and processes were to be sustainable – the equipment and its production had to be too,” explains Wolfgang Pfusterer. And this is precisely where WALDNER came in: “Waldner came into the frame because it met the formulated criteria – a comprehensive service catalogue of life cycle costs that had to be taken into account, and laboratory furniture that had to be designed with minimal pollutants (e.g. free of lead or cadmium),” he reports. “We wanted to achieve maximum air quality in our space, with minimal emissions. That only applies if the quality of the material and its workmanship is also included.”

Building the best you can
“You have to build the best you possibly can to meet the stringent Austrian Society for Sustainable Real Estate (ÖGN) sustainability criteria,” confirms Bernd Maier, Project Manager, WALDNER Labor-einrichtungen GmbH & Co. KG, who is also responsible for the entire project, with an order value of some 10 million. “The concentration of, say, formaldehyde could only be half as high as is normally permitted in Germany – a limit of 0.1 ppm – our target value is 0.05 ppm.” However, what represented a challenge at the start of the order has now been implemented into WALDNER’s series products.

Sophisticated technology
This order, and especially the diversity and complexity of the furniture to be supplied, was unusual for Bernd Maier: “We had almost 40% of non-laboratory technology, for instance a sample lift or an operating theatre, which we implemented using third-party providers – there were also a number of non-standard solutions, which were constructed for the first time in this configuration.” The central supply and disposal of toxic substances, such as formalin or alcohol, over 4 floors was also challenging here.

Tight schedule
A logistical overview was also needed in addition to engineering expertise: “Try bringing complex furniture into six different buildings with only one single lift,” states Bernd Maier, summarising: “You have to ensure that everything is at the right place at the right time. The interfaces have to fit in with the entire concept and the trades have to be coordinated. Ultimately we were coordinating subcontractors and the installation – for which we also needed connections and devices that were simply not yet available in this form.” This was not a challenge for him as an experienced project manager – the challenge for him lay in the project’s tight schedule: installation began in May 2016 and handover was in May 2017. But WALDNER met the deadline. And Wolfgang Pfusterer was otherwise also very pleased with the cooperation: “Overall it was very good. As was the quality – from the look of the material to its installation. And we had really good installation teams working for us. The implementation, quality of installation and service were just right.”

bernd.bezrucka@waldner.de
Creamy and healthy: natural yoghurt is not just a trendy food in Europe and the USA – it is also extremely popular in Australia. It was not entirely unknown down there, as it arrived many years ago with European immigrants to Australia. The McLaren family took over the small Melbourne-based dairy from one of these immigrants over 35 years ago – and thus also the probiotic yoghurt produced there based on a traditional Greek recipe, natural and without additives. The company, now known as Jalna Dairy Foods, has achieved major success with its product on the Australian market. The natural yoghurt continues maturing in the jar after filling; it is therefore filled in liquid form. And, of course, it needs the right machines to do this.

Happy yet amazed faces
The WALDNER name first came into play in 2014 when Jalna Dairy Foods was looking for high-output machines with a precise filling volume – when too much yoghurt is filled into pots, it equates to an involuntary “product give-away” and the losses build up. WALDNER carried out initial filling tests with its DOSOMATS and the original product. The first Jalna Dairy Foods product tested was a 2 kg handle tub. The clear aim was to be faster and more precise than the previous machine. The solution: WALDNER achieved significantly higher metering precision, thanks to its ultra-precise servo-piston filler – a fact that resulted in happy yet amazed faces amongst the Jalna project team at the following pre-handover tests in Wangen.

Michael Finkenzeller, Sales at Hermann WALDNER GmbH & Co. KG, who managed the project, explains: “With ultra-precise servo-piston filling, quite simply the piston draws the yoghurt up by suction, rather like Ob im 2 kg Henkelbecher oder im Kunststoffglas – der Joghurt von Jalna erfreut sich hoher Beliebtheit.

WALDNER delivers almost twice the production volume coupled with lower losses “Down Under” with its DOSOMATS for yoghurt filling – now not just with large handle tubs, but also with plastic pots of various sizes.
Positive feedback leads to new orders

This is also guaranteed in day-to-day production with the supplied DOSOMAT using downstream belt control scales. The filling volume is automatically adjusted, even with minimal deviations in the filling weight, so that no product is unnecessarily “given away” by over-filling. “The product loss is almost zero,” explains Michael Finkenzeller with pride. The machine was not just much more accurate than Jalna Dairy Foods’ previous machine – it was also 3 times faster. “Following commissioning of this initial 3-line machine, the feedback was so positive that we received orders for a further 2 major lines over the next few years, this time for plastic pots containing 1 kg, 200 g and 500 g,” reports Michael Finkenzeller.

More complex and yet fast and accurate

The machines required for this were firstly significantly larger – 6- and 8-line – but also much more complex: the plastic pots were not just to have a re-sealable lid as before, but also feature a plastic film sealed on before the lid. What is more, unlike the handle tubs, the plastic pots and their lids cannot be stacked. “This means that the containers and lids are supplied as loose bulk products and so in a first step need to be turned the right way up and fed in,” explains Michael Finkenzeller. “We solved this feed-in task using appropriate sorting centrifuges.” A camera control of the feed-in to the DOSOMAT also helps to reject any deformed empty pots.

Immediate weighing inline

And yet that’s not all: “At the same time, the output was to be increased by a factor of 2 to 3 compared to Jalna Dairy Foods’ existing machines. And we also achieved that goal. It was immediately clear to us that this did not just mean a higher speed, but that so-called track-based inline weighing would be necessary directly in the DOSOMAT. After all, only by doing so would the automatic filling weight control be capable of reacting as quickly as possible,” reports Michael Finkenzeller. “Naturally, we retained the proven filling principle using ultra-accurate servo-piston fillers with this machine.”

Continuation only after inspection

WALDNER also integrated a film sealing station with sealing support of the plastic pot in the system itself. Michael Finkenzeller explains: “This guarantees even sealing pressure around the edge of the seal, with this being controlled in a “squeezing station” directly following sealing. When the pots are squeezed, the foil seal curves if the pack is air-tight. In the event that no curve is produced, this is detected by the relevant sensors and the pack is rejected. Following inline weighing and the addition of the resealable lid, the finished packs are transferred to the customer’s downstream machines for labelling and final packaging.

Excellent reputation of the DOSOMATS

“Incidentally, Jalna Dairy Foods had yet another point, which was crucial for the order, and was a matter of course for us,” explains Michael Finkenzeller: “The excellent “Made in Germany” construction of the line. This involved our durable solid construction, highly esteemed in the industry, as well as the generally good ease of cleaning of the line to meet the customer’s high hygiene requirements relating to the packaging of foodstuffs. Proprietary CIP (cleaning in place) systems were also supplied to clean the piston fillers.”

WALDNER’s services are also highly appreciated. “Waldner’s service teams carried out all commissioning work on site in collaboration with our local representative ESKO Australia. We also have the edge in terms of reaction times for small or very urgent service work, thanks to our representative located in the immediate vicinity of Jalna Dairy Foods – after all, our responsibility to our customer does not end with the delivery of the machine. We plan routine services or software updates from our head office in Wangen or through the direct VPN connections to the machines,” states Michael Finkenzeller, adding:

“The first DOSOMAT we purchased saved 40g of giveaway on a 2 kg bucket which gave us a number of extra pallets per batch of saleable product. This enticed us to go on and purchase a 2nd and 3rd machine from WALDNER. We now produce more buckets using 8 less operators over the two shifts. All machines have seen production come back into 1-1.5 shifts from 2-2.5. They all have saved at least 5 operators per day.”

Andrew Warton – Production Manager – Jalna Dairy Australia
NEW PREMISES

We have been in Shanghai for almost 5 years and moved into our new, larger offices in July 2017. We have completely renovated the existing premises and fitted them out to meet our needs – with an attractive design and a lot of green, but above all with adequate office space and a practical showroom. The highlight of the new premises is that as we now have 2 floors, we have constructed a small laboratory as a “room-in-room solution” in the showroom on the ground floor and can now look into the laboratory from above (from the office floor) and see all the supply lines and integrated technology. This solution enables us to clearly present and explain the benefits and special features of our laboratory furniture to our customers. The solution is already appealing to our customers – and we are consistently receiving positive feedback from them,” states Maximilian Englisch, General Manager Asia-Pacific, WALDNER Laboreinrichtungen GmbH & Co. KG.

maximilian.englisch@waldner.de
www.waldner-lab.com

NEW FACES

STEPHAN KLEIN
Introducing… My name is Stephan Klein and I am 52 years old, married, with two children. I have been responsible for WALDNER’s Global Supply Chain Management, a new discipline at WALDNER Laboreinrichtungen GmbH & Co. KG, since October 2017. Memorable tasks in my working life to date: After completing my economics degree, I initially worked for 6 years in corporate consulting. I then held a number of international positions in supply chain management, including buying, scheduling, logistics, planning, customer service and after-sales service and had HR responsibility for a number of large teams. What matters to me in my job: Developing solutions to existing challenges with my employees and teams, which offer customers and WALDNER long-term success. Currently I have exciting issues like integrated process orientation, internationalisation, change management and digitalisation at the top of my agenda.

Why I work for WALDNER: WALDNER is a mid-sized, international but traditional company with sophisticated products, excellent employees and a high level of customer focus that therefore finds itself in an excellent competitive position. The opportunity I have as a manager to define, reconfigure and optimise supply chain management as part of a growth strategy, is an extremely exciting and interesting job.

What I do in my free time: Family and friends have priority in my free time. My hobbies include mountain biking, skiing, gardening, reading and football.

stephan.klein@waldner.de

FABIAN HECHT
Introducing… My name is Fabian Hecht and I am 32 years old, married, with one child. I have been working at WALDNER since September 2017 as construction manager in the DOSOMAT Packaging Machines division.

Memorable tasks in my working life to date: You might call me a “WALDNER child”: I’ve worked for WALDNER since 2001, my whole working life, and have undertaken technical as well as commercial training on the job. I even had a holiday job at WALDNER Laboreinrichtungen GmbH & Co. KG before I joined the company. What matters to me in my job: Constantly further developing the packaging machines together with my team, technically as well as customer-focused, working to find solutions, making decisions and making a difference. Oh, and also being there for my employees and also for WALDNER.

Why I work for WALDNER: The entire group has an interesting and versatile product range. WALDNER has great potential. I also really appreciate the good working atmosphere.

What I do in my free time: I enjoy travelling with my family and love heading into the nearby mountains with them or cycling through the beautiful Allgäu region.

fabian.hecht@waldner.de

SHANGHAI

“We have been in Shanghai for almost 5 years and moved into our new, larger offices in July 2017. We have completely renovated the existing premises and fitted them out to meet our needs – with an attractive design and a lot of green, but above all with adequate office space and a practical showroom. The highlight of the new premises is that as we now have 2 floors, we have constructed a small laboratory as a “room-in-room solution” in the showroom on the ground floor and can now look into the laboratory from above (from the office floor) and see all the supply lines and integrated technology. This solution enables us to clearly present and explain the benefits and special features of our laboratory furniture to our customers. The solution is already appealing to our customers – and we are consistently receiving positive feedback from them,” states Maximilian Englisch, General Manager Asia-Pacific, WALDNER Laboreinrichtungen GmbH & Co. KG.

maximilian.englisch@waldner.de
www.waldner-lab.com
SOCIAL HELP AT WALDNER

For over 60 years, the WALDNER Group has been committed to helping employees in need – with the help of its own in-house charity, WALDNER-Sozial-Hilfe e.V.

It was the post-war years that shaped the then head of the company Anton Waldner. Small accidents, long illnesses or damage to or around the house could catapult families into serious hardship in those tight times. To offer his employees fast and straightforward help in these cases, he set up the WALDNER-Sozial-Hilfe e.V. charity together with eight other comrades-in-arms. “The aim of the charity is to offer support to workers and employees of the company in times of hardship and need,” as stated in the Articles of Association of the charity registered in 1955.

Voluntary grants
The charity continues to be financed by voluntary grants from the operational WALDNER companies. Several tens of thousands of euro are raised in this way year after year – over one million in donations since 1980. This has enabled the company to support employees in times of hardship in recent years as well, for instance by paying for flood damage, a loading aid for wheelchairs and subsidies for living expenses in the event of illness.

Grants for dental prostheses
Thankfully, such extreme cases of employee hardship have lessened, due to the improved economic situation in the country and better insurance conditions. This has led to the general assembly (representatives of employers and employees) adapting the purpose of the charity to include grants for dental prostheses for WALDNER employees – a cause that now makes up the majority of the charity’s payouts. “We cannot prevent our employees’ physical pain at the dentist, but at least we can avoid their financial pain,” explains Wolfgang Sailer, HR Manager of WALDNER Holding GmbH & Co. KG. In these cases, the social aid charity pays half the cost of the total amount, which the health insurance companies do not pay – up to a maximum of 1,000 per year.

Symbol for continued social involvement
WALDNER employees can apply for a grant from the WALDNER social aid charity after working for the company for just one year. “We are proud that we can offer our employees this kind of support,” states Stephan Schaałe, CEO of WALDNER Holding. “Since it was set up, WALDNER-Sozial-Hilfe e.V. has assisted in numerous individual cases of Waldner employees and offered moral assistance in times of hardship. In memory of Anton Waldner and as a promise of future support for its employees, ‘Waldner Aid’ represents a symbol of the company’s continued social involvement.” However, WALDNER is also socially active outside of the charity and offers financial support or apprentice-workshops to people or social institutions in need. “We take this legacy of Anton Waldner very seriously and will continue it in his name and memory in future,” stresses Stephan Schaałe.

wolfgang.sailer@waldner.de

Anton Waldner (26.11.1916 - 3.04.1998) was committed to his employees from an early stage and also established the charity association.

“The aim of the charity is to offer support to workers and employees of the company in times of hardship and need.”

Photo: Shutterstock
At the 40th anniversary celebration event, that took place on November 30th, LABORPRAXIS awarded pioneers of the industry with the Milestone Award in Lab + Analytics. 15 award-winners, who have shaped the industry with their technologies and developments, have been honored in their most outstanding category.