



Expansion of manufacturing facilities at the Buchen site

WEISS is responding to the growing demand at home and abroad with a significant expansion of the manufacturing facility in Buchen. Having begun in March of this year, the eight month plan will give the plant 9,800 m² of additional production and manufacturing area.

The capacity of the Buchen site will be increased by a total of around 70%. The new resources put into place will allow the company to meet the increased demand, reduce delivery times and avoid production shortages. This will also create new jobs for skilled personnel, primarily in manufacturing.

Part of the new area will serve to optimise the dispatching processes. Such an optimisation is necessary due to the continuous diversification of the entire product portfolio and the increasing number of heavy duty applications, the efficient dispatching of which was previously hindered by the lack of available space.

Managing Director Uwe Weiß sees this investment as a clear commitment to the guiding values of WEISS – a commitment to Germany and to the Buchen region. To an uncompromising quality philosophy and – not least – to an employee-oriented business management concept. Bright, open workplaces will be created. Large glass surfaces on the southern side of the building allow outside observers an insight into our production processes. The architecture, part of which consists of a two-level structure, largely

blends in with the existing structures. The latest technology for heat insulation and cooling systems will be installed in line with the latest environmental standards.

Employees' needs at the heart of the architecture
All architectural considerations are focussed on the needs of our employees. Bright and friendly colours are just one result of this. Sound-absorbing acoustic ceilings are to be fitted in order to create pleasant room acoustics. All areas are naturally ventilated and use natural light sources wherever possible. In the medium term, an employee canteen is to be set up in the existing connecting building.

70% more capacity in 8 months



A lot will happen within the planned construction period of eight months: by October, approximately 450 tons of steel for steel structures and around 400 tons of structural steel and 800 cubic meters of concrete will be erected.

The first manufacturing machines are to be installed in October. Production is planned to begin in November.

Example of application: Voestalpine Polynorm

The Voestalpine Polynorm Group is a leading supplier to the automotive industry and specialises in all stages of the development and production process, with expertise in the areas of project management, design, technology, development and production of class A exterior skin components and systems.

Voestalpine Polynorm primarily uses the rotary indexing table range from WEISS. This includes classic rotary tables from the TC series, TR rotary indexing rings, CR heavy-duty rotary



The low overall height of the WEISS CR series is highly beneficial for Voestalpine, as when heavy-duty indexing rings are sunk into the ground, the cables and lines can be laid underground.

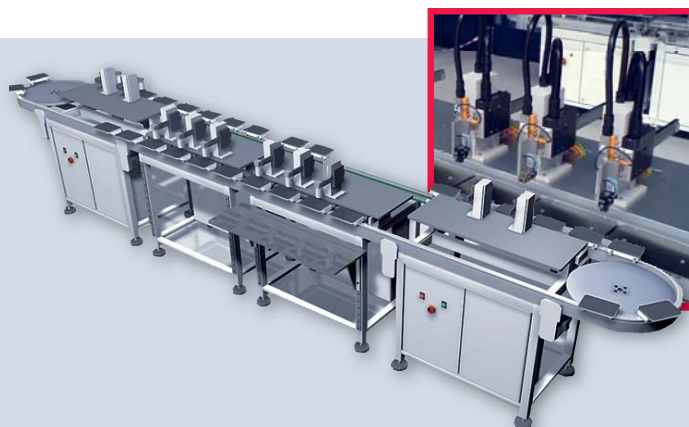
indexing rings and TO torque rotary tables with direct motors. In particular, heavy-duty rotary indexing rings with a load capacity of up to 60,000 kg/m² are being integrated in many of Voestalpine Polynorm's new plants.

Equipment Engineer Rinse Deenik reports on his experiences: "we use WEISS rotary indexing rings that are sunk into the

ground. This allows us to attain an ideal, ergonomic working height, as the rotary indexing rings are used in assembly plants where parts are inserted manually. Therefore we find it very useful that the CR series from WEISS already has a very low overall height. There is also the advantage that the cables and lines can be laid underground when the rotary indexing ring is sunk into the ground, which offers clear safety benefits".

The solutions at a glance

- *The rotary indexing rings at Voestalpine Polynorm are sunk into the ground in order to attain an ideal ergonomic working height. The low overall height of the WEISS CR heavy duty rotary indexing rings simplifies this task.*
- *WEISS products are distinguished by their reliability and long service life. Both factors ensure that the total cost of ownership is low and increases the return on investment.*
- *Integration of rotary tables and robots. On WEISS rotary indexing tables, the motion sequences are perfectly coordinated with external systems – not least through their extreme stability and high level of precision.*



Fast, short cycles are a vital factor in increasing the output of a plant, especially in areas such as the automotive industry, electronics, consumer goods or medicine. In order to meet this requirement, the LS 280 linear assembly system is now also available with a short cycle of 70 mm.

WEISS in Switzerland: New subsidiary founded in April

WEISS has been represented with a subsidiary in Switzerland since 1 April, signalling our intention to react to the growing importance of the Swiss market. Above all, we aim to be a step closer to our customers in Switzerland.

Both employees of the newly-founded subsidiary are well-known figures within the company: for many years, Bruno Schär and Daniel Kauer had the exclusive right to sell WEISS products with our partner in Switzerland.

We support Swiss users in utilising the full potential of our WEISS products by providing product-specific consulting and qualified support on-site. For this purpose we are starting up with a professional team in Grenchen.

We offer support in engineering, product operation and, of course, also in developing customer-specific solutions. And we follow the same principle in consulting as we do in product development: only the best solution is good enough for our customers.



Mr. Schär and Mr. Kauer from WEISS Switzerland.
www.weiss-gmbh.ch

Strong international presence

WEISS is now represented in Europe by four subsidiaries, in the Netherlands, Spain, Great Britain and Switzerland. Together with the area-wide network of agencies, this covers the whole of Western Europe and the most important parts of Eastern Europe.

Moreover, our subsidiary in the USA and further agencies in Asia consolidate our global presence and offer our globally active customers the support they expect.

LS 280 with new short cycle

The new 70 mm short cycle offers two main advantages: the higher packing density for processes relating to small products and the unit's higher total number of cycles, which is facilitated by a workpiece changing time of 0.4 seconds and a performance of up to

60 cycles per minute. With over 160 units sold over the last four years, the LS 280 has enthused an ever-growing number of customers across all industry sectors. This success story can be put down to the unit's many positive attributes: e.g. its jolt and shock-free

movement, short workpiece changing times, high positioning accuracy without the need for additional modules, balancing out of different processing times, autarkic operational assembly cells or modular system design.

A look back at the trade fairs

Munich: WEISS was a resounding success at Automatica. WEISS presented selected products and demonstrated their interaction with one another at a new stand at the trade fair, which took place in Munich between 10 and 13 June. The level of interest from visitors was astonishingly high, with the sheer number of interested visitors at the stand exceeding even the most optimistic expectations.



Friendly, bright, open: The bright and welcoming new WEISS trade fair stand.

The user-friendly integration of different components was the focus of the trade fair for WEISS. Amongst other things, the interaction of the new HP 140T handling module with both the LS 280 linear assembly system and the directly driven TO torque rotary table was demonstrated. The CR heavy-duty series was another highlight. The smallest and – in relation to its size – strongest member of this series was unveiled: the CR 500 with a 500 mm rotating plate.

The "Ich WEISS" campaign

The new campaign focuses on WEISS's ability to convert customer wishes into solutions as a genuine solutions provider. "Ich WEISS" ("I know") places the limelight on the company's employees as specialists and ambassadors and emphasises the solutions expertise of WEISS.

Front in picture: Wolfgang Lehnert, long standing Product Manager of WEISS.



Spain – Netherlands - Switzerland International trade fairs 2008



Pictures (from top to bottom):
(1) Bilbao, Spain: Biemh, 3 to 8 March. WEISS exhibited at the „Bienal de máquinas y Herramientas“, the best-known specialist trade fair for automation in northern Spain, for the second time. There was particularly great demand for the LS, CR and TR series.



(2) Moutier, Switzerland: SIAMS, 20 to 24 May. Under the slogan „switch on and experience live“, visitors to SIAMS encountered products and solutions offered by WEISS. The large number of interested visitors validated the decision to found the WEISS Switzerland subsidiary.



(3) Utrecht, Netherlands: Technishow, 11 to 15 March. This was the first time that WEISS had been present at the Technishow. Numerous prospective customers from various sectors were in attendance. There was a particularly high level of interest in the heavy-duty rotary indexing rings; an encouraging development ahead of the broadening of the CR range.



(4) WEISS competition at the Technishow: Mr. Klieverik of WEISS Netherlands presents the first prize, a ball used at the Euro 2008 tournament, to Tom de Haan, Project Engineer at Rolan Robotics in Zwaag.

Further trade fair dates in 2008

- 22.-25.09 Motek, Stuttgart
- 23.-25.09 Assembly Technology Expo, Rosemont (Chicago), USA
- 06.-08.10. AWS Welding Show, Las Vegas, USA
- 21.-25.10 EuroBLECH, Hannover
- 18.-21.11 Swisstech, Basel