

EDITORIAL

35 YEARS OF HYDRO-ELEKTRIK GmbH

COMPANY ANNIVERSARY

Questions for the Company Co-founder and Managing Director



Bruno Bachhofer

What do you associate with the date September 9, 1971?

On that day, the company was registered in the Commercial Registry and thus officially founded.

What were the reasons for that step?

For me, owning my own company had always been especially tempting. At that time there was only one company as a contact for local water suppliers - in other words - the market was practically asking for a new company to be founded. Co-founder Anton Locher was employed by that other company as an electrical planner and I was a planner at an engineering firm. We had already worked on several projects together. And so we decided on this step together.

Were the first years easy?

No, not at all. After the first orders, there was a dry spell because the others didn't want any competition and wanted us to run dry. Therefore we had to look around for additional areas of operation. Swimming pool water treatment interested us and with a first order we came into contact with ozone systems. Because there were only large ozone systems at that time, we wanted to build smaller ozone

generators. As it were, that was our introduction to ozone technology.

Looking back, what were the greatest achievements?

Spontaneously, the ozone generator comes to mind. It is still the only generator where ozone production and mixing are so close together. Twenty years ago, we started to enter the drinking water treatment market successfully with drinking water compact units. And then there is of course our tank technology which developed into a main share of our sales within only a few years.

I also consider it a success that we were able to hand things over to a new generation within the family business.

Have there also been serious problems to overcome?

We consider problems challenges to which the appropriate solutions need to be found. For example, a difficult point was the financing for the first company building. It had to be financed through private borrowing as we were not supported by the banks.

Would you choose the path of founding your own company again?

I always enjoyed the work. From time to time there were doubts - especially while developing the tank production as very large financial efforts had to be taken there. In the end we made the right decision and to answer your question: Yes, I would do it again.

You will be 65 next year, but are still very creative. What do you attribute this creativity to?

Well, I was raised with modest means. As I was a child, I didn't have toys, at least not any bought toys. I was always very interested in mechanics. And we had tools and so I made my own toys with them.

Your wishes for the future?

No serious occupational accidents and to sustain my creative power in the coming years.

COMPANY HISTORY

Eras of Success

Hydro-Elektrik GmbH can look back on 35 years of successful business operations. Several significant eras will be summarized below.

Company foundation

With its entry in the Commercial Registry on Thursday, September 9, 1971, the cornerstone was laid for a successful company history. The first office was at Grüner-Turm-Straße 24/1 in the center of Ravensburg.

Shortly after the foundation, Hydro was already employing 6 workers.

The company founders were Anton Locher and Bruno Bachhofer with 50% share each.



Company founders after work

1972

For an order in Tannheim, there was initial contact to the metal workshop Franz Kühle. Kühle offered to handle the welding work and the manufacturing of fittings.

In mid 1972, the first orders were carried out and the foundation was laid for a fruitful cooperation - without a written contract - that still exists today.



1st invoice from the company Kühle to Hydro

1973

With the completion of the first company building, the office was relocated to Angelestraße 50 in Ravensburg-Obereschach. The financing for this building occurred through private borrowing as the banks would not provide credit to the young company.



1973 Company building under construction

1977

The development of chlorine-free swimming pool water treatment necessitated a pool for testing. This was installed in the basement of the company building and was in operation for approximately 8 years. After that, the swimming pool was rebuilt into a conference room. Today this room is used for storage.

1980

Hydro-Elektrik was among the first companies which recognized and used the advantages of new computer-controlled NC machines (Numerically Controlled Machines).

Twenty-six years later, the first machine is still doing its job as part of the daily production. The permanent workforce had grown to 15 employees by 1980.

In the early 1980's, the first drinking water treatment units were constructed. Almost all of these units are still in operation today.

A breakthrough was achieved with the so-called drinking water compact units (TWK). The idea was to construct compact, modern and high-performance units with proven modules, especially with respect to potential exportation.

Today this idea is still the basis for the company's own system technology.

1983/1988

Increasing sales and thus increasing material movement and the corresponding intermediate storage necessitated the

Continued on back page

PERSONAL NEWS

Continued from Page 1
construction of a warehouse at the office.

In late 1986, three work stations were equipped with CAD. After the number of employees had already risen to more than 30 and the space in the office had become tight, the construction of an office building in 1988 provided room for the next 20 years.



1988 Construction of the office building

Today, the office building has nearly reached full capacity.

1997

The death of the company co-founder Anton Locher on May 30, 1997, left a large gap and necessitated far-reaching organizational changes. At the same time, the willingness to invest in the public sector decreased severely.

1998/2003

At the beginning, it was only a fleeting thought to help a customer. In the end, this idea led to the



Headquarters of the group Hydro-Elektrik GmbH in Obereschach

extremely successful high-level tank system: since then, stainless-steel tanks have already replaced more than 100 conventional concrete tanks. In 2003, this development received significant momentum with the building of the tank construction plant.

2002

By buying 90% of Ravensberger Wasseraufbereitungstechnik GmbH (RWT GmbH) in Gütersloh, Hydro-Elektrik widened their scope of operations to the industrial field. RWT GmbH currently has 32 employees.

2003

In early 2003, the introduction of the QM system was completed with certification. The substantial success of the stainless-steel tank system necessitated a massive expansion of the manufacturing area. Therefore, the construction of a production building with 1,000 m² production space was decided upon.

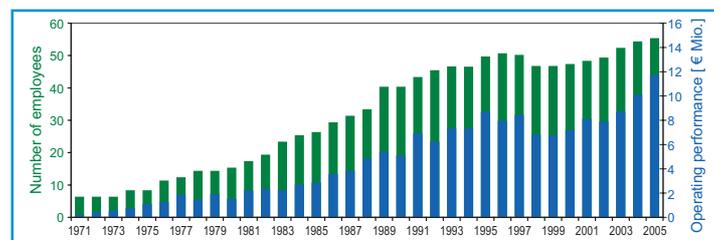
1999/2004

In 1999, a large-scale pilot plant was installed in Trondheim, Norway for the study of ozone biofiltration.

In late 2004, the successful activities in Norway led to the foundation of a 100% subsidiary named Hydro-Elektrik AS, located in Bergen.

2006

Doubling of the floor space in Tannheim with the construction of a further production building. At the end of 2006, Hydro-Elektrik GmbH has 56 employees.



Development of the number of employees and the operating performance

GROUP OF COMPANIES

Including Küchle's employees, the Hydro-Elektrik GmbH group of companies employs approximately 100 workers.



RWT GmbH
Gütersloh
32 employees,
founded 1962

hydro
elektrik

Hydro-Elektrik AS
Bergen - Norway
2 employees,
founded 2004

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EXPANSION OF THE PRODUCTION LOCATION TANNHEIM

A new building for the plant

Just three years ago, the large production building in the Tannheim plant was completed with its 1,000 m² floor space, which was ample for the circumstances at that time.

With the new building, the production floor space will be doubled in the Tannheim plant. With dimensions of 40 x 26 x 12 m (L x W x H), the new building is virtually ideally suited to the existing building. The additional 1,000 m² production space are intended especially for the prefabrication of tank roofs. In the near future, working of plates directly from the coil should



Expansion in Tannheim - 6 months construction period - completion end of January 2007

be made possible using a plasma cutting unit with uncoiling and leveling units. Thus the logistics will be simplified, a larger independence from pre-suppliers will be achieved, and delivery time reduced.

As it is equipped with two crane units (5 and 20 t load capacity) with a hook clearance of 8 m, the coils can be stored in this building in the future. The total investment will amount to approximately 700,000 Euro.