

2021

ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE

EXPERIENCE
FOR TOMORROW

SEMPERIT 



EXPERIENCE FOR TOMORROW

In a world that never stands still, Semperit keeps technology and infrastructure running with highly specialized elastomer products. As a reliable partner, we produce function-critical systems and components that enhance the performance of our customers in a wide range of industries worldwide. And not just since yesterday, but since 1824.

Enabling innovation – that marked the beginning of Semperit more than 200 years ago: offering products that provide customers with a clear advantage. What was the innovation of water-repellent clothing back then is now the flying conveyor belt, our hybrid handrail or the Silent Pad for rail transport.

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME AND SUCCESS STORIES

There are only a few industrial companies in Central Europe whose roots can be traced back seamlessly to the 19th century. Semperit is one of these companies and one of the oldest industrial firms in Austria. This is a good opportunity to reflect, but also to take a closer look at our path to a successful future. In our anniversary magazine, we do both. We take a journey through Semperit's history, which is a story of outstanding personalities and innovative ideas, but also an eventful history of existential threats and resounding success. And we will tell the most exciting stories of our company from yesterday, today and tomorrow.

FIVE SUCCESS FACTORS

Companies are living organisms. Similar to us humans, companies also have a kind of genetic imprint. For Semperit, five success factors run like a red thread through our history and point the way to a successful future.

- **Global Pioneer:** at Semperit, success has only been possible through thinking and acting on an international scale for over 200 years.
- **Innovation engine:** enabling innovation marked the beginning of Semperit in 1824. And today, our innovations still keep our customers' technology and infrastructure running.
- **Customer player:** through our commitment to going the extra mile, we have gradually become our customers' partner of choice over the years.
- **Solution maker:** "Semper it", there is always a solution – this is the mindset that has made Semperit resilient and successful over two centuries.
- **Sustainable partner:** Semperit would not have reached its 200th anniversary without sustainability in its corporate DNA. Nor would a good future for Semperit be possible without sustainability.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE

Our centuries of experience, our global presence and our focus on our success factors enable Semperit to actively shape the future. With technologies that we are constantly developing, we keep our customers' infrastructure and technology running in tomorrow's world. Because one thing is clear: at Semperit, there is always a solution.

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GLOBAL PIONEER

For over 200 years, success at Semperit has only been possible by thinking and acting on an international scale. This was true before the First World War, when Semperit was already a multinational company by the standards of the time. And it is all the more true today and in the future, as we continuously expand our global footprint and grow intelligently and profitably as a leading supplier.

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FOR ALL MARKETS

ALWAYS AT HAND – WORLDWIDE

Semperit has been manufacturing handrails for 70 years, initially in Austria, then also in China and the USA. The company now supplies the whole world. What's special about handrails made by Semperit is that you can rely on them even under the most difficult conditions, whether it's +50 °C in Las Vegas or -20 °C in the Austrian Alps.

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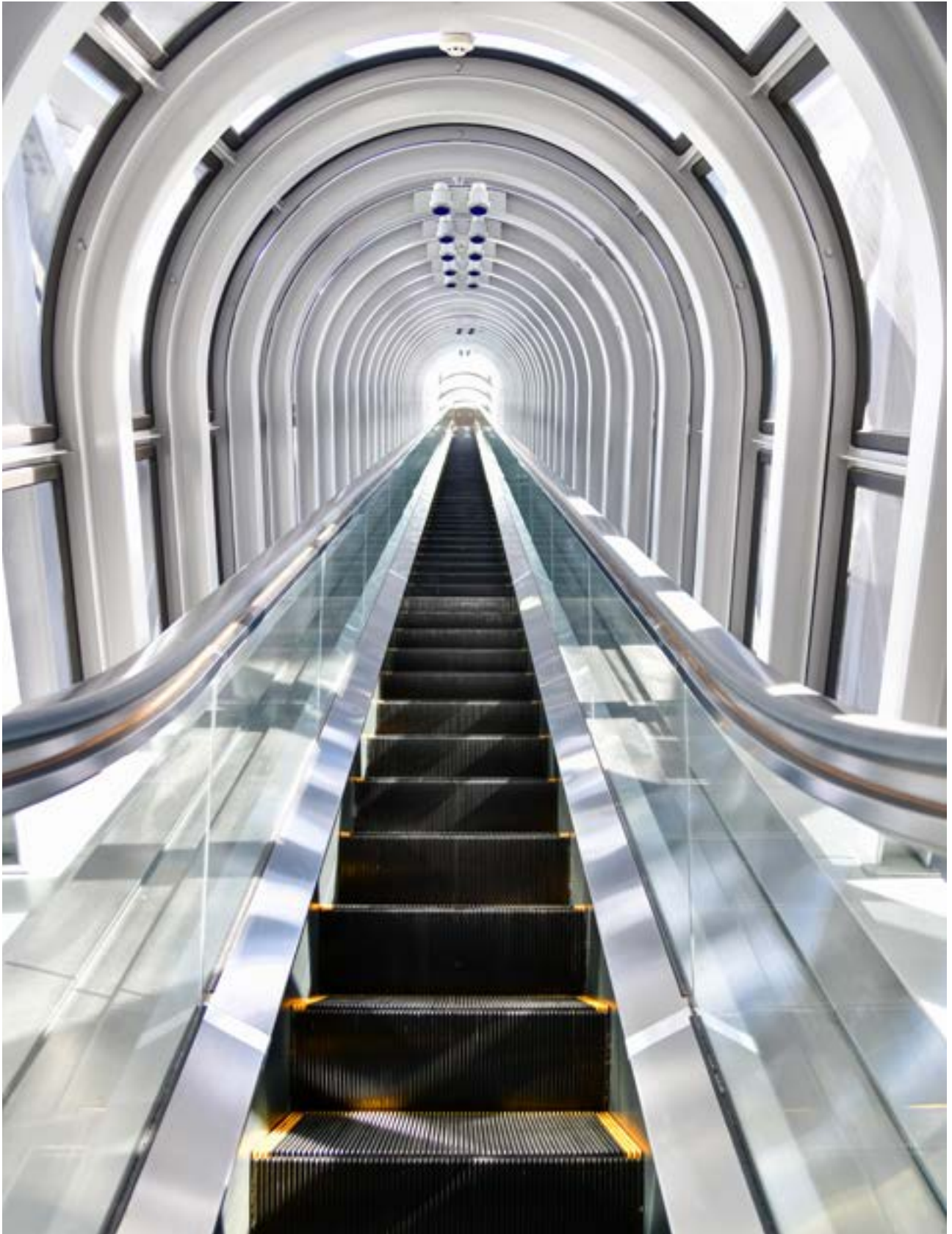
"I love them all," says Dennis Zhang, just back from a business trip through China. And by that he means the many showcase projects in Asian cities where Semperit handrails ensure that people reach their destination safely. Semperit's General Manager China & Asia Pacific doesn't want to name a favorite project, but two in particular remain in his memory: the National Grand Theatre in Beijing with its impressive escalator, and Lhasa Airport in Tibet, where the Semperit handrails rotate in lofty heights of around 3,600 meters. Knowing that every third handrail in the world is made by Semperit, the choice is not easy. In Europe, the market share is around three quarters, in America and Asia up to 50 percent according to our latest data. In total, Semperit handrails are used in escalators and moving staircases in more than 80 countries worldwide.

"And we want to continue to grow. The conditions, particularly in Asia, are good. Due to the high level of investment in infrastructure, demand remains high.

Unlike in Europe and America, where a large part of our turnover comes from the service and spare parts business, the majority of our business here is still in new systems, for example for airports, metro and railway stations. The switch from road to rail is also playing into our hands here," Dennis says. The aim is to win over new customers with Semperit's typical reliability and high product and service quality.

SHINY PROSPECTS

Semperit has been present in Shanghai for 30 years with its own handrail factory, now the largest in the world, and supplies the entire Asia-Pacific region from here. According to Dennis, the company has developed rapidly: "In 2000, we produced 100,000 meters, broke through the one-million-meter barrier in 2010, and with almost 2.0 million meters at present, we are already scratching the next milestone." The manager, who has been on board with Semperit for 14 years, sees many attractive target markets in Asia: "I'm thinking of India, for example, where we are only



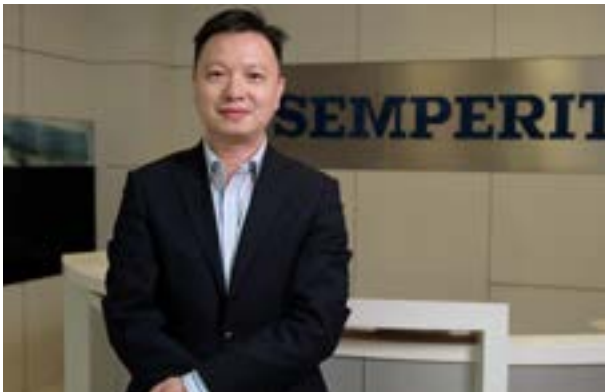
Semperit handrails are used in escalators and moving walkways in more than 80 countries worldwide. They can also be found in Japan, as here in the striking Umeda Sky Building in Osaka.



Semperit's attractive target markets in Asia include India, Japan and South Korea.

at ten percent of Chinese demand. And, of course, Japan and South Korea. With our latest product line, we have already been able to gain a good foothold in Japan in recent years, as it meets the technical requirements of the linear drive stairs commonly used there.”

But not only the escalator drive system in Japan is completely different from that in Europe, so are the design requirements: “The Japanese and the overall Asian market is often enthusiastic about shiny, shimmering surfaces in different colors, in contrast to the black and matt handrails that are often used elsewhere. We have had colored handrails in our range for quite some time, but until recently the glossy finish has not been possible with our handrails. This has changed with Semperit’s latest innovation, the hybrid handrail. It combines the best properties of rubber with those of plastic. With a glossy surface that can also be changed in color and a very good bending ability, it has already convinced many of our Asian customers,” says Dennis. That’s not surprising, as Semperit’s hybrid handrail is an innovation that was previously not available on the



Dennis Zhang and the global handrail team further expand Semperit’s market position.

market. While the bending properties of the rubber ensure long-lasting and smooth operation in the escalator system, the smooth and glossy surface of the polymer offers functional advantages – in terms of grip and maintenance for a safe ride.

“Our new hybrid handrail combines the best properties of rubber with those of plastic.”

Dennis Zhang, General Manager China & Asia Pacific

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SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

In any case, Dennis and the global Semperit handrail team will certainly not be bored in the future. The requirements will continue to increase, for example with regard to sustainability. “Recycling is the big innovation trend; the topic has gained massive momentum. We want to give our customers an advantage here too and are working on new product solutions with significant recycled content,” he says, looking ahead.

With innovations such as these, Semperit wants to further expand its market position and inspire customers such as Schindler, Kone, TKE, OTIS, Hitachi, Mitsubishi Electric, Fujitec, Toshiba, Canny, SJEC and so on – from Hawaii to Tokyo, from Helsinki to Johannesburg, from Dubai to Moscow, from Vienna to Shanghai.

IN THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

For the Semperit sites, the USA means one thing above all: growth potential. A tour of the industries that hold the greatest promise for the global pioneer in this dynamic market.

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RAIL AND AIR TRAFFIC

The USA – the land of skyscrapers and boundless space, but also of shopping malls and airports. No other country in the world has more airports than the USA. And Semperit handrails are installed on the escalators in almost every one of them. To keep them running, Semperit offers comprehensive after-sales services locally. “We are fast and good at responding to customer requests, which has made us a leading partner of the major escalator manufacturers. We are perfectly positioned to benefit from the continued increase in passenger numbers,” says Petr Foltin, Managing Director in Newnan, Georgia, and Head of Finance Americas at Semperit.

But growth is not limited to handrails at airports. More passenger traffic is also expected at train

stations in the future. Unlike in China or Europe, there are still hardly any high-speed rail lines in the USA. Expanding them should help to achieve more traffic. A new high-speed connection is to be built from Los Angeles to Las Vegas by 2028, which means enormous potential for Semperit’s rail pads and rail intermediate layers. The same applies to the route from L.A. to San Francisco.

MINING

The hunger for raw materials is driving the mining industry in the United States. More than 12,000 active mines recently generated added value of around 80 billion US dollars. Semperit conveyor belts are increasingly being used to transport iron ore, copper and other minerals safely and efficiently from A to B. Semperit will continue to expand this business.

“We are already the supplier of the largest US mining company and are expanding our activities in the USA,” says Semperit manager Petr Foltin.

“We are the supplier of the largest US mining company.”

Petr Foltin, Head of Finance Americas

However, conveyor belts are not the only Semperit products used in mining. Hydraulic hoses from Semperit are used in gigantic excavators and trucks, as well as in many other vehicles and agricultural machines. Here, too – like in the area of industrial hoses for the construction, chemical or food industry – Semperit, as a quality provider, is recording increasing demand and is gradually expanding its local capacities.

CONSTRUCTION

The US construction industry is on the rise. Almost all sectors have recently seen growth, and this trend is expected to continue in the coming years. Market researchers expect annual growth of around five percent until 2028. These are good framework conditions for Semperit to further expand its business with window and door seals, says Petr Foltin: “Issues such as energy efficiency or climate change are driving business in the field of specialty products in the quality segment. We offer these products, with local production and very fast responsiveness. In other words, exactly what our customers want.”

HEALTHCARE

Silicone components for eye surgery devices, micro-components for portable insulin pumps or respirators are just a few of the products that Semperit manufactures for the medical technology sector with its subsidiary Rico in the USA. These products are in high demand due to the megatrend in healthcare. To meet the growing demand, Semperit is doubling the size of its site in Miramar, Florida. With an additional 40,000 sqm of new production, storage and office space, Semperit is creating room for further growth.



Petr Foltin and his team are driving Semperit’s business in the US growth market.



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From China to Australia and South Africa, all the way to the USA and Canada – Borer Miners are used around the world in Sandvik projects. Including the hidden champion Semperit Flexline Plus.

UNDER- GROUND UNDER PRESSURE

Companies like Sandvik, which manufacture high-performance mining and tunneling machines for the global market also require worldwide availability from their suppliers. With subsidiaries in Asia, Europe and America as well as four plants, Semperit scores with local support and a global presence.



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The hydraulic spiral hose withstands the most extreme conditions in mining.

The Borer Miner SANDVIK MF420 for underground mining weighs 245 tonnes, is 15 meters long and has a power of 2,000 hp. It was developed by the engineers at the “Cutting Rock Processing” competence center at Sandvik’s Austrian site in Zeltweg to powerfully cut through granite, gypsum, potash salt, metals and more. In this impressive machine, there is a hidden champion called Semperit Flexline Plus – a hydraulic spiral hose that can withstand even the most extreme applications such as mining, as Martin Löbl, Head of Product Management Hydraulics at Semperit Industrial Applications, explains: “The Flexline Plus is ideal for ultra-high-pressure applications and can also be installed in small installation spaces thanks to its exceptionally tight bending radius. This is important because space is still limited inside these huge machines. Sandvik was one of the first customers to use our new spiral hose in 2022.”

“We need reliable partners with expertise in mining – like Semperit.”

Reinhold Pogatschnigg, Sandvik Mining and Construction

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The cooperation between Sandvik and Semperit has proven its worth for quite some time. Even if it did not start in the very early years, which in both cases were a very long time ago – Sandvik was founded in 1862, Semperit in 1824 – it has certainly been decades.

Martin Löbl remembers the beginning: “We had been supplying Sandvik in Finland via a partner for some time when the opportunity arose in 2009 to convince the Sandvik site in Zeltweg of the quality of our hoses. Harsh operating conditions prevail, especially in mining – a hose must not fail immediately during use.” The hose must be robust and ensure reliability during operation, as Reinhold Pogatschnigg, responsible for Hydraulic & Fluid Engineering at Sandvik, emphasizes: “To ensure this, we demand proof in advance at Sandvik. In addition to impulse pressure tests and burst tests, this also includes tests on the abrasion resistance of the hose surface.”

It is also important to Sandvik that Semperit is positioned worldwide, so that good local support can be organized quickly in the event of problems – for example with mining approvals, which pose different challenges in every country. Thomas Paulischin, Product Manager Hydraulic Hoses at Semperit, recalls an example from China: “For the use of Sandvik machines in mining, but also for the hydraulic hose, approval is required from the Chinese mining authorities. We cooperated very closely and coordinated almost daily with our Sandvik and Semperit colleagues on site in China. Our production sites in Wimpassing and Odry were also specially audited for this purpose. We all pulled together and after two years the permit was granted. When international cooperation works so smoothly, it’s really great.” Reinhold Pogatschnigg from Sandvik also appreciates the cooperation with Semperit in approval processes: “A basic requirement for the use of the hoses is proof of fire resistance and electrical conductivity of the hose surface. After all, they are



also used in potentially explosive environments. Semperit provides these certificates, has built up special knowledge in recent years and actively supports us in approval processes. This is one of the main reasons why Sandvik has entered into a close partnership with Semperit.”

“The Flexline Plus is ideal for ultra-high-pressure applications.”

Martin Löbl, Semperit Industrial Applications

POWER UNDERGROUND

Back to the Borer Miners and their areas of application worldwide. From China, Australia and South Africa to the USA and Canada – they are used in Sandvik

projects around the world, including the hydraulic hoses from Semperit. Above all, they are used in underground mining for driving roadways and extracting raw materials. For example, potash salt, a coveted raw material for the fertilizer industry. Sandvik Zeltweg supplies one of the world’s largest potash mines in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan with underground mining systems: “Each of these systems consists of a Sandvik MF460 Borer Miner, which cuts the material and automatically feeds it to a continuous conveyor belt system. For the largest single order in our company’s history to date, we need reliable partners with expertise in mining – like Semperit,” says Reinhold Pogatschnigg from Sandvik.

The global hunger for raw materials will continue to ensure high demand for Sandvik and Semperit products. Because: “Where tonnes of rock have to be moved, power is needed, and hydraulics is and remains the first choice,” says Martin Löbl, taking a look into the future.

ONE TEAM FOR ALL MARKETS

More and more people worldwide are living in cities. As a result, the demand for infrastructure investments is high. How Sempertrans is using this trend for global growth and why personal relationships lead to the best solutions.

18 “Three megatrends are currently the main drivers of our conveyor belt business: urbanization, electrification and green energy,” says Stephan Paischer, who has been with Semperit for over 20 years and is currently Head of Global Product Management at the conveyor belt specialist Sempertrans. He explains how these megatrends affect the business using a few examples: “More people in more cities means that more steel, more cement, and also more fertilizers are needed

for the food industry. The switch to e-mobility has led to a huge increase in demand for copper, while aluminum is essential for energy-efficient lightweight construction. Zinc and nickel, on the other hand, are needed for the expansion of wind power. All these materials have to be transported safely, and in an energy-efficient manner, and that’s where our conveyor belts come into play.” They are produced at two strategically positioned locations and delivered from there to customers all over the world.



Stephan Paischer managed expansion projects for Semperit worldwide.

FROM POLAND TO THE WORLD

The conveyor belt factory in Bełchatów, Poland, specializes in heavy, wide conveyor belts for a highly international market. From Poland, the factory supplies mining customers in America, Asia and partly also in Africa. “We can optimally leverage our strengths in international business. Our conveyor belts are key products used in important plants. This means that the entire value chain is at a standstill if products do not work. It is therefore crucial to respond quickly to problems and find solutions. This is precisely what sets us apart at Sempertrans.”



With customers from the steel segment such as Tata Steel or ArcelorMittal, Sempertrans scores with the longer lifespan of its high-quality conveyor belts.

IN INDIA, FOR INDIA – AND THE WORLD

In Roha, India, Semperit primarily produces for the local market. There is a great deal of catching up to do when it comes to roads and urban infrastructure: “The Indian market is developing very dynamically. Our focus is on the premium segment, where we stand out because our high-quality products have a longer lifespan. This is very important for customers in the steel segment, such as Tata Steel or ArcelorMittal. Heat resistance is included, needless to say,” emphasizes Paischer. In addition to production for India, Roha also exports to Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

“The Indian market is developing very dynamically.”

Stephan Paischer, Head of Global Product Management Sempertrans

AS RELIABLE AS STEEL

Speaking of ArcelorMittal: the global steel company has been a Sempertrans customer for a long time. In India, but also in Europe. The country’s largest

steelworks is located in Dunkirk, not far from France’s number one ore port. “Just in time” – that’s what ArcelorMittal expects from its partners. The blast furnaces should never come to a standstill: “Over the last 30 years, our service unit has taken over the maintenance of almost all conveyor belts in Dunkirk. And in doing so, we have proven to be as reliable as steel with our 24/7 availability. This is indispensable, especially in emergencies,” emphasizes Paischer.

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Despite all the virtual possibilities, customer relationships are about personal contact, says Paischer: “People like to do business with people. And face-to-face, it’s easier to understand the customer’s needs or problems in the smallest detail.” Stephan Paischer worked for Semperit in France for many years and managed expansion projects in Poland and India. One thing he realized during this time is that “relationships can only be developed in person. This applies to our customers as well as to my colleagues. We are one global team and come up with the most pragmatic, simple and customer-centered solutions when we put our heads together on the ground.”



INNOVATION ENGINE

Enabling innovation was the birth of Semperit in 1824: developing products that give our customers a clear advantage. What was then water-repellent clothing is now our technologically sophisticated innovations, which we also use to keep the technology and infrastructure of the world of tomorrow running.

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IT'S ALL IN THE MIX

FROM CURIOSITY TO BREAKTHROUGH

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Armin Holzner has worked for Semperit for 30 years and has headed the Research and Development department for decades. With responsibility for eight R&D locations worldwide, more than 180 employees and over 250 projects, he plays a key role in the company's progress. The focus is increasingly on topics such as the circular economy and energy efficiency. In this interview, he reveals why these areas will occupy his team the most in the future and what is at the heart of research and development.

Research & development is always about progress. What are the main areas at Semperit?

We have divided development into three areas: firstly, material development, secondly process development and thirdly product development. Supported by the laboratories, knowledge management and intellectual property rights. And yes, all areas are about innovation and improvement. In some cases, this can be a tiny corner that is added to or taken from a product, but sometimes it can also be a revolution, as in the case of the circular economy.

Every year, Semperit invests tens of millions of euros in research & development. Which projects have been driven forward recently?

A lot of progress has been made in the hose sector, for example with the abrasion-resistant, flame-retardant cover for hydraulic hoses and with our extra high-temperature-resistant hose, where we have almost reached the end of development. We are probably the best in the world in this area. In the case of conveyor belts, we develop surfaces that prevent the transported goods from sticking to the belt. Such anti-stick conveyor belts are what the market demands. We developed a new material for profiles in order to achieve a very good sliding effect with a very good sealing effect at the same time.



Armin Holzner heads Research and Development at Semperit. Circularity is currently his main focus.

This was achieved by coating a rubber seal with thermoplastic vulcanizate. This product is intended to replace brush seals in sliding doors, significantly improving the sealing effect of these door elements. Another development relates to highly thermally insulating gaskets specifically for aluminum windows, which are currently being launched on the market. In the case of rail pads, we developed a “silent pad 2.0” in a combination of new material with a new geometry, which enables further noise reduction in rail traffic. However, these were just a few examples, as we work on several hundred R&D projects every year.

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What is the starting point of an R&D project – is it always a market requirement?

Often, but not always. Over the last years, we have built up our own innovation pipeline, which is fed with ideas both internally and from the market. It is now much broader and has its own system. That was a truly groundbreaking change at Semperit.

Speaking of groundbreaking. That also applies to the efforts towards a circular economy. Where is Semperit currently standing?

Yes, circularity is our biggest focus. We are trying to reuse 100 metric tons of our own recycled material in our products as a first milestone. In the case of rail pads, for example, we are currently working on a project with Deutsche Bahn. Customers for cable car rings, ski foils, track belts and pipe seals also require products with sustainable or recycled content; and we have already succeeded in recycling up to 70 percent of our window profiles. Customers are showing great interest, as this in turn enables them to reduce the CO₂ footprint of their products. The decisive factor is that the quality does not suffer as

a result of the recycled material, and the properties remain unchanged. And that’s anything but trivial.

But trivial would probably be a kind of threat for a researcher anyway, wouldn’t it?

That’s right, I would quickly get bored without complicated problems. I am a very curious and persistent person. I get stuck into solving problems and don’t give up. Because even if you tried something five years ago and it didn’t work out, it may very well work now with new framework conditions.



More than 180 employees work at eight R&D locations worldwide to ensure Semperit’s progress.

I'm also someone who likes to question things fundamentally, and I think that's not just important for developers. In short, I think I have the most exciting job in the whole company.

Is there something that you would describe as the heart of research & development at Semperit?

Innovation management is immensely important, because if we focus on the wrong project, it's just a matter of empty miles. That's a management task. But at the heart of it for me is the ability of each

team member to solve problems – with knowledge, analysis, logic and creativity. Because only with these tools can I coordinate material, process and product in such a way that the result is what the customer wants and buys. Ultimately, you can see the result in the figures. Semperit generates millions of euros in revenue from new products every year.

“We have built up our own innovation pipeline.”

Armin Holzner, Head of R&D, Semperit Group

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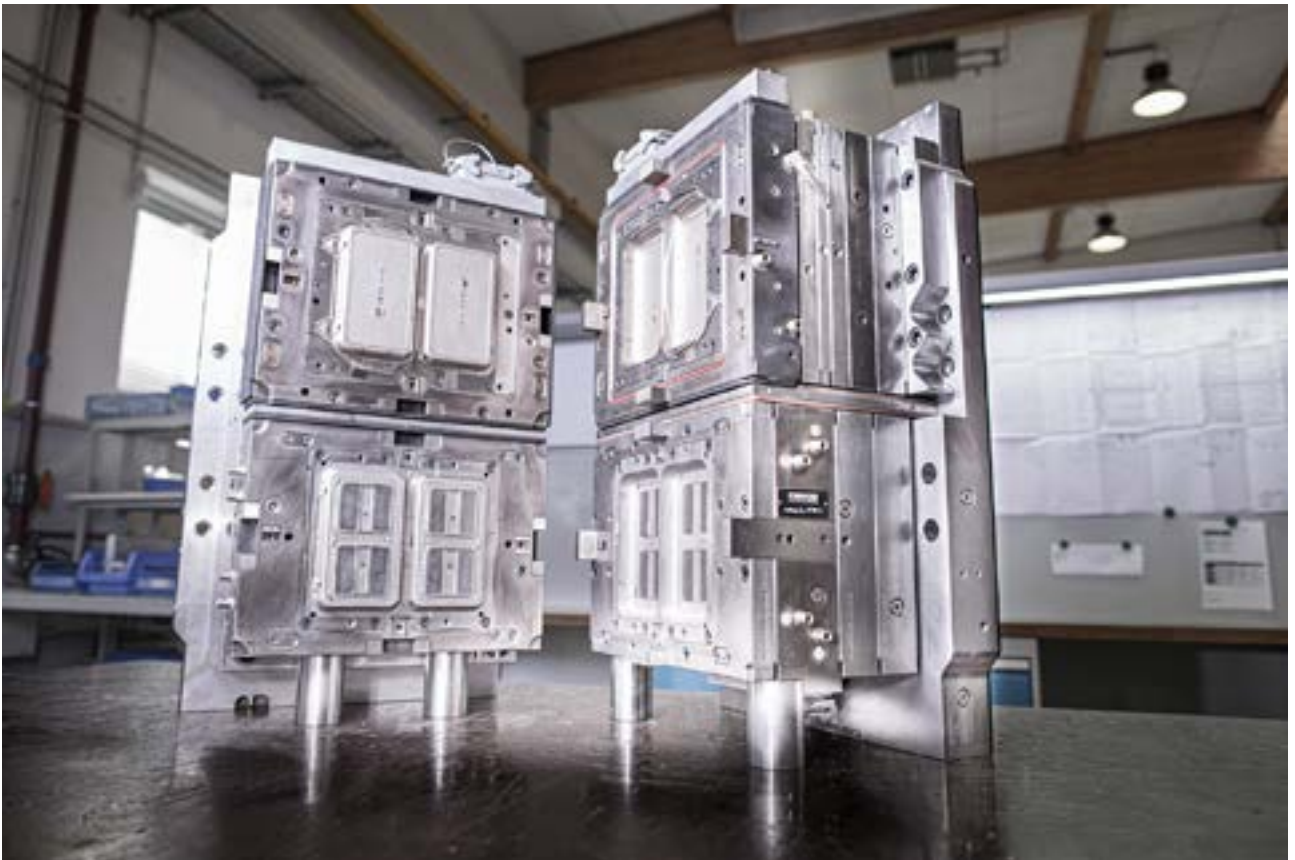
Finally, a forecast for the future: which topics will occupy you and your R&D team the most in the coming years?

Clearly the circular economy and energy efficiency in processes. The framework conditions will change. In seven to ten years, it will no longer be a question of “can” or “should”, but of “must”. We are therefore investing in our production methods to make them as energy efficient as possible. I am very optimistic about this, because there is so much potential when you look at the big picture. And in the area of circularity, a large number of start-ups have popped up that are trying to recycle rubber using new methods. We would never have dreamed of this five years ago. We cooperate with them, send them our off-spec products and get recycled material back. We are learning an enormous amount at the moment.

10 QUESTIONS ABOUT LIQUID SILICONE

Silicone is very demanding in processing. The material follows its own rules in injection molding and demolding and presents challenges for mold producers and plastic molders. Semperit covers the entire value chain for liquid silicone – from prototype development and mold production to large-scale production, including cleanroom manufacturing. Find out how much technology, precision and, more recently, AI are required in the interview in figures with Thomas Aichberger, Managing Director of the Semperit subsidiary Rico, where liquid silicone expertise is bundled.

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In moldmaking, accuracy in the micrometer range is required. That is a millionth of a meter. By way of comparison, what is the typical diameter of a human hair?

50–100µm

The demands are also growing in the medtech segment, with higher output being required. How many micro-molded parts can Rico's most cavity-rich silicone mold deliver per day?

1.5 million

Silicone vulcanizes extremely fast when exposed to high temperatures. This makes it possible to manufacture very thin-walled and complex parts. What temperature can be reached?

220°C

Rico is a reliable partner of the automotive industry. What percentage of molds and silicone components go to European tier 1 producers in the mobility segment?

80%

And what is the maximum pressure when liquid silicone is injected into the heated mold?

2,500 bar

How innovative is Rico, on a scale of 0 to 100?

85

Up to how many silicone parts can be produced in a single tool within seconds?

256

Approximately how many Rico products does the average EU citizen encounter every day?

5–10

Miniaturization trend: parts made of liquid silicone are found in many medical products, and they are getting smaller and smaller. How much do micro-seals for insulin pumps weigh, for example?

0,01–0,02g

The use of artificial intelligence is revolutionizing innovation management. Your estimate: what percentage of new technologies in the LSR sector will be developed with AI support in 2030?

95%

SMOOTH TRANSPORT UNDER HARSH CONDITIONS

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Conveyor belts from Sempertrans ensure reliable transport at the highest capacity.



Black and flat, that's the superficial view. Abrasion-resistant, flame-retardant, oil-, heat- or cold-resistant, energy-saving – that's what a glance into the depths of Semperit's innovative conveyor belts reveals. Thanks to intensive research and development, they perform at their best even under the harshest conditions, for example in mining.

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Installing the flying belt in Barroso, Brazil

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If you let your eyes wander, you see bouncing kangaroos. If you move closer, the harsh world of Australia’s third largest nickel mine opens up. Every year, 30,000 tonnes of nickel are mined here, a much sought-after raw material, for electromobility among other things. When looking for the perfect transport solution on the winding route from the mine to the production site, the global mining company First Quantum Minerals opted for Semperit’s Transevo energy-saving belts. “With Transevo, our R&D team managed to reduce rolling resistance by using a special rubber compound that saves up to 25 per cent energy compared to a standard compound,” says Alan D’Arcy, Head of Application Engineering & Global Service at Semperit, who works at the interface between technology, sales and R&D. After manufacturing the 18-kilometre-long belts at the Polish plant in Bełchatów and shipping them to Australia, D’Arcy and his team ensured, through close co-operation with a local partner, the smooth



The flying belt transports thousands of tons of limestone per hour in the Brazilian highlands.



Alan D’Arcy & Rafal Szkodzincki, Application Engineering

installation and splicing of the belts on site. Always with the aim of increasing the customer’s productivity: “Our conveyor belts not only save energy, they are also impact- and abrasion-resistant and therefore make a significant contribution to increased efficiency and safety when transporting raw materials. After all, the worst thing that can happen to our customer is that the conveyor system comes to a temporary standstill,” D’Arcy explains.

MASTERPIECES OF TECHNOLOGY

These are arguments that have been convincing mining companies around the world of the innovations from Semperit R&D for many years. Whether it is the Flying Belt, which transports thousands of tonnes of



limestone per hour at a height of up to 36 metres in the Brazilian mountains, or the overland conveyor systems of one of the world's largest copper mines in Peru.

There, too, steel cord conveyor belts from Semperit ensure reliable transport at maximum capacity, even under extreme conditions. "We are a manufacturer that can produce conveyor belts as complex as the Flying Belt. Customised solutions are our strength, and we truly support our customers right up to the last step. During the project in Peru, our service technicians ensured the perfect splicing of the conveyor belts on site on rough terrain at up to 4,000 metres above sea level," D'Arcy says.

"We are a manufacturer that can produce conveyor belts as complex as the Flying Belt."

Alan D'Arcy, Head of Application Engineering & Global Service

SOLUTIONS FOR TOMORROW

Looking to the future, D'Arcy emphasises the increasing demand for mineral raw materials. After all, without copper or nickel, no electric car will drive off the lot. "We are realising more and more projects for copper and nickel mines, particularly in South America and Australia. These are tough processes. In copper mining in particular, the rock is sharp and heavy and can damage the conveyor belts. We have therefore developed our own rubber compound that is particularly abrasion-resistant, flexible, and strong in tension. This improves the performance of the conveyor systems and maximises our customers' investment," says the Head of Application Engineering. He spends four to five months a year travelling around the world: "Mining is a global business. We are wherever our projects are. That's also what fascinates me about this job. The variety of tasks and the direct contact with our customers all over the world." The team is always looking for ways to improve things and passes this feedback on to the R&D team. In this way, materials, manufacturing processes and product quality are constantly optimised for the benefit of Semperit's customers – and this is how the limits of technical performance are constantly pushed forward.

IT'S ALL IN THE MIX

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“At the beginning, every Semperit product looks the same. We have the cradle of Semperit here, so to speak,” says Norbert Wlaka, pointing to the rubber package emerging from the mixer. This package has a temperature of up to 180 degrees Celsius and is now quickly processed into a rubber sheet using an extruder or rollers and prepared for further use in the various elastomer products.



Whether it's a hose, profile, conveyor belt or handrail – the quality and durability of elastomer products are based on the right rubber compound. At Semperit, mixing is done in-house at several locations in Europe and Asia and comprises around 100,000 tonnes per year. This corresponds to an 80-centimeter-wide carpet runner extending from Vienna to Beijing.

Semperit products are given important properties that determine their quality and durability because the recipe of the rubber mixture has a significant influence on the physical, mechanical, thermal and chemical properties of the end product. By adjusting the mixture, specific attributes such as hardness, elasticity, strength and durability can be optimized. In the case of conveyor belts, this can lead to significantly reduced rolling resistance and thus to energy savings for the customer. For window profiles, on the other hand, it can result in optimized sliding properties or weldable seals.

STRONG BASIS FOR TWO DIVISIONS

The recipe for the mixture is designed by Semperit's R&D department, which works closely with the Mixing division. Research and development and the company's own mixing activities at Semperit's four locations in Europe and three in Asia thus form the common strong basis for Semperit's two divisions.

The customized compounds for individual products and customers and the know-how built on 200 years of experience are important reasons for the decision to mix the materials in-house. The high

flexibility and speed for new products and price changes for raw materials, independence and a more attractive cost structure are further factors.

“In total, we have around 500 different mixtures for our current product range,” says Norbert Wlaka, who has been responsible for Semperit’s Mixing since 2010. Depending on the ingredients, there are different variants of each mixture, known as “compositions”. The entire recipe book for rubber mixtures from the last 200 years can probably be described as an encyclopedia.

There are four groups of ingredients for rubber compounds: the starting point is the polymer, which can be a synthetic rubber or natural rubber. The added filler, for example carbon black, chalk or silicates, ensures the specific mechanical properties or reduces the mixing costs; plasticizers, such as oils, determine the elasticity and flexibility of the rubber. They are supplemented by additives that are used to improve the properties of the respective product. They can be flame retardants, for example, which increase the safety of the material, antioxidants, which extend the service life, or adhesives, for example in the production of hydraulic hoses, which are supposed to achieve an optimal bond between rubber and steel wire.

The largest mixing plant is located at the Polish site in Bełchatów, where Semperit also operates Europe’s largest production facility for conveyor belts. In Odry, Czech Republic, the site of the largest hose production, Semperit has specialized in hose mixtures. Further mixing plants are located in Wimpassing, Austria, Hückelhoven, Germany, Shanghai, China, Hatyai, Thailand, and Roha, India. “In terms of technology, we are always at the cutting



Norbert Wlaka in front of the Mixing plant in Wimpassing, Austria.

edge. For example, we were among the pioneers in the technical rubber industry in the application of twin screw extruder technology. A plant like this saves the energy of 100 households a year and increases the occupational safety of our employees,” says Norbert Wlaka.

“We have around 500 different compounds for our current product range.”

Norbert Wlaka, Head of Mixing



CUSTOMER PLAYER

Over the years, the constant search for customer benefits and the commitment to go the extra mile have made Semperit the partner of first choice more and more often. This is also our credo for the future: in a world that never stands still, we will ensure as a reliable partner that our customers are successful. With top performance in quality and service.

200
**CUSTOMER
PLAYER**

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THE EXTRA MILE

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UNDER THE SIGN OF
THE "S" IN A CIRCLE

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NO SKI DAYS
WITHOUT SEMPERIT

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ALWAYS ONE
STEP AHEAD

THE EXTRA MILE

The importance of reliability, experience and innovative spirit for the development of new customer solutions is demonstrated by Semperit's decades-long partnerships in the industrial hose sector. What tips the scales here is the willingness to go the famous extra mile.

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"Semperit has been the perfect partner for us for decades," says René Böttrich, General Manager of Clemco International, a company specialising in the production of blasting equipment. Clemco's technology gives ships, aeroplanes, wind turbines and even icons such as the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco immaculately cleaned, hardened and more efficient surfaces. Semperit's high-quality sandblasting hoses, not called blasting masters for nothing, play a decisive role here. They are extremely durable and can be used at temperatures from minus 35 to plus 80 degrees Celsius. However, the fact that the product quality is impressive and was designed entirely according to Clemco's standards is only part of the story. A decades-long successful partnership is

about more than that. It's about reliability: "We run for our customers and deliver what we promise. Whether it's the development of a customised solution, a tight delivery deadline or the implementation of customer feedback," says Gerhard Mahlfleisch, Product Manager Industrial Hoses and someone who knows. After all, he has been with Semperit for over 35 years and has not only passed through many stations – from the laboratory to mixing operations, production, product development and product management – but has also worked successfully with many customers.

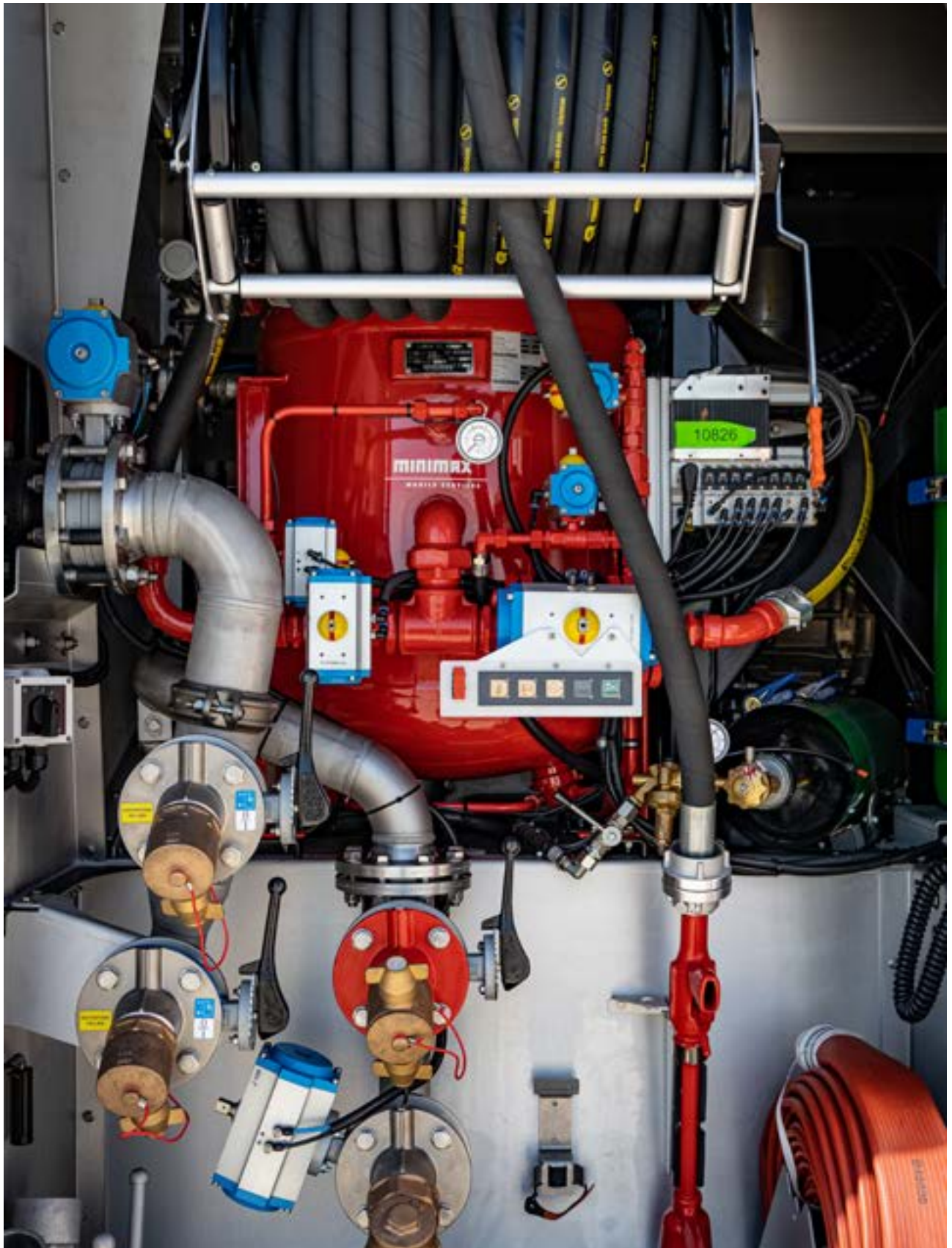
SEMPERIT AS A DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

Industrial hoses are used wherever a medium needs to be transported flexibly from A to B – sandblasting



Semperit sandblasting hoses used at Clemco.

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Semperit has maintained a close partnership with the firefighting equipment manufacturer Rosenbauer for decades.

as well as chemicals, steam and hot water, grain, gas or even fire extinguishing agents. Mahlfleisch remembers another story. Semperit has also enjoyed a close partnership with firefighting equipment supplier Rosenbauer for decades. In addition to oil and fuel hoses, this partnership primarily involves so-called rapid action hoses. These are the hoses that firefighters hold directly in their hands when attacking a fire. "A few years ago, we faced the problem that two people had to stand at the reel due to the nature of the rubber hose. This was an unsatisfactory situation, especially for professional fire brigades. We had to come up with a new solution together with the customer. The result was a completely new hybrid hose with significantly better sliding features. Since then, only one person has been needed to operate our rapid action hose, and it is much easier to handle," Mahlfleisch says.



Gerhard Mahlfleisch, Product Manager Industrial Hoses

Roland Weber, Rosenbauer's Product Manager for extinguishing systems and himself a volunteer firefighter, can only confirm this: "You never know what the fire will do in the next moment, it's unpredictable. That's why it's very important that I'm quick and mobile. The hose is my life insurance."

"Semperit has been the perfect partner for us for decades."

Rene Böttrich, General Manager Clemco International

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A FUTURE FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES

Semperit's industrial hoses are manufactured at the sites in Wimpassing, Austria, and Odry, Czech Republic. "We also want to grow in the American market," Mahlfleisch announces further initiatives. In addition to new sales markets, the "green energy" megatrend also offers interesting opportunities for Semperit, which is illustrated by an ongoing project in the hydrogen sector: "In order to transport pure hydrogen, either extremely high pressure or extremely low temperatures are required. Both are not only a logistical challenge, but also extremely energy intensive. We are learning more about this every week," says Mahlfleisch about the challenges of the future. And so, even after decades at Semperit, things remain exciting and full of variety for him.

UNDER THE SIGN OF THE "S" IN A CIRCLE



Semperit's moving product exhibition – a specially adapted touring coach – started a promotional tour in the 1960s.

From 1957 to 1973, the "Semperit Rally" was a popular event in Austria.



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left:
The balloon envelopes produced around 1900 were also used for advertising.

right:
Tires were marketed under the name Semperit as early as 1906.

Swimming and sports articles were an important part of the product portfolio in the 1970s.



Semperit was the most important sponsor of the popular Tour of Austria, a cycling tour.



From hot water bottles and air mattresses to inflatable boats, rubber balls, various toys to shoes – the extensive product range had to be made public.

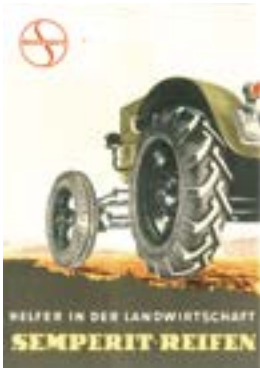


As early as the beginning of the 20th century, Semperit used the power of advertising to market its products.

The legendary graphic designer Joseph Binder created the logo that is still part of the brand today. During the economic miracle years from 1950 onwards, Semperit became one of Austria's best-known brands. As a sports sponsor, the company supported its own car rally and the Tour of Austria for many years. As Semperit transformed from a B2C to a B2B company, its approach to advertising also changed. A journey through the world of swimming and sports articles, tires, shoes, toys, gloves and technical rubber goods of all kinds.



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Semperit tires were advertised in very different ways.



Ads in the newspaper or in magazines and later also in videos.

NO SKI DAYS WITHOUT SEMPERIT

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From ski foils for World Cup stars to cable car linings and track bands for snow groomers. Nothing runs smoothly in winter sports without Semperit. Here is why the world's biggest manufacturers rely on quality from Wimpassing.





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When you hear the name Mikaela Shiffrin, you think of consecutive World Cup victories, talent, ambition and the high-tech world of the ski industry – and less likely of Semperit. But like all ski stars in the World Cup, Mikaela Shiffrin also skis to her victories with Semperit's rubber sheets. Atomic, the world's largest ski manufacturer and Shiffrin's supplier, relies on ski foils from the traditional Wimpassing-based company, as do all well-known manufacturers of skis and snowboards. "Our foil holds the ski together even when lumps of ice hit the steel edge. It absorbs vibrations and compensates for thermal expansion due to temperature differences," says Stefan Gloggnitzer, Product and Sales Manager Mountain Applications at Semperit, explaining the key product properties. Mario König, Purchasing & Supply at Atomic, can only confirm this: "We have been relying on Semperit's rubber sheets for many years, as they are excellent to work with in ski construction, the quality is consistently high, and we greatly appreciate the competent customer service."

WITHOUT A SLIPPED DISK

Top athletes and recreational athletes alike not only come into contact with Semperit when they are going down the slopes, but also when they are going up the mountain. Whether it's a cable car or T-bar drag lift, there is a high probability that cable car linings made by Semperit will play a major role. Cable car linings can be compared to human intervertebral discs. As is well known, they ensure that bones do not "wear out". Cable car manufacturers such as Doppelmayr appreciate this important protection: "The entire cable car is attached to the supports by cable car rings. There can be no such thing as a 'slipped disc'. That's why reliability and experience are so important to us," says Wolfgang Mäser from the purchasing

department of the world market leader in ropeway construction. As long-standing partners, they are cooperating to meet the growing demands: "We are developing our products so that they achieve the same service life under higher loads and at higher track speeds," says Lionel Royer, Mountain Applications at Semperit. In order to remain the market leader, about the focus is always on further development, flexibility and problem-solving expertise, says Royer:



“The customer’s wishes are always our top priority. Whether it is new geometries, rope diameters or compounds that dampen noise to make it quieter near the hotels in the ski resorts – we always find a solution.” Gloggnitzer adds: “Sustainability is the big topic in the industry and therefore also our number one topic when it comes to innovation. We are currently investigating the use of sustainable mixing components in our products.”

“The customer’s wishes are always our top priority.”

Lionel Royer, Product Manager Mountain Applications

Speaking of further development. Where there are cable cars, there are also snow groomers. Semperit thought that they could also use high-quality rubber belts for their tracks – and developed a new product. “We have bought a used snow groomer for product development and tested and further optimized our belts in a ski resort near Wimpassing for several seasons. We have now been on the market for four years and are constantly increasing our production capacities. Wherever snow groomers are in use in the world, we want to gain a foothold with our track belts,” says Royer.

No ski day without Semperit therefore also applies to the future. Lionel Royer and Stefan Gloggnitzer are looking forward to the upcoming ski season and their next day on the slopes, as they say in unison: “Winter sports are a must for us in the team. Of course, we are also very happy to support our customers in this respect.”

Semperit cable car linings play a crucial role for the global market leader Doppelmayr.



ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD

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In 1994, three mold makers – Johannes Grabner, Alfred Griesbaum and Gerhard Kornfelder – joined forces and founded the Rubber Injection Company, or RICO for short. Thirty years later, the small company has become a global technology leader, providing customers with top-quality molds and silicone parts. “We are the unicorn of the industry,” says Joachim Kruder, Sales and Innovation Manager at Rico, referring to Rico’s fully automated 24-hour production, which enables the company to produce several billion silicone parts every year. It is unusual for silicone injection molding machines to produce in ghost shifts – i.e. completely unmanned at night – as the material is very demanding to process: “Our primary focus is on perfecting the process, which has to be stable. That’s what sets Rico apart. And it is also the basis for our injection molding machines being able to deliver first-class quality day and night, 365 days a year.”

A HEALTHY MIX OF SECTORS

Quality that is appreciated by customers worldwide from sectors as diverse as mobility, healthcare, food and sanitary. The product portfolio is therefore broad, ranging from seals in cars to shower heads, components for washing machines, dishwashers and coffee machines to silicone anchors in pacemakers or pacifiers and baby bottle teats. “The healthy mix

The high-end tool manufacturer and technology leader in liquid silicone Rico has been part of the Semperit Group since mid-2023. The company supplies customers all over the world from its locations in Austria, Switzerland and the USA. The signs point to further growth.

of sectors is one of our key success factors. It makes us crisis-proof,” Global Head of Key Account Martin Rapperstorfer gets to the heart of it and talks about an award of which he is particularly proud: “We have been voted Supplier of the Year twice by baby product manufacturer MAM. We have a long-standing development partnership with many of our customers, which particularly highlights our customer focus and technology leadership.”

The focus on development partnerships links Rico with Semperit, as does the conviction that there is always a solution and that it is always important to be that famous step ahead of competitors. “We want to develop our tool technology in such a way that we can achieve the same output and the same efficiency for silicone parts with the lowest possible energy input. This is basically very similar to Semperit’s efforts to make the energy-intensive vulcanization process for rubber more sustainable,” Rapperstorfer explains. Kruder describes another focus of innovation: “We are currently working on sensor technology in the tool. The aim is to create an intelligent tool that tells the user when it needs to be serviced.”

Another issue for the future is that more and more agricultural land needs to be irrigated as a result of global heating: “Normally, water pressure and thus



Rico produces several billion silicone parts every year.

the amount of water are very high at the beginning of the hose, but the last grain stalk or olive tree doesn't get much at the end. This is not the case if a Rico silicone membrane is installed in the hose, which has a regulating effect. Then the amount of water is balanced, and irrigation is much more efficient," explains Kruder.

SILICONE HAS A FUTURE

Silicone is a special material that remains flexible at temperatures between minus 40 degrees and plus 200 degrees Celsius and always returns to its original shape, is UV-stable and does not react with bodily fluids, which means that it is physiologically harmless and is therefore popular in medical technology. According to international studies, the market for silicone products in Western Europe and the USA will grow significantly by around seven percent annually until 2027. A good environment in which Rico and Semperit want to participate by joining forces: "Our goal is to outpace market growth and double our revenue by 2030 compared to 2023. We have created

the conditions to do so by expanding our home site in Thalheim near Wels and doubling the production area in the United States. We are also examining expansions in Switzerland and are perfectly positioned for our growth," says Rapperstorfer.

“An innovation focus is sensor technology. The aim is to create an intelligent tool that tells the user when it needs to be serviced.”

Joachim Kruder, Sales and Innovation Manager Rico

**SOLUTION MAKER**

“Semper it”, there is always a solution – this is the mindset that has made Semperit robust and successful for two centuries. Sometimes our team has to be inventive and innovative, sometimes it is more important to act with pragmatism and routine. But we always keep going, and there is always a solution – you can continue to rely on that in the future.

200 SOLUTION MAKER

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IN GOOD TIMES
AND IN BAD

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BELT
OF ORE

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HAVING COME
TO STAY

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APPRENTICE POWER AND
LIFELONG LEARNING

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THE GROUNDBREAKERS



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Herbert & Michael Adelbauer

IN GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD

Tackling problems and growing together in challenging times is an important part of Semperit's DNA and is also in the nature of the Adelbauers. A portrait of a family whose history is inextricably linked to that of Semperit.

"Semper it", there is always a solution – this is not only Michael Adelbauer's motto, but also lived experience, as he is the longest-serving member of the Semperit management team. The current Director Operations for the Semperit Industrial Applications division started to work for the elastomer specialist after various Semperit internships and after completing his studies at TU Wien in 1986. Since then, he has overcome many crises with his team and they always emerged stronger than before. Things got off to a turbulent start at the end of the 1980s. After all, the tire division had just been sold and the company was ready for restructuring. "I set up quality assurance. Mr. Zellner, the general director at the time, let us, the young ones, shape things. That was an important mosaic piece for the success of the restructuring. In 1994, we recorded operating profits again for the first time," recalls Adelbauer.

The manager grew up two kilometers from the plant in Wimpassing, Lower Austria. His father and grandfather already worked for Semperit, and he came into contact with the wide range of Semperit products at an early age. Adelbauer's aunt Anni Weiner, Semperit's executive secretary for many years, always gave him presents from the company's own

shop at Christmas and for his birthday. "From fins and air mattresses to swim rings, there was a lot to suit my taste. Unfortunately, I never got an inflatable boat," Adelbauer smiles. As the restructuring progressed, this variety of products soon became history.

"Even if nobody else can do it, we can."

Michael Adelbauer, Director Operations,
Semperit Industrial Applications

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THERE'S LIFE IN THE OLD DOG YET

The hydraulic hose division would also have almost become history in the 1990s if it had been up to renowned consultants. They had probably not taken into account Semperit's very own fighting spirit and



Plant visit in Thailand with the Executive Board members Richard Ehrenfeldner (left) and Rainer Zellner (right)

cohesion in their recommendations, because “to this day, our motto is: even if nobody else can do it, we can,” Adelbauer says with pride. With a highly motivated and loyal team, the products and material consumption were optimized, and many resources were invested in production processes and technology. The result: the previously written-off division is now the world’s largest independent manufacturer of hydraulic hoses, which, together with industrial hoses, achieves a capacity of well over 150 million meters per year at four production sites worldwide and generates a solid double-digit EBITDA margin. The team spirit within the Semperit family is an important pillar for this outstanding performance: “Many of our production employees are second or third generation family members in our company. They are proud because they not only operate the machines, but also see how well the hydraulic hose performs, for example, compared to competitors.”

“To be honest, I was born into a future at Semperit.”

Herbert Adelbauer, Product & Process
Development Engineer Handrails

Change of scene from Wimpassing, Austria, to Newnan, USA, where we meet Michael Adelbauer’s nephew Herbert Adelbauer. He has been with Semperit since mid-2018, currently as Product & Process Development Engineer Handrails, and shows a lot of

flexibility in this job. “After the plant manager in the USA, who was also responsible for the handrail agendas, left the company, I stepped in. In doing so, I also advanced the organization of handrail production. Somehow it always works, I like the creative work in the R&D team.” Herbert Adelbauer is traveling a lot. He reports on the challenges of splice trainings around the world – from England, the Netherlands, Italy and Greece to Turkey and Kuwait – as well as on-site visits with technical support and fault assessment in Germany, Norway and Hungary: “I do all of this in addition to my regular R&D work at the Wimpassing plant. It’s the combination of these different tasks that makes my job so interesting.”

A SEMPERIT FAMILY

“To be honest, I was born into it,” says Herbert Adelbauer when asked why he was drawn to Semperit, just like his uncle. If you look at Herbert Adelbauer’s family tree in an old Semperit newspaper (see illustration on the right page), this becomes perfectly clear. It says: “Under Johann Nepomuk Reithoffer, Simon Grabner, the great-great-grandfather of today’s youngest generation of the Grabner-Grobner family, moved from his farm in Altendorf to the valley with his five sons and found work in our traditional Plant 1, which has remained a place of work and home for his descendants to this day. His sons settled in the neighboring villages of the plant and sent their children to the same workplace. Through their perseverance and devotion to the factory, they became the archetype of a Semperit family.” And that’s how it has always been until today.

BELT OF ORE

Sept-Îles in Canada is an important gateway to the global raw materials market. There, a conveyor belt from Sempertrans ensures stability when transporting iron ore. Not just any belt, but the Autostable, known as the problem-solver belt. It performs under extreme conditions and stretches over one and a half kilometers, making it the currently longest Autostable in the world.



From rugged peaks and vast forests to wide prairies and weathered coastlines – Canada’s landscape is characterized by extremes. This is particularly true of the north coast in the heart of the province of Québec, where temperatures can drop well below minus 40 degrees Celsius (i.e. –40° Fahrenheit) in winter. The port of Sept-Îles is also located at the mouth of the St. Lawrence Seaway, where millions of tonnes of iron ore from the nearby mines are loaded onto ships and transported onwards every year.

“In the Autostable, we have found a reliable and efficient solution for our conveyor systems.”

Mario Dupont, Vice President SFPPN

SFP Pointe Noire (SFPPN), a provider specializing in the raw materials industry, is responsible for transporting the ore from rail to the cargo ships. The challenges here are enormous, as Mario Dupont, Vice President at SFPPN, responsible for Engineering & Projects, reports: “We are confronted with severe temperatures, fluctuating weather patterns and difficult terrain. Operating and maintaining the bi-directional conveyor systems required a reliable and efficient solution that is resistant to breakage. We have found it in the Autostable.”

THE PROBLEM SOLVER

Autostable is the self-centering conveyor belt of Sempertrans, which virtually eliminates lateral movements with a centering force five to eight times higher than that of a conventional conveyor belt. “This prevents material loss and all misalignment-related damage to the belt or conveyor system. This can extend the service life of the belt and also reduce the maintenance costs of the conveyor system – even under difficult conditions. That’s why we call the Autostable our problem-solver belt,” says Nathan Friesen, Area Sales Manager at Sempertrans. The correct installation was important, as Jacques Lemelin, Solutions Specialist at Semperit partner Viacore, knows: “A Sempertrans team accompanied us on site for an installation and trained our technicians according to the Autostable specifications. This ensured that our customer SFPPN’s conveyor system is now running reliably and efficiently.”

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Mario Dupont, Vice President of Sempertrans customer SFP Pointe Noire



For decades, they have been the backbone of Semperit Optimit. With team spirit, expertise and tireless commitment, they have contributed to the development and success of the site in Odry, Czech Republic. Time to ask some of our colleagues to come forward.

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HAVING COME TO STAY

Semperit Experience Day in Odry, Czech Republic. A special day to honor long-standing employees for their achievements. Many have been with the company for over 30 years, some for more than 40 years, and some are even the fourth generation in their family to work here. Site manager Daniel Pazdirek, who has been with Semperit since 2001, says: "They all have three things in common. Firstly, a strong loyalty to Semperit. Secondly, the will to deliver results and create solutions. Thirdly, enjoying their work." Passing on know-how and experience to the next generation plays an important role for personal growth as well as for the company's success, Pazdirek emphasizes: "Many of our long-standing team members are actively involved in training and proud to support young colleagues as mentors on their professional path. We are like a second family here." This team spirit is also one of the secrets to the success of major projects such as the expansion of hydraulic and industrial hose production, which are always completed on time and on budget.

MEET SOME OF OUR SOLUTION MAKERS FROM ODRY:



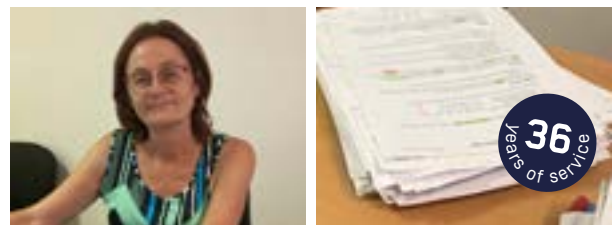
“I owe a lot to my mentors. And I pass on my experience in the international team, in which I enjoy working.”

Ladislav Zubek, Head of Mixing



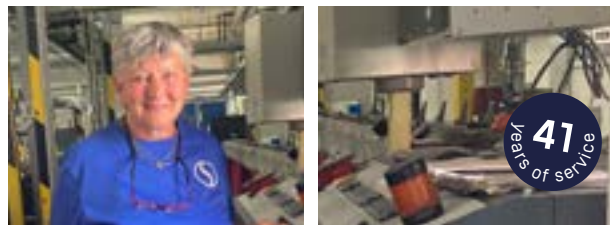
“My main task is to introduce new products and technologies. I have mentored so many great colleagues in my career and have the privilege of meeting many of them still to this day.”

Vladimír Dohnal, technologist



“When I joined the company in 1988, we worked with punch cards, magnetic tapes and floppy disks. While technology has changed dramatically, the team spirit is as strong as ever.”

Drahomíra Pecková, IT specialist



“Over the years, I have gained experience in a variety of work areas. I appreciate my long service for the company, during which I have trained many new employees.”

Svatava Dolbová, operator



“Thanks to job rotation, I got to know new people and machines time and again. I have learned to think proactively and absorb knowledge like a sponge.”

Karel Mozdřeň, electrician

APPRENTICE POWER AND LIFELONG LEARNING

While many companies are complaining about a shortage of apprentices and skilled labor, Rico is setting new standards in promoting the next generation. Two key pillars of success are apprentice training and the "Rico Academy", which has developed from a technical trainee program into a comprehensive training and further education program.

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Shortage of apprentices: a topic that Rico is only familiar with from hearsay. "We receive around 150 applications for fifteen apprenticeships per year. We can choose the best ones," says Jürgen Wimmer from the Apprentice Training team at Rico in Austria. Having been with the company for more than



One-third of Rico's technical apprentices are currently women.

20 years himself, the trained toolmaking technician has witnessed and helped shape the company's development from 30 to 300 employees. Some years ago, the opportunity arose to switch to apprentice training, and Wimmer was immediately hooked: "I like working with young people and enjoy getting the best out of them. What's special here at Rico is that we cater to each individual. Our apprentices receive top training." Word of course gets around in the region and on social media – one of the reasons why Rico is spoilt for choice when it comes to recruiting apprentices.

ONE THIRD WOMEN

Every year, up to 15 apprentices start at Rico and are trained in seven different professions – primarily in the fields of plastics and metal. One third of the apprentices in the technical field are currently women, an extraordinary success when you look at international statistics. Worldwide, one in five people is NEET ["not in employment, education and training"], and three out of four young NEETs are women. The

UN estimates that 600 million jobs will need to be created over the next fifteen years to meet the employment needs of young people. This requires passion, as in Rico's apprenticeship training program: "We are at nearly every trade fair, invite schools to visit us and give them the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of our training workshop – which can be seen as a small company within a company." Wimmer is also particularly proud of the "Youngster Challenge", which involves a colorful mix of challenges for the apprentices. The challenge consists of technical tests, an assessment of social skills and individual or team competitions in archery, karting or charitable activities. Points are collected, which can then be exchanged for attractive rewards that everyone can choose for themselves: "This strategy is motivating and at the same time strengthens the team spirit enormously."

"We can choose from the best apprentices on the market."

Jürgen Wimmer, Apprentice Training team

LIFELONG LEARNING

While apprentices at Rico build up specialist knowledge in the silicone sector during their training, this know-how is not sufficiently available in the market. In order to pass on this specialist know-how to new employees such as polytechnical school or university graduates, the Rico Academy was launched by internal experts. The trainee program is aimed specifically at ambitious employees who want to pursue a specialist or management career in plastics technology and further develop themselves. HR developer Martina Wimmer is rolling out the Academy at the US site in Miramar, Florida, and is convinced: "With the Rico Academy, we are offering



Rico's apprentice workshop is a kind of small business within the business.

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valuable training in an absolutely forward-looking industry. In addition to imparting technical expertise, we place great importance on personal development. We prepare participants for future management roles and ensure that they can drive innovation and efficiency." This strategy is in line with the personnel development of the entire Semperit Group. Conclusion: Lifelong learning is both a duty and a passion for the Solution Makers of tomorrow.

"With the Rico Academy, we are offering valuable training in a forward-looking industry."

Martina Wimmer, HR development

THE GROUNDBREAKERS

The history of Semperit is also a history of personalities who have shaped the company to this day. They helped innovative ideas achieve a breakthrough and created the basis for today's global player.



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THE FOUNDING GENERATION

JOHANN NEPOMUK REITHOFFER & SÖHNE

Reithoffer was one of Austria's most outstanding entrepreneurial personalities of the early 19th century. He learned the tailoring trade and traveled as a journeyman. Back in Austria, he set up his own business in ready-to-wear clothing. As an inventor, he also worked on making clothing waterproof, initially by impregnating it. This is how Reithoffer later discovered the many possible uses of rubber. The first rubber goods company on the European continent was established in Vienna. Reithoffer was soon producing on an industrial scale, founded the factory in Wimpassing and expanded rapidly. Reithoffer was the driving force in the company until old age, and his sons later took over the management. When Reithoffer died in 1872 at the age of 77, around 8,000 employees were producing rubber goods for the whole of Europe in his factories.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIER

CAMILLO CASTIGLIONI

Born in Trieste, he was a dazzling personality in the Austrian economy in the first half of the 20th century. He began his career in the Austrian rubber industry and rose to become commercial director at Continental at the age of 25. Continental later merged with Semperit-Gummiwerke. As an aviator and automobile enthusiast from the very beginning, Castiglioni became a key supplier to the k & k – imperial and royal – army during the First World War with his industrial contacts and shareholdings, and he made a fortune this way. After the First World War, his Depositenbank became the leading shareholder in the fragmented Austrian rubber industry. Ultimately, Castiglioni formed Semperit AG, the largest rubber group in Europe at the time. Castiglioni was an important benefactor of the arts, repeatedly became embroiled in political affairs and bold financial speculation. He died de facto penniless in Rome in 1957.



TRAGIC WANDERER BETWEEN WORLDS

FRANZ JOSEF MESSNER

As a young sugar and coffee exporter, the cosmopolitan Tyrolean made a fortune in Brazil. In the 1930s, Messner made a name for himself in Austria as a consultant to industrial companies. He came to Semperit as a “restructurer”, streamlined the production program, improved the cost structure and in 1937 became General Director at the age of just 41. Messner initiated a social program for the workforce that was above average for the time and was appreciated for his cooperative management style. After Hitler’s invasion, he endeavored to minimize the influence of the Nazi regime on the company. Messner also became one of the leading figures of a secret resistance cell. As industrial manager, he was able to provide the USA with information crucial to the war effort from 1942 onwards. The group was betrayed and Messner and his comrades-in-arms were sentenced to death. He was executed at the Mauthausen concentration camp in 1945, just a few days before the Allies liberated the camp.



THE SUCCESSFUL COST MANAGER

RAINER ZELLNER

The course for the survival of the crisis-ridden Semperit Group was set in the 1980s under the leadership of Franz Josef Leibenfrost: the sale of the tire division to Continental and the establishment of a glove joint venture in Thailand. As early as 1983, the experienced bank investment manager Rainer Zellner joined Semperit’s Executive Board. He was the logical successor when Leibenfrost left Semperit in 1989. Zellner was regarded as a meticulous number cruncher who set Semperit on a growth course with rigid cost management. Material and personnel cost savings, product streamlining, and the introduction of profit centers were the order of the day. He filled the operational management positions with a young, dynamic team. Zellner’s success was resounding. As “Mister Semperit”, he was able to report improved results year after year until his retirement.

**SUSTAINABLE PARTNER**

Without sustainability in its corporate DNA, Semperit would not celebrate its 200-year anniversary. And without sustainability as a strategically anchored fundamental principle, a promising future would not be possible for Semperit. In implementing this principle, we make minor and major adjustments, from climate protection and sustainable supply chains to a healthy and safe working environment. This makes Semperit a sustainable partner and fit for future challenges.

200 SUSTAINABLE PARTNER

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CLOSING THE CIRCLE

- 64** Katerina Machacova heads the ESG department at Semperit and is responsible for the “Move Hearts and Minds” sustainability strategy. In this interview, she explains why everyone in the Group must contribute their share, what great opportunities sustainability offers, and which role innovations play in this.



Critics claim that an industrial group like Semperit, which consumes large quantities of resources, cannot be sustainable per se. Are they right?

Yes and no. Yes, because most of the raw materials we use to manufacture our elastomer products are non-renewable and cause high emissions. And so far, there is no comparable substitute material for rubber, which we simply need to keep our modern world running. And no, because even as an industrial group in a resource-intensive sector, we can operate as sustainably as possible and thus change the world a little. This works through fairness in all areas, in our dealings with our employees as well as in the selection of our raw material suppliers. One thing is clear: as long as we cannot replace our raw materials, the circular economy and recycling are our path to decarbonization. This is a huge lever that we are increasingly using. We are increasing the proportion of recycling material in our products and improving both our environmental footprint and that of our customers, without compromising on quality. In this respect, an industrial group can very well be sustainable.

The circular economy is therefore one of the biggest levers in transformation. Where does Semperit currently stand?

Closed loop in our industry is complex, unexplored and expensive. We are working hard on methods to shred and devulcanize our waste in production and, hopefully in the future, also products at the end of their life cycle, to reintegrate them into our rubber compounds and ultimately increase the recycled content of our products. Basically, it always starts with the customer's request. Depending on whether a CO₂-reduced or recyclable product is required, for example, we work through the entire value chain.

Implementing the circular economy requires a completely new mindset and business model. There is a piece of this puzzle in every single department, and everyone has to play their part to really close the loop. True to the motto of our sustainability strategy "Move hearts and minds".

Implementing the circular economy requires a completely new mindset."

Katerina Machacova, Head of ESG Semperit

So innovations will also be needed to achieve the goals?

Yes, exactly. Innovations play a decisive role. I want the same product, but in green, is a typical customer request nowadays. We have already succeeded in doing this with reclaimed profiles. These are our sealing profiles that potentially consist of up to 70 percent of our own recycled devulcanized production waste. This brings us a step closer to the vision of zero-waste production in the construction industry.

The ESG topic is very complex and broad. Nevertheless, what does sustainability at Semperit mean, in three sentences?

Firstly, it's about ecology, whereby we make sure that we use the resources we need for our business



model as sparingly and efficiently as possible and thereby reduce our impact on the environment – in the areas of water, waste, energy, emissions, etc. The second focus is on social issues, where the principles of “safety first” and “human rights are universal” apply. We are in the process of creating a diverse and inclusive working environment at all our locations. Thirdly, the governance area is dealing with compliance and business ethics along the entire value chain with customers and suppliers.

And where are the biggest challenges?

Wherever we have no direct influence – with EU regulations as well as compliance with human rights in the supply chain or in business relationships with our customers. It’s all about obtaining valid data, and that’s often complicated. It requires cooperation and partnership. A good example is the “Together for Sustainability” network, where Semperit works with other international chemical companies to make the global supply chain sustainable, for example through joint audits of suppliers. We challenge our suppliers to make sustainable improvements year after year.

If we take a look into the future, which sustainable opportunities should Semperit definitely take advantage of?

The potential in areas such as recycling, diversity and inclusion, business ethics or sustainability in the supply chain, which is difficult to quantify. These opportunities need to be proactively sought out and then converted indirectly into financial added value via customer, investor and employer branding. They are also what will make the company relevant in the future – a future that, by the way, is only conceivable with women in management positions. This is also a huge opportunity for Semperit. We must become so attractive to women that they increasingly decide to study industry and pursue a career.

What is your personal approach to sustainability?

I have a strong urge for improvement and fairness that drives me personally. And I always say that if you really want to change something, you have to work for an industrial company and not an NGO. Not only is this where the thickest walls are that you have to break through, but also where the greatest opportunities for sustainable change lie. It’s a huge challenge to turn things around, but it’s also exactly what I enjoy so much.

Do you have a personal listening or reading recommendation for anyone who would like to delve deeper into the topic of ESG?

I find the Ted Climate and Sustainability Matters podcasts very exciting from a specialist point of view. The book “Wir sind doch alle längst gleichberechtigt” by Alexandra Zykunov is also very inspiring. And, of course, the Semperit sustainability report.

SMALL THINGS, BIG IMPACT

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It is often the small things that have a big impact. This also applies to climate protection. After all, what use is the most efficient heating system or a state-of-the-art air conditioning system if there is a draft through the window or the door doesn't close properly? Then heat is lost in winter, and in summer homes or offices feel like incubators. Energy costs and carbon footprints skyrocket, while comfort and the environment suffer. According to current studies, around 20 to 25 percent of thermal energy in residential buildings is lost through windows and doors. Seals, as inconspicuous as they may seem at first glance, are therefore of crucial importance in the fight against climate change. After all, buildings are one of the biggest sources of CO₂ emissions alongside transport. Manufacturers, users and governments are therefore looking for solutions to make buildings more energy-efficient. According to the EU Buildings Directive, energy consumption in residential buildings, for example, is to be reduced by 20 to 22 percent by 2035.

And this is exactly where Semperit and its seals come into play. "As the European market and innovation leader, we also want to set standards in sustainability – with long-lasting products of the highest quality and a resource-saving production process. Our production facilities are equipped with modern environmental modules so that energy and water, for example, can be largely reused. In doing so, we want to maximize customer benefits while at

Buildings must be made more energy-efficient in the fight against climate change. Window, façade and door seals have an important role to play in this development. As the market and innovation leader in Europe, Semperit is right at the forefront.

the same time minimizing the impact on our environment as much as possible," explains Peter Krapfenbauer from Semperit Profiles.

THE FRIENDLY SEAL

"We are primarily concerned with three major issues: our seals must be characterized by environmental friendliness, for example in terms of thermal insulation, easy installation and user-friendliness," Krapfenbauer continues. This is no easy task, as these requirements are sometimes contradictory. After all, a user wants the door to close as softly as possible, which is generally at the expense of service life and insulating properties and thwarts the actual purpose of the seal. However, Semperit, which has been producing profiles since 1945, is a master at resolving such contradictions with a spirit of innovation and engineering skill. Only this way has the company managed to become one of the world's leading seal suppliers and the number one in Europe over the last 79 years. Semperit now produces around 400 million meters of seals at five locations every year – this means that the distance from the earth to the moon could be sealed with Semperit profiles and there would still be just under 20 million meters left.

However, it makes more sense to use them in places for which they are intended – in windows, façades, and doors around the world. Semperit has made enormous progress in recent years in terms of thermal insulation, the use of recyclable materials



and longevity. "As the big player in the industry, we set the pace and regularly bring innovations to the market. With our Hybrid Master multifunctional gasket, for example, we were able to improve the thermal conductivity value by a factor of 4. The seal therefore offers exceptionally good insulating properties, saves heating costs and CO₂ and does so at temperatures from minus 40 degrees to plus 120 degrees Celsius. This is unique," Krapfenbauer says, delighted with one of the latest product developments.

CRADLE-TO-CRADLE

However, Semperit not only manufactures products with a sustainable effect, but also wants to reintegrate them into the production process at the end of their life. Circular economy or cradle-to-cradle is the next important step for us in profile production. The aim is to turn window products back into high-quality window products rather than downgrading them, which would ultimately only leave waste again at the end of the day. This paves the way for low-emission seals, which support the fight against climate change.



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ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE TRACK

More and more trains are rolling over the tracks and thus over Semperit rail pads, dowels and guide angle plates. This is also the case on the Koralm Railway. It is part of the new southern line in Austria and one of the most important infrastructure projects in Europe.

Every passenger kilometer and every tonne of freight transported by rail produces almost 30 times less greenhouse gas emissions than the average car or truck. Rail travel is therefore experiencing a renaissance, and investments in expanding climate-friendly mobility are being made throughout Europe. One of the most spectacular projects in the rail sector is the Koralm Railway in Austria. The heart of the new high-performance line between Styria and Carinthia is the 33-kilometer Koralm Tunnel, which will be the sixth-longest railroad tunnel in the world and the longest in Austria when it is completed.

“We are more than satisfied with Semperit’s quality and service.”

Robert Ostermann, Maba

“From an international perspective, the Koralm Railway is a milestone in the railroad sector,” says Herwig Miessbacher, who has been with Semperit for over 25 years and is responsible for product and process development, also for the railroad sector. “We are proud to have been awarded the contract for the Koralm Railway in ÖBB’s Europe-wide tender. Together with our partners Maba and Schwihag, a tailor-made rail fastening system for the project was supplied”, adds Marius Steiner from Sales in the Railway Superstructure division. In addition to its many years of references, Semperit’s problem-solving expertise was also a decisive factor in winning the

contract: “If a problem arises, a competent contact person and a solution are always available,” says Roland Fischer, responsible for route management and system development at the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) about the cooperation with Semperit. Robert Ostermann, Head of Central Purchasing at Maba Fertigteilindustrie GmbH, a member of the Kirchner Group, strikes the same chord: “We have been purchasing rubber and plastic rail fastening components from Semperit for decades and are more than satisfied with the quality and service.”

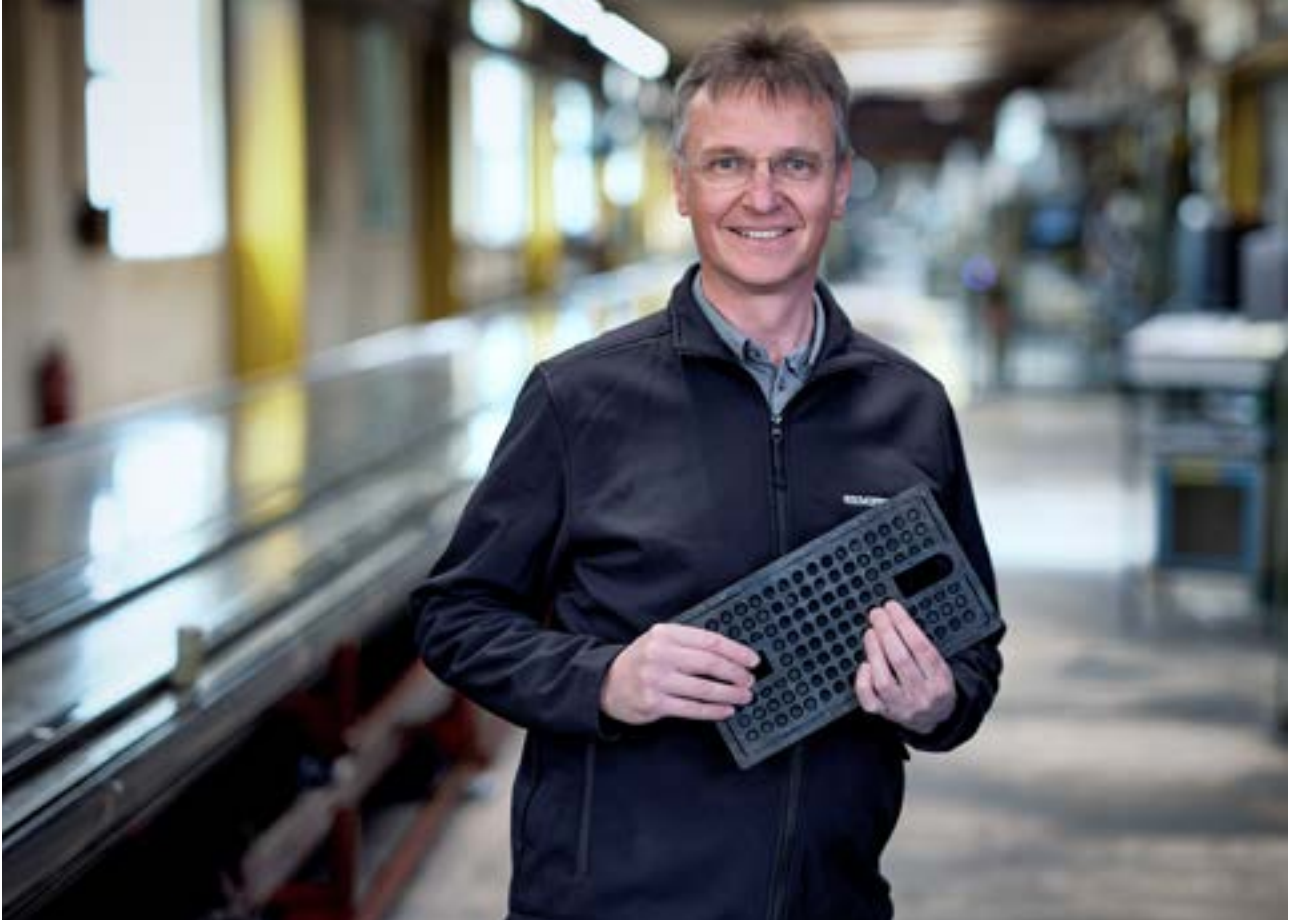
PERFECT TRACK RECORDS

Rail fastenings have to withstand high loads of trains weighing several tonnes. And the trend is rising because the number of trains per kilometer of

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Robert Ostermann, Head of Central Purchasing, Maba



Marius Steiner from the Sales department in the railway superstructure division with customized rail fastenings

track is constantly increasing. Dowels for concrete sleepers and guide angle plates from Semperit ensure the stability of the rails, while rail pads act as damping elements – for the long run. “We recently removed and analyzed a twenty-year-old Semperit component and were amazed to find that it was as good as new and still met all specifications as on day one,” Herwig Miessbacher provides an example of the durability of Semperit products.

This product quality is one of the tickets that takes Semperit not only to Europe’s renowned railroads, but also to new markets: “There is a large rail

network in the USA, but it is very outdated. The USA now invests much money in infrastructure, and we also want to gain a stronger foothold in America. For example, we have already supplied sleeper shoes for the subway in New York and Los Angeles,” Steiner reports on initial projects in the USA. “However, the trend towards public transport is not only a big issue in Europe and the USA but is also becoming increasingly important in the Middle East. Numerous infrastructure projects are being developed there, and we want to score points with our expertise,” says Bernd Schlegl, General Manager at Semperit’s FORM division.

CO₂ SAVINGS AND NOISE REDUCTION

Another ticket is innovation. Here too, reducing the CO₂ footprint is one of the most important topics. Herwig Miessbacher uses the example of the guide angle plate to outline the latest breakthrough: “Every component is now 20 percent lighter, which also means 20 percent lower costs and 20 percent less CO₂. In addition, the energy required to manufacture the components has also been significantly reduced.” Apart from saving material, the development team consisting of material, product and process developers is working on the introduction of sustainable raw materials and tire waste for intermediate layers: “We are currently collaborating with Deutsche Bahn on a project where we want to save at least 30 percent CO₂ in this way. We are the first for these products at DB,” says Miessbacher.

“Semperit is very innovative in the development of new products for superstructures.”

Roland Fischer, ÖBB

Semperit is also innovative in the area of noise reduction in train traffic. In recent years, the company has optimized its rail pads so that the passing noise of the train can be halved. Miessbacher says of Semperit’s so-called Silent Pad: “The rail is like a guitar string that is struck by the train and starts to vibrate. However, if the energy is absorbed by our rail pad, the vibration and therefore the noise is reduced as the train passes by. This will benefit people living near railroad lines in the future.” Roland Fischer from



The Koralm Tunnel will be the sixth longest railway tunnel in the world.

ÖBB can also confirm this innovative spirit: “Semperit is very innovative in the development of new products for superstructures. The innovations meet the requirements of ÖBB, which has been dealing with the noise development of different intermediate layers for many years.”

DIVERSITY AS A STRATEGY

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The benefits of high diversity for companies are well documented. International studies show that D&I not only increases profitability – companies in the top quartile for gender diversity outperform their competitors by 21 percent – but also improves employee retention and strengthens innovation. “Diversity is not an end in itself, but a competitive advantage,” says Fedora Yeo, Global Head of Diversity & Inclusion Council at Semperit, summing it up: “With targeted D&I measures, we create a working



Fedora Yeo is fully committed to D&I.

Only with clear targets and continuous commitment can diversity become a driving force for innovation and economic success. Because Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) is not achieved in a sprint, but in a marathon. And at Semperit it is an essential part of the corporate strategy.

environment in which everyone can develop their full potential, and we attract top talents. This makes diversity a central pillar of our success.” International investors, who have long identified D&I as a key indicator of a company’s long-term resilience, are of the same opinion.

FOUR FOCUS AREAS

In 2023, Semperit’s members of the Executive Board signed the “Diversity Charter” and thus committed themselves to their employees from over 65 nationalities to ensure continuous D&I improvements. Semperit focuses on four central dimensions: age, gender, people with disabilities as well as culture and intercultural competence. The company has ambitious goals in each of these areas. For example, the proportion of women in management positions is to be increased by 1% annually by 2030, and equal rights for all age groups – from recruitment to career advancement – are to be ensured by the end of 2025.

INITIATIVES THAT WORK

The D&I Council at Semperit, to which employees from different divisions, locations, age groups and



hierarchy levels have been appointed, are driving change. As ambassadors and change agents, they analyze data, exchange ideas, design and implement global and local initiatives. One of them is Fedora Yeo. She emphasizes the importance of targeted awareness campaigns and training: “D&I has become an integral part of Semperit’s corporate culture, and we know how important it is to combat unconscious bias. That’s why we offer group-wide workshops to raise awareness of cultural and ethnic differences. Monthly focus topics around world days such as Cultural Diversity Day or International Day of Persons with Disabilities also help to raise awareness and are well received by colleagues.”

A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT

The change towards a more inclusive corporate culture is a long-term commitment for Semperit. “It’s a marathon, not a sprint,” says Fedora Yeo, who, as Head of Marketing in the Form business,

is fully committed to D&I: “As an Asian woman in a multinational company, I see the importance of equal opportunities every day. D&I is not just a business imperative for success but a critical key driver for positive change in society. I am excited to actively help shape corporate culture and make a real difference. In 2025, a highlight will be the launch of the global Semperit Women’s Network to further empower women in their professional development.”

“Diversity is not an end in itself, but a competitive advantage.”

Fedora Yeo, Global Head of Diversity & Inclusion Council

200 YEARS SEMPERIT EXPERIENCE FOR TOMORROW

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OUR HISTORY IS BASED ON STRONG SUCCESS FACTORS THAT MAKE US A RELIABLE PARTNER IN A WORLD THAT NEVER STANDS STILL. **AND NOT JUST SINCE YESTERDAY, BUT SINCE 1824 AND INTO THE FUTURE.**

FOUNDATION AND EARLY YEARS

In 1824, tailor Johann Nepomuk Reithoffer lays the foundations for today's company with his patent for waterproof fabrics. The first European factory for rubber products is established in Wimpassing, Lower Austria. In 1872, 800 workers are already employed there. Every month, they produce 15,000 pairs of shoes, 10,000 dozen combs, 2,500 bales, 3,000 pounds of rubber products for technical purposes, 500 coats and skirts and 1,500 rubber threads. A large proportion of the products are exported worldwide.



1824-
1872

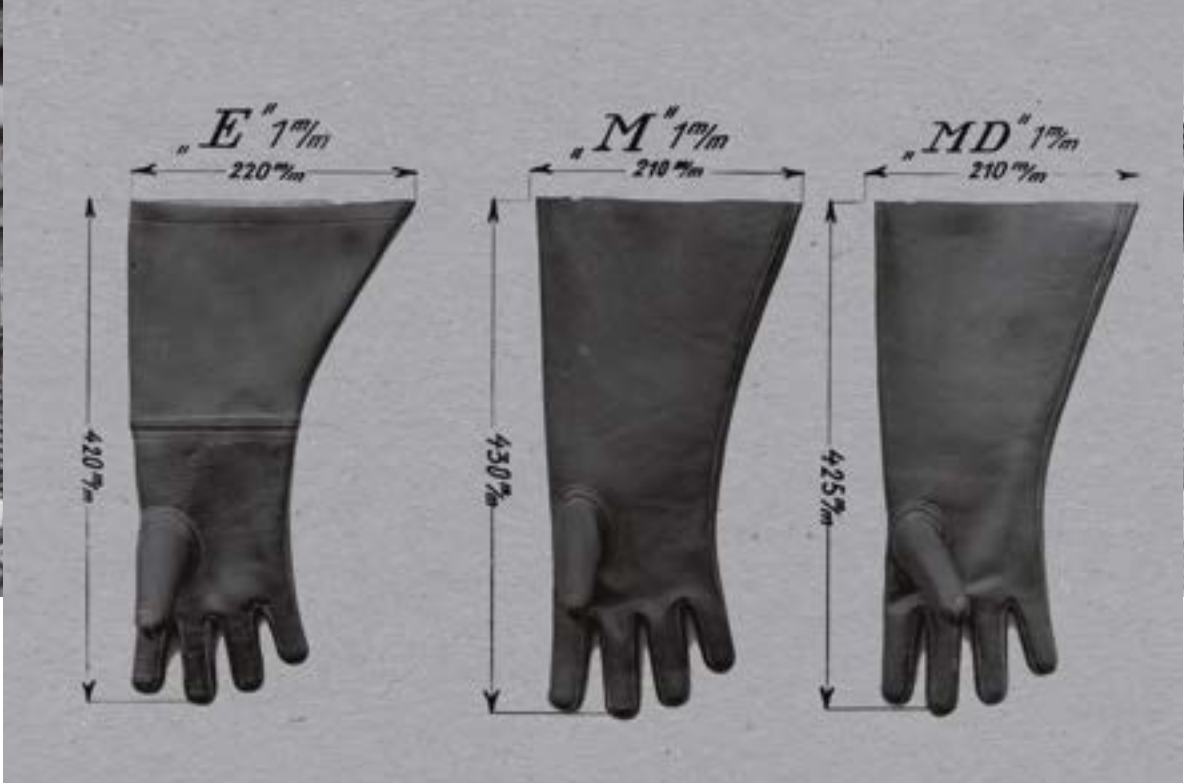
A EUROPEAN MULTINATIONAL ARISES

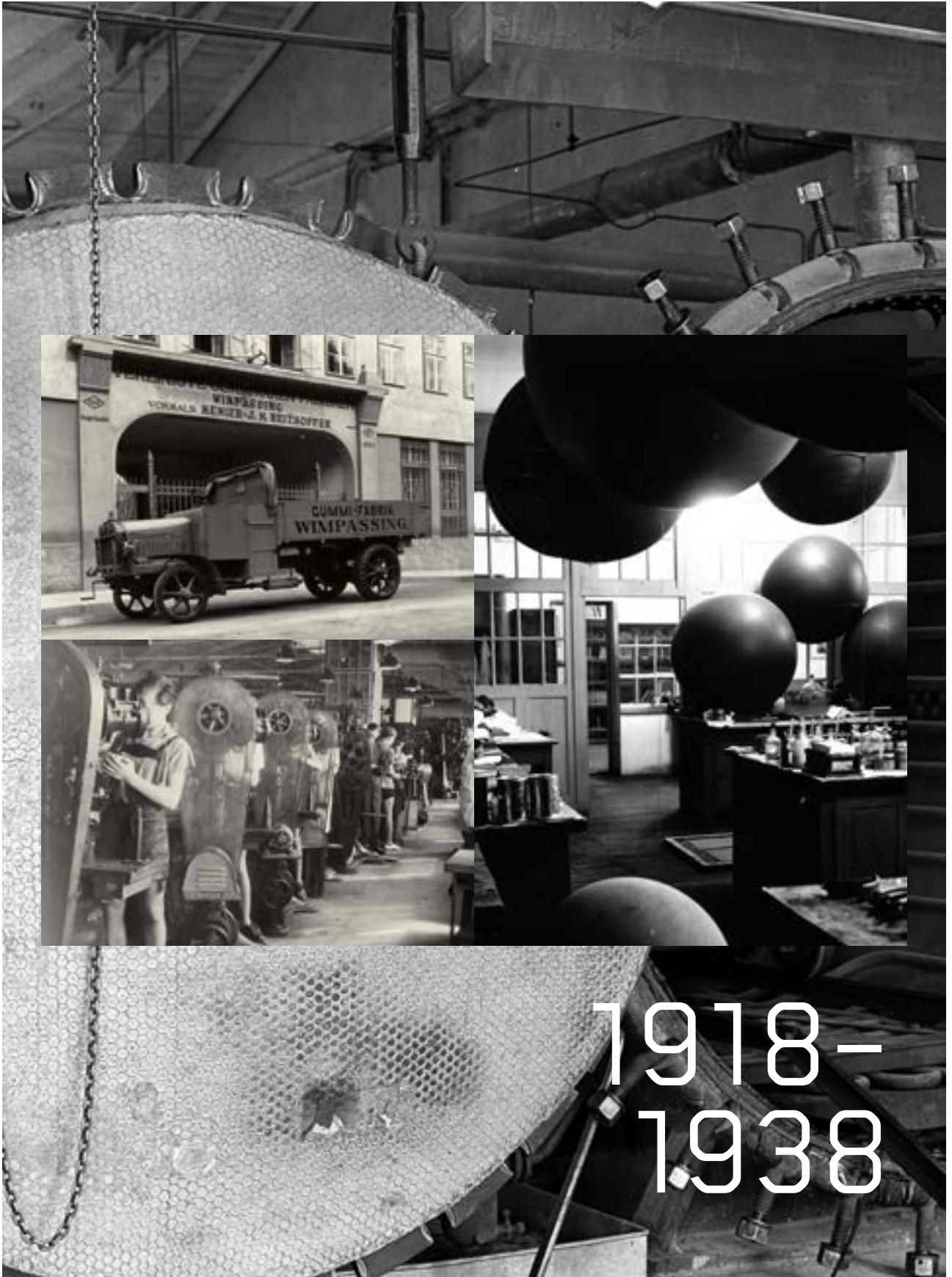
The merger of several rubber companies makes Semperit the largest rubber goods producer in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. One of the most important products is the "Harburg-Wien" rubber tyre. Semperit goes public on the Vienna Stock Exchange in 1890. In 1912 Semperit Österreichisch-Amerikanische Gummiwerke AG is founded. The company is internationally competitive and employs more than 3,000 people.

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1872-
1918





1918-
1938



AUSTRIA'S SECOND LARGEST INDUSTRIAL GROUP

After the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Semperit is able to regain a foothold through expansion and the establishment of new sites. In 1926, Semperit is Austria's second-largest industrial group with 9,000 employees and nine factories. The increasing motorisation causes a surge in growth for Semperit tyres. In the 1930s the economic crisis leads to a dramatic revenue decline. Following a reorganisation of the company, business recovers from 1936 onwards.

SEMPERIT UNDER NATIONAL SOCIALISM

Semperit is integrated into the wartime economic system of the Nazi era and produces protective suits and inflatable boats for military operations. Forced labourers are employed. Despite the adverse circumstances, General Manager Franz Josef Messner is committed to above-average social benefits at Semperit. He is also active as a resistance fighter and is executed in the last days of the war in 1945.

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1938-
1945

right bottom: Semperit's General Manager Messner talking to employees.



1945-
1973



RECONSTRUCTION IN POST-WAR EUROPE

After disassembling the plants as reparations to the victorious powers and thanks to substantial investments, partially from the Marshall Plan, Semperit gets started with modern production facilities. Strategic stakes in European companies provide a boost to internationalisation. In 1965, the Semperit Group exports goods to 100 countries around the world. 15,000 employees in 24 production and sales companies and an annual production of 158,000 tonnes underpin the Semperit Group's position as an international flagship in 1973.



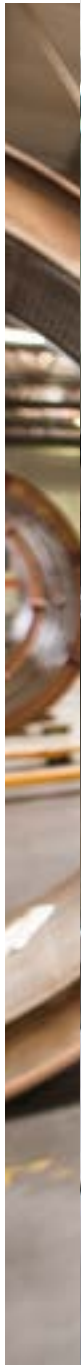


Happy faces after the sale of the tire division in 1985: Semperit tire boss Günther Sieber, Semperit CEO Franz Josef Leibenfrost, Continental CEO Helmut Werner, Creditanstalt CEO and Semperit Supervisory Board Chairman Hannes Androsch (from left to right)



OIL PRICE SHOCK AND YEARS OF RESTRUCTURING

Semperit's previously highly profitable tyre business collapses due to the oil crisis of the 1970s. In 1985, the tyre division is sold to Continental. After a difficult restart, product streamlining leads to initial restructuring successes and the development potential of technical products is accelerated. The takeover of a conveyor belt plant near Paris in 1988 makes Semperit the largest supplier of textile conveyor belts in Europe.



1989-
1998



ASIA PIONEER SEMPERIT

From 1989, General Manager Rainer Zellner shapes the development of Semperit for almost three decades. Under his leadership, the Group becomes the cost leader in many areas. Semperit is one of the first Austrian companies to have production facilities in Asia. In 1989, the first glove factory in Thailand starts operation. In 1996, Semperit enters the Chinese growth market for handrails. A hose and moulded goods plant is also built in Thailand. All business areas achieve sustainable profitability.

1998- 2011

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RISING TO THE TOP LEAGUE OF THE INDUSTRY

The focus is on internationalisation, innovation and cost leadership. Europe's largest hose factory in Odry, Czech Republic, becomes part of the Semperit Group in 1998. The conveyor belt segment expands into Poland and takes over the Belchatów plant in several stages. At the turn of the millennium, Semperit is present on three continents with 20 production sites and 6,000 employees. Innovative strength is further enhanced with the new research and development centre in Wimpassing.



GLOBAL PLAYER SEMPERIT

Semperit implements the largest investment programme in the company's history and expands its production capacities worldwide in response to strong demand. After a phase of global growth, the strategic decision is made to focus on the Industrial Sector. Semperit divests its glove segment Sempermed. In 2023, Semperit acquires the Rico Group, a global technology leader in liquid silicone and mould making, thereby strengthening its industrial core business.



2011-
2024



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