

On November 20, 2007, Remscheider Generalanzeiger publishes a special edition on the new logistics hall of IKS Klingelberg GmbH

The hub for Europe

Interview with Thomas Meyer (Dipl.-Ing. / master of engineering)

The headquarters of the IKS Klingelberg group are located in Remscheid/Germany. Operations at the site in the industrial park in Bergisch Born started in 1993. This summer it was further extended by a new logistics hall. Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Meyer, managing director of IKS Klingelberg GmbH, talks about the above and the future of the site.

Why has the Remscheid site been extended by the new logistics hall?

Thomas Meyer: This is a really interesting story. We made an analysis of our logistics processes which revealed that capacities needed to be increased. In a survey our employees also confirmed this result.

And then you realised the proposals of your staff ...

Thomas Meyer: Exactly. The staff members were delighted to be involved in the decision-making process. Their proposal has been realised. It goes without saying that this is also quite good for the morale within the company.

Furthermore, new jobs have been provided. How many employees work at the Remscheid site?

Thomas Meyer: We have 131 staff members. Regarding the new logistics hall there are 24. This number is to be increased to 31 in the following two years.

How important is the hall for the Remscheid site?

Thomas Meyer: A clear separation of production and dispatch department. The hall shall further serve as main hub for Europe. At best the manufactured knives and saws are delivered to the logistics hall by the other IKS Klingelberg sites, labelled and packed according to the requests of the customer and dispatched quickly. This is a lean and efficient process without long storage times.

The staircase of glass of your administrative building has been used for regular art exhibitions for years. Since September an exhibition of Marcel Patrice Soyer can be seen. You thereby also like to highlight the special relation of art and technology. However, the facade of the new logistics hall is still purely white. . .

Thomas Meyer: But this is going to be changed. First further modifications of the roundabout in front of our site will be realised. As soon as these works will be completed, we want to improve the appearance of the hall. Whether only the large company logo will be modified, remains to be seen. Marcel Patrice Soyer is also interested in contributing to the design.

IKS Klingelberg

A globally operating company with its head office in Remscheid

Whether the first thing you grip in the morning is the newspaper or another item, the IKS Klingelberg group has certainly been involved in its production.

The globally operating group of companies with its head office in Remscheid is one of the leading manufacturers and suppliers of machine knives and saws. Almost all industrial sectors such as paper, wood, metal, plastics and recycling are covered. With its products the IKS Klingelberg group has become one of the global market leaders meanwhile. With more than 1,000 employees in Europe, North America and the Far East a net consolidated turnover of €130 m will be attained in 2007.

Specialised production sites can be found in Germany, namely in Remscheid, Geringswalde and Bargteheide. Furthermore, there are two plants each in Austria and Finland. Service and sales offices are in France and the Netherlands, the United States, Canada, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

The headquarters of the company are located in Remscheid. This is where the company, which was started in 1814, has its roots. In 1908 the production of machine knives was launched. In 1922 the tool shop in Hückeswagen/Germany became a special machine shop. In the year 1991, the sectors machine engineering (Klingelberg GmbH) and industrial knives (IKS Klingelberg) were separated. In 1993 the new knife plant in Bergisch Born with one administrative building was constructed.

In the course of this year the new logistics hall with about 3,200 m² has been completed. Thanks to the relocation

of receiving goods, inspection and dispatch department, new capacities have been provided in the existing hall in order to extend the production. Due to these measures the Remscheid site is even more in the focus of attention. In future, the new logistics hall shall serve as main hub for Europe and provide further jobs.