

 PLAST

The specialist for industrial buildings.


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HUBER KUNSTSTOFF AG

INSIGHT



Huber Kunststoff AG is one of the leading manufacturers of high-quality plastic parts and solutions for various industries and a wide range of applications. Throughout its history, the company has grown steadily at its long-standing location on the periphery of the town of Gosau. An extension built in 2010 enabled it to double its production capacity. Eight years later, the company's success once again led to bottlenecks. Various options were available for further expansion. IE Plast was faced with an exciting planning challenge.

Founded in 1974 and family-owned ever since, Huber Kunststoff AG in Gosau (SG) is a prime example of the medium-sized industrial companies that form the backbone of the Swiss economy. The Gosau-based plastics processing specialist is one of the few suppliers to combine tool design, toolmaking, and injection molding production under one roof, and has been extremely successful with this business model. In order to meet increasing demand, an expansion of the existing site and a new building on a greenfield site were under discussion. After thorough analysis of both scenarios by the planners at IE Plast, the client decided to build a new factory and commissioned IE Plast with the planning and execution as a total contractor.

PROCESS EFFICIENCY AS A GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR FACTORY PLANNING

PLANNING AND
EXECUTION OF THE
NEW BUILDING FOR
HUBER KUNSTSTOFF AG

«It was a pleasure to work with a planning partner who is familiar with the processes of the plastics processing industry. IE Plast's experience and expertise have contributed significantly to our new factory having a highly efficient and sustainable infrastructure.»

*Reto Huber
Managing Director and Owner*



SUCCESS FACTORS

1

A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR EXPANSION AT THE EXISTING SITE

Strong Decision-Making Foundation.

As part of a feasibility study, the planners at IE Plast examined the expansion potential of the current production site. Since only a small amount of space was available on this site, the planning considerations focused on structural adjustments to the existing building and an extension to the 2010 expansion. On the other hand, the planning assumed that the client would acquire a neighboring property on which a new production facility could be built. Taking these conditions into account, IE Plast developed a concept for the reorganization of operational processes and a production layout based on the ideal layout on a greenfield site. The feasibility study resulted in two possible solutions, with the preferred option being the development of the neighboring site. However, the purchase of the property did not go ahead. This brought the greenfield option to the fore.

2

CONSTRUCTION PLANNING BASED ON PROCESSES

Foundation for Maximal Efficiency.

As luck would have it, Huber Kunststoff AG was able to acquire a plot of land in the Sommerau industrial area, in the immediate vicinity of the A1 highway, which was large enough to meet its current and future capacity requirements. In a first step, the company commissioned IE Plast to develop a master plan for the long-term development of the site. This provided the planning basis for optimal utilization of the entire property and maximum expansion of the production area. In addition, the master plan outlined the path for a phased development. A second step led to a zoning concept and a spatial relationship diagram via analysis and optimization of the processes. On this basis, the IE planners developed the operations layouts, taking into account the logistics and storage concept.

3

WELL-THOUGHT-OUT ORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENTS

A HIGH-PERFORMANCE INFRASTRUCTURE.

The three-story factory building, designed in the proven IE style; from the inside out, is consistently aimed at increasing productivity. Injection molding production is located on the ground floor, while toolmaking is on the second floor. Both floors are directly connected via Lean-Lift systems, which serve as storage for injection molding tools and spare parts, thus guaranteeing an efficient flow of materials. On the northern side, facing the highway, are the narrow-aisle high-bay warehouse and the freight forwarding department. A small extension houses the waste disposal facility. On the south side of the building, the administration and social rooms are located in a striking front building. The spacious multifunctional room on the recessed third floor is available for employee and customer events. Operational efficiency is supported by intelligent control of material and personnel flows. The media supply to the injection molding machines is provided from top to bottom and can therefore be adapted to changes in the machine park at any time. The building rests on a solid foundation of 224 piles. A special feature of the building is the 80-centimeter-thick floor slab between the first and second floors. Tests initiated by IE Plast have shown that this construction is necessary to prevent the transmission of vibrations between high-speed cutting machine tools and the sensitive erosion machines on this upper floor.

4

SUSTAINABILITY-ORIENTED ENERGY CONCEPT

COST OPTIMIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Huber Kunststoff AG is clearly committed to sustainable production methods and the responsible use of resources. The company has a policy against the use of fossil fuels. It consistently relies on electricity from natural sources, the use of waste heat, and cooling and heat pumps that combine energy efficiency and sustainability. The in-house production of low-cost electricity plays an important role: a photovoltaic system with 468 panels was installed on the roof of the new factory building. In addition, the company had a solar park with 1,335 panels built on the vacant plot of land. With this PV ground-mounted system - the first in the Gossau region - Huber Kunststoff AG has realized a true showcase project in the field of sustainable energy generation. By planting vegetation under the panels, the company is also contributing to the preservation of biodiversity.

5

FUTURE-ORIENTED PLANNING BASED ON PROCESS KNOWLEDGE

Efficient Factory with Long-Term Potential.

The successful planning of a factory is based on teamwork between the client and the planners. From the outset, the planning of the new factory for Huber Kunststoff AG was characterized by ongoing dialogue between the client and IE Plast on an eye-to-eye basis. Once again, the industry expertise and process know-how of the IE planners proved to be important prerequisites for the success of the project. The result is a comprehensive factory concept that is tailored to the strategic objectives of the plastics processor. The future was also taken into account: where the PV system is currently located, the factory building can be expanded in a second phase while business continues as usual. For example, cleanrooms and additional assembly rooms could be added. The PV modules would then be installed on the roof of the extension.

The new factory of Huber Kunststoff AG is a prime example of contemporary industrial architecture that is function-oriented but also aesthetically appealing. Located directly next to the A1 highway, the new building is a clear sign of the strength and innovative power of Swiss industrial companies.



4 MONTHS

› Feasibility study and master plan

18 MONTHS

› 6 months concept planning
› 12 months construction project with building application, detailed planning, and tendering – The approval process ran in parallel.

22 MONTHS

› Construction period

SEPTEMBER 2023

› Groundbreaking ceremony

JUNE 2025

› Completion of the new building and handover to Huber Kunststoff AG



9 660 m²

› Floor space

57 726 m³

› The building's volume

15 m

› Building height of production

19 m

› Building height roof



PERFORMED BY IE PLAST

› Project management as a general contractor
› Feasibility study, concept study, construction project, tenders, and execution



IE PLAST

The specialist for industrial buildings.

We are the IE Group: Your specialist for industrial buildings.

We plan, design, and construct industrial buildings. Our goal is to maximize the efficiency of your production - with the help of industrial buildings that are perfectly tailored to your manufacturing processes. We work in manageable and therefore effective teams of industry experts whose motivation and initiative you can rely on. Because at our company, all employees are involved in the business. It goes without saying that we also give you guarantees on costs, deadlines, and quality. **IE Plast, IE Food, IE Life Science** and **IE Technology** are part of the IE Group, which has been on the market since 1966 and offers the necessary financial backing - even for large construction projects.



AT HOME IN YOUR INDUSTRY



ENTREPRENEURIAL THINKING AND ACTION



ALL EXPERTS UNDER ONE ROOF



SECURITY THROUGH GUARANTEES

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